

To the Parents of Rutgers Men

YOU WILL BE INTERESTED and gratified, I know, to learn that the attitude of our students throughout these critical days has revealed good judgment and temperate action. The Japanese attack on Hawaii and our sudden shift from non-belligerency to actual warfare caused a certain amount of uneasiness and anxiety at first, here as everywhere. Very shortly our students readjusted themselves to this new state of affairs and are now fully aware, most of them, that their responsibility is to keep their feet on the ground, to refuse to yield either to discouragement on the one hand or to impulsive action on the other, and to pursue their college work faithfully until called to duty elsewhere.

The country's need is not, just now, for great numbers of men. It will call for them when it wants them. President Roosevelt has stated that our greatest need is for trained and educated men and that, for the present at least, the student's patriotic duty is to complete his education as thoroughly as possible. That has been the point of view we have endeavored to impress upon our students here at Rutgers.

For your information may I say, too, that a Rutgers Defense Council has been organized and is functioning with exceptional effectiveness. Every provision is being made for the safety of our students in the highly improbable event of enemy action.

The University has arranged to grant their degrees to seniors who may be drafted for military service during the second semester if they have completed their work satisfactorily. If members of other classes are called, special examinations will be arranged so that they will, if their work has been satisfactory, receive full credit for the current semester's work. Similar credit will be given a student who enlists if it is fully established that he will serve the national interest better by enlisting than by continuing his education.

Furthermore, in order to permit drafted students to complete as much of their college work as possible before they are called to the service and in order to make other students available at an earlier date for defense employment and for other essential summer work, the second semester of the present college year will be advanced five weeks. By eliminating the spring recess and condensing the examination periods, it will be possible to inaugurate the second semester on January 19, 1942, instead of January 29, 1942, as originally intended, and to terminate it on April 30, 1942. No curtailment in classroom hours is involved. Commencement will probably be held on Sunday, May 3, 1942.

No action will be taken at this time with reference to a proposed three-semester plan to permit students to complete their college courses in three years rather than in four. This proposal will be studied in collaboration with other American colleges and universities.

Finally let me assure you that everything will be done to promote your son's best interests in every way. We face trying and uncertain times, but those of us who work closely with the young men in our American colleges have every faith in the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

John L. Osthier

December 22, 1941.