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WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATION MEMO.

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**I. COLLEGE LIFE AND COLLEGE FRATERNITIES**

1. The war has vitally affected the college life of the country. To provide that the country will not want for trained and educated men during the war and in the period of reconstruction thereafter, the colleges of the country were invited to cooperate with the War Department in training for positions of leadership in the Army, the student soldiers assigned to them. The Students Army Training Corps has therefore been established. Under the plan for the Students Army Training Corps it is evident that the student personnel of collegiate institutions having a unit of the Corps will, for the period of the present emergency, consist almost entirely of members of said Corps. The plan contemplates that members of this Corps who were twenty years of age when they registered will remain at the institutions at which enrolled about three months; those who were nineteen about six months; those who were eighteen about nine months; and that new increments will be provided to fill the vacancies as they occur, thus assuring, by reason of a continually shifting personnel, the greatest good to the greatest number and the prompt supply of trained men when needed. As the members of the Students Army Training Corps will occupy the status of soldiers on active duty, subject as such to military discipline at all times and quartered together in military barracks, the effect of the plan will be to alter the whole character of the educational institutions, - to transform them from colleges, in the meaning that word has acquired, - into an integral part of the military establishment. Whereas heretofore college life was made up of many different phases, - educational, athletic, and social, - it will now consist only of intensive military and academic training.

Appreciating that fraternity activity is an important factor in the collegiate institutions of the country as they exist today, and realizing that it will be fundamentally affected by the new system of education and training the War Department desires to make clear its position in this regard. The War Department, considering that fraternity activities and military discipline are incompatible in the very nature of things, feels that it is to the best interests of the Service that the operations of fraternities in institutions where units of the Students Army Training Corps are established be suspended for the period of the present emergency. It further feels that the best interests of the fraternities themselves require such suspension, considering that the continued operation of the fraternities must result, due

to the rapidly changing personnel and combined circumstances, in a lowering of the high ideals as to membership established by the fraternities themselves, as well as in heavy financial loss to them. By "Fraternity activities" and "the operations of fraternities" as above used is meant the social side of fraternity life, - the living of the members together in fraternity houses and the functions and meetings of a social or ceremonial nature. Realizing, however, that fraternity organizations must be kept intact to insure the resumption of fraternity activities when the present emergency has passed, the War Department interposes no objection to the holding of such meetings as are of a purely business character.

3. It is confidently felt by the War Department that the fraternities will realize the benefits to all concerned to be derived from the suspension of their activities in institutions in whose ability the country has reposed its trust to train its soldiers, and will show the same spirit of loyalty and service in the present emergency as has been shown by the institutions themselves.

By direction of the Committee:

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Chesleigh H. Briscoe  
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