

The Commissioner has given a good deal of thought to this and we have suggested that in the long run the most effective way to handle the problem would be on a random-selection basis.

There is quite a hope that the Congress this year will amend the selective service law in such a way that a random-selection basis will be injected. If that is the case, then in the fall of 1969, the problem will not be as acute as the one that we are facing in the fall of 1968.

Mrs. GREEN. This, though, can be changed by administrative action.

Mr. MUIRHEAD. Yes, Madam Chairman. It is possible by administrative action at this time, by Executive order, perhaps, or by regulatory changes, to come up with a random-selection procedure that would select a percentage of students by age of those who are eligible for the draft rather than to rely upon the procedure that is now in place, of taking the oldest first.

Mr. QUIE. Could we expect that it would take 3 years then before we get back to a normal pattern even if the war were to continue during that time and we were drafting graduate students?

In the first year, of course, the graduate student would not be drafted immediately; therefore, he would lose some time. Then, if he were drafted, he would not be able to start his graduate program immediately after returning from military service. So, there could be a loss of about 3 years in each person's life.

Mr. MUIRHEAD. That situation certainly could develop.

There are so many unpredictables in the problem that it would be difficult to really predict which situation would come about. If, for example, we did have a random-selection procedure established next year, then it would be this class entering in 1968 that would create the dip in graduate enrollment. There would be no way of catching up. Ultimately, it would be caught up in part, as Congressman Gibbons indicated a moment ago, when these graduate students return from service.

If the policy remains as it is now beyond the fall of 1968 and is in effect in 1969, then the problem becomes very grave.

Mr. QUIE. If there were going to be a selective determination of which disciplines were the most necessary for national defense or for the needs of our country, and I guess there is already a deferment for doctors and dentists, would the exact sciences possibly be the area where there would be deferment? Because I imagine a doctor's degree in history would not be as important as a physicist.

Mrs. GREEN. It might be more important.

Mr. QUIE. It might be more important?

Mr. HOWE. You can get into arguments on this subject easily as to who is more important.

As I said a moment ago, from a personal point of view I would hope that that particular option of handling the problem of graduate enrollments by giving special privilege to a number of disciplines or professions would not be exercised because I don't think you can necessarily defend, except perhaps in a total emergency situation, certain categories.

Mr. QUIE. If it were left to the National Security Council, they probably would not give a deferment for somebody studying Latin American culture for a doctor's degree as much as they would a mathematician.