

The original documents are located in Box D14, folder “House Speech Extension of Enlistments, 1951?” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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GERALD R. FORD, JR. - MICHIGAN

MR. SPEAKER - Since the invasion of South Korea by the Communist forces in June of 1950 many reservists in all branches of the Armed Forces have been recalled to active duty. In addition the enlistments of men already on active duty have been involuntarily extended by Executive Order.

It was understandable that such action should be taken by the Department of Defense in the critical months immediately after the Communist aggression. It is now time, however, that the military leaders set forth their plans and policies for those who were taken from civilian life and sent to the front in Korea. In addition, the Department of Defense should review and revise its policy of arbitrarily extending enlistments.

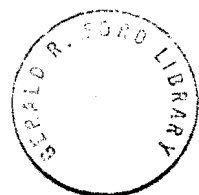
Several specific cases have been called to my attention which illustrate the problem. A combat Marine of 4 years service in World War II voluntarily joined the active reserves for a four year enlistment. In July of 1950 he had served three of the four years on this enlistment contract. He was recalled to active duty and for the last six months has been at the front in Korea.

Is his 4 year enlistment to be arbitrarily extended when it expires this year? It definitely should not be. This Marine, and there are many others in the same situation in the Army, Navy and Air Corps, has made great sacrifices for the defense of our country in these perilous times. Such men should not be expected to do more than their fair share. They had a contract with their government and have lived up to their obligation. The government in turn should carry out its part of the bargain.

It is self-evident that the morale of our forces in Korea and elsewhere would be strengthened by a clear-cut statement of policy by the Department of Defense informing all men that when their current enlistment expires they will be



released to civilian life. I strongly urge that such a policy be put into immediate effect. If the reserve program is to draw experienced personnel in the future, such a policy is absolutely essential.



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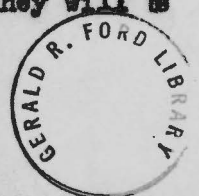
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