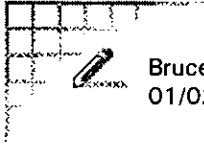


NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 056 - Folder-004

**Service - Mandatory Military
Service**

Service - mandatory service



Bruce N. Reed
01/02/98 03:22:35 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Paul J. Weinstein Jr./OPD/EOP

cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Thomas L. Freedman/OPD/EOP, Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP, Christopher C. Jennings/OPD/EOP

Subject: Re: A Big Idea -- One Year Mandatory Military Service

Nothing can match the sweep of the Canadian Purchase, but I do like this idea. I would just make it a year of mandatory service, rather than emphasize the military angle. In fact, 6 months would be fine (I think that's what Germany has). In Switzerland, mandatory service turns out to be the most effective network to help young people get jobs. It's also good for the spirit, and gives them something to resent other than their parents. We could pay for it in part by making it a condition of college aid.

It would make a very good hard-edged new idea for the VP in 2000. Of course, like all Weinstein ideas, it will drive a lot of Dems up the wall.

Service -
mandatory military
service



● Paul J. Weinstein Jr.

12/23/97 10:46:15 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: Thomas L. Freedman/OPD/EOP, Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP, Christopher C. Jennings/OPD/EOP

Subject: A Big Idea -- One Year Mandatory Military Service

In the tradition of the Greenland/Canadian you know what, the National Referendum, South Africa Free Trade Agreement, Citizen Frank, and others, I am offering up my annual big idea just in time for the New Year. This is in very rough draft.

One Year Mandatory Military Service

Proposal: Require all male and females U.S citizens age 18 to serve one year in the United States Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard). Citizens could opt out of the Armed Forces and join America Corp instead, but less benefits would be available.

The Armed Forces could utilize soldiers not only for military service, but for infrastructure work with the corp of engineers. This would include road and rail work, canal and dams, school buildings, and bridges.

Advantages:

Military service provides good mental and physical training, instills a sense of pride in one's country, gives soldiers a chance to learn a particular skill, and creates an environment for soldiers to mature more rapidly. Service also gives individuals a sense of responsibility and accomplishment.

VA Benefits -- All one-year veterans would be eligible for limited medical coverage at VA hospitals (major surgery but not the full benefits available to longer-term veterans). This would provide a limited health coverage base for almost all Americans in return for their service. Americorp veterans would not be eligible for the VA health coverage (cost too high).

Education Benefits -- All Federal higher education benefits, including Pell grants, tax deductions and credits, and GI bill grants, would be folded into one package available only for individuals who complete their mandatory military or national service. This will limit cost.

Disadvantages

Cost.

Happy Holidays!