

RESUME:

SUBJ.: CHAPLAINS IN INTERVIEWS

REF.: INTERVIEWS FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR DISCHARGE

The chaplain seemed at first to think that I was only trying to make some sort of a poor joke. He was unsure just how to handle my insistence that I was serious about the application, continually making reference to a communist menace and the brutality of the "enemy". When it became obvious to him that I didn't seem to consider the communist menace in that it was relevant to my feelings he made vague references to my mental state and my capacity to reason out my own life's morals. At one point he went so far as to state that I had not the right to decide a moral code for myself but that I must accept his as being the true feelings of the church.

When the interviews started he seemed to infer in many instances that I was mentally unbalanced because I did not want to die for my country, when I questioned his line of reasons being as I did not see how he arrived at dying in relation to killing another human being he skirted the issue and refused to give any real answer. There were several instances where the chaplain would also state that I appeared not to be listening to what he was saying and I would answer that I did not see that I came to listen to him lecture me on his set of morals but rather to explain my own. At an answer like that he would become angry and tell me that I ~~was~~ was being "smart."

He skirted the issue of the church's attitude toward war and concentrated on the evils importance in the safety of the world today. When I would ask what that had to do with killing in war he again would not answer the question but would tack off on another subject. Some times saying things like "I must pray more," or "you are a very mixed up person and I hope you find out before you cause damage to your future" this he often accented by personal stories of his youth and the socialist actions of those his age who found out too late that the socialist movement was really a communist subversion and when they had to pay for they were quite obviously wrong in view of the world situation.

The chaplain also appeared to place a great deal of store in the fact that I had typing errors in my application even though I explained to him that I had not typed the paper but a friend had. His view was that I was incapable of thinking the thoughts in the paper because I couldn't spell even at the level.