

The Draft—Next Few Months Crucial for Graduate Students

Will graduate students be drafted? Some astute Washington observers say yes and others no. Meanwhile, academic analysts predict that even if Johnson does issue his order to draft graduate students, it will not make much of a dent in the graduate school population.

"We believe that graduate students now in deferred status will not be affected at all, that deferment of prospective graduate students will not be materially diminished, and that there will be no wholesale induction of postgraduate students in the fall. We therefore advise graduate schools and students to proceed with their plans for the fall term in the normal manner." So says Gustave O. Arlt, president of the Council of Graduate Schools, commenting on academic concern over President Johnson's message on selective service.

The President, in his message, had declared that he will issue an executive order specifying that no deferments for postgraduate study be granted in the future, except for medical and dental students. There are, however, many Washington observers such as Arlt who believe that Congress will override the President and write into a new draft law statutes protecting deferments for graduate students. That the prevailing sentiment in Congress favors continuation of educational deferments is generally agreed by most analysts. But that Congress will take the next step and successfully oppose Johnson's wishes is not as well accepted.

Rep. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and others say they've beaten the President before on military matters and they can do it again. But there are many like Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) who, though a strong advocate of graduate student deferments, has indicated, "If that's the way the President wants it, then we'll go along with it." Meanwhile Johnson has lined up a powerful

RESONANCES

Taxing advertising revenues of scientific and other nonprofit organizations will result from new rules the Internal Revenue Service says it will issue in the next few weeks. Many believe the proposed regulations will jeopardize education and information activities (supported by advertising income) of such groups as the American Institute of Physics, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and American Chemical Society. Strong criticism against the proposal, however, is certain to be expressed, and such pressure may cause IRS to withdraw the proposed ruling.

array of administration spokesmen in his behalf. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz told Congress that there is "nothing in the civilian manpower needs of the economy" to warrant student and occupational deferments. Burke Marshall, head of the Presidential Commission on the Draft, told a Senate panel that student deferments are basically unfair and that given the will, the means, and the intelligence, any student can escape the draft.

Consequently, one analyst of the balance of power on this issue, Betty Vetter of the Scientific Manpower Commission, told PHYSICS TODAY, "I have a horrible feeling that Congress won't stop Johnson when he decides to draft graduate students. I definitely think critical occupation deferments will also be rescinded. It's just a matter of time." Veteran congressional committee staffs, who have watched countless dogfights between the President and Congress, would make no such positive statements. "The odds are about even on this issue," said a House Armed Services counsel.

What would happen if Johnson's proposal to eliminate new graduate deferments was put into effect? Academic spokesman say that the proposal would probably not have a substantial effect on next year's graduate enrollments. For under the President's plan, 19-year-olds and graduating college seniors would all be put into a draft pool. From a pool of this size, comparatively few 1967 college grad-

uates would be drawn. And since Johnson used the words "in the future" in his proposal, it is assumed that students now deferred for graduate study would be permitted to finish.

Congress Prods AEC on Research Support

More money for the national laboratories, a 400 GeV instead of a 200 GeV, strong support for controlled fusion—it seemed more like a physics colloquium than the annual spring hearings of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy. Once again committee members sought to defend the projects and laboratories of basic research against the severity of administration budgets. For the Joint Committee, as Harold Orlans notes in his book *Contracting for Atoms*, acts "as an essentially promotional body which has prided itself on pushing the more deliberative Commission into program expansions . . ."

National laboratories. Is the AEC putting up a strong enough case for basic research in the laboratories? The committee believes the commission could do a better job. AEC research division head Paul McDaniel told the committee, "We probably will never have appropriated enough funds to satisfy all the demands of all the laboratory scientists. . . . We recognize that some of our laboratories do not have sufficient funds to operate in the way their scientists believe they