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Letter from A. P. Richardson, Secretary, American Institute of Accountants, to Members and Associates of the AIA Re: Orders Issued by the Provost Marshal General Indicating That Accountants are Not Within the Operation of the Regulations Which Are Commonly Known as "Work or Fight."

A. P. Richardson

E. H. Crowder

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS

1 LIBERTY STREET, NEW YORK.

TO THE MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS:

GENTLEMEN:

Recent orders issued by the Provost Marshal General relative to the essential and non-essential occupations seem to have led to some uncertainty as to what attitude would be adopted by draft boards in regard to men in deferred classifications who were engaged as public accountants.

One or two draft boards have expressed the opinion that public accountants were non-essential and that men within the draft age engaged in such an occupation should devote their energies to other occupations or enlist in the military service.

These cases brought to the attention of the Institute have been reported to the Secretary of War and a letter has now been received from the Provost Marshal General which states that accountants are not included within the operation of the regulations which are commonly known as "Work or Fight".

This decision is in accordance with sound principles and is transmitted to the membership of the Institute for information.

A photographic copy of the ruling of the War Department is enclosed herewith. You are at liberty to show this ruling to draft boards if cases arise which make it necessary to explain the status of public accountants.

Members are requested not to give unnecessary publication to this ruling. It is sent to members as a confidential document for their information and guidance.

Yours sincerely,

A. P. RICHARDSON.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON

July 30, 1918.

Mr. A. P. Richardson,
Secretary, American Institute of Accountants,
1 Liberty Street, New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your telegram of recent date, addressed to the Secretary of War, which has been referred to this office for reply. Therein you wish to be advised as to whether public accountants are included within the operation of the regulations.

I beg to advise you that public accountants, as such, are not included within the operation of the above regulations.

E. H. CROWDER,
Provost Marshal General,

By Joseph Fairbanks,

Lieut. Col., N. A.

JF-M-mcf