

# To The Bureau Of Reclamation

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There has been much discussion of late as to the manner in which thousands of draft dodgers have used the federal service to keep out of the army. And there is no question but that many bureaus and departments are loaded with this type of individual.

That the Bureau of Reclamation is NOT one of these was indicated this week by Harry W. Bashore, commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, who devoted a portion of his address before the National Reclamation Association Thursday, to a tribute to the men from the bureau who are now in the service.

Said the commissioner:

"Reclamation's contribution to the war from the standpoint of power and food has been highly significant, but I also call your attention with pride to the bureau's service flag, which shows that 1,428 of our employees have joined the colors. Thirteen have made the supreme sacrifice on the field of battle, are prisoners of war, or have died in active service. I pay my tribute to their patriotism and extend my sympathy to their families.

"The loss of the services of these men and women to the armed forces has hampered our activities, but we have asked for the deferment of only 68 of our remaining 6,036 employees—only 1 percent. The deferred men are engineers, power house operators, and other skilled technicians."

Comparisons are, of course, very odious. BUT—if every federal bureau and department had a record like this, there would be no criticism at all. Of course the bureau of reclamation is an old line, American bureau dedicated to service in the field, rather than one of the ultra-modern outfits interested only in perpetuating itself in power and increasing that power.