THURMOND: General Pate, what major changes have occurred during the past four years since you have been Commandant of the Marines?
PATE: I could say that there are probably two major changes. The first one being that when I first started, we had on the order of 215,000 men and now we have 175,000. Also, we have made measure changes in the organization of combatant elements in the Fleet Marine Forces to make them more mobile and lighter so that they can be air and helicopter transported.

THURMOND: If you were starting out today, would you join the Marines again?
PATE: I certainly would, Senator, and I would advise any young man interested in a military career to do so. I think the future of the Marine Corps is even greater than ever. I think the type of force that the Marine Corps provides our country will be needed even more badly than it has been in the past.

THURMOND: What advice would you give a young man who is considering the joining of the Marines?
PATE: I'd advise him to join it in the first place, and I would suggest that he get all the education that he can and get his body in a fine physical shape as he can.

THURMOND: In other words, you feel a young man today needs to be well trained physically and have a well-developed body, and also to be well trained mentally with a good education.
PATE: I couldn't mean anything more so. The complex weapons are so complex that each man almost has become a specialist.

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