

EDITORIAL

NO GENERATION GAP

A preliminary survey report from a five-year project indicates America's youth are not as anti-military as one might suspect from the news media. The survey, "Young Men Look at Military Service," is part of a broader YOUTH IN TRANSITION project which followed young men from the start of their tenth grade (Fall of 1966) to the time when most of them had been out of high school for about a year (Spring of 1970). The project is being conducted under a US Office of Education contract, with Department of Defense support.



Among its most basic purposes, YOUTH IN TRANSITION includes the study of attitudes, plans and behaviors, particularly those relating to educational and occupational aspirations and achievements. The Department of Defense, of course, placed special emphasis on military plans and attitudes. Some of the findings have been highly significant. For instance, the majority of the young men do not fit the "generation gap" stereotype of rebellious youth casting aside the values of their elders. In fact, the dominant position they express essentially supports the principles Americans have lived by for decades. They are not strongly opposed to the war in Vietnam, nor are they anti-military or pacifists. They agree that it is important to fight the spread of communism. The young men are quite knowledgeable about draft requirements, but are not well informed about the conditions and compensation associated with active military service. The majority see good citizenship primarily in terms of obedience to law and pride in country. For them military service provides an opportunity to serve their country. (AFPS)



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