

Now that ones thoughts and opinions are so colored by tensions and pressure it is difficult to determine what policy is sound. One has to rely on such fundamental principles as he can muster together and make plans accordingly. I find it impossible to give up three hours of research time each week for this Physical Conditioning course and for that reason alone I have refused to go to the class. Physical Conditioning has thus been the determining factor but it is not the point at issue. Since the University is upholding the opinion that Physical Conditioning is the most important activity of students, I am forced to enter some field in which either my work is the more important or else get into some branch of the service in which Physical Conditioning is the more important. For me it is up to the draft board to make this final decision.

As to whether this action is undemocratic or not is a matter of little consequence. There is no such thing as a true democracy during the war, instead we are urged on every side to make the best use of our time. The knowledge I would gain by completing my degree at this time seems relatively unimportant when compared with the larger problems at hand. It would be a sort of personal gratification to obtain the degree, however, I can achieve more personal gratification with the realization of the fact that I am doing something which my employer as well as the Selective Service authorities consider important.

As a matter of record, and believe me it is for no other purpose, I would like for you to know that it is possible for me to obtain a medical excuse for exemption from Physical Conditioning. With this excuse I could continue to stay in school and have hopes of finishing the degree, but I refuse stoop that low just to stay in school. Perhaps this is being too idealistic, but if it weren't for a few ideals we would not have been involved in this war.

If you desire, I shall be glad to stay on for the rest of this semester to continue my instructing duties, otherwise, I feel it my duty to take a job as soon as the arrangements can be made.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Slocombe