

The form under discussion until Tuesday required simply that the institution certify to the commissioner that a set of rules and regulations of the kind described in the law have been published or are being published.

Whether anything like the Erlern-born proposal will make its way through House and Senate to final passage this year is still difficult to predict. Certainly the issue is the kind that makes legislators nervous, particularly House members who must run every two years and, furthermore, run in

districts in which a single issue, exploited by an opponent, can assume great weight. Many Congressmen not only "run scared" but vote scared. Opinion polls this spring made campus unrest the "Number 1 issue" with voters, and this is a period when a vote for law and order is a safe vote.

This is not to say that genuine indignation at the events of the year on the campuses is not widespread among congressmen who generally reflect middle-aged, middle-class American views. Mrs. Green, for example, whose

standing as a political liberal and friend of higher education was established in the campaigns for passage of programs of federal aid to higher education during the Eisenhower and Kennedy-Johnson years has expressed this impatience. In discussing her bill on the floor of the House on 11 June she said, "I must say I am a bit weary of hearing people say, 'I am terribly concerned about this or some other legislation . . . how this action will be looked at by the alienated.' I think that maybe it is time the Congress looked at how the vast majority of students and faculty members on our college campuses are looking at the disturbances and riots that prevent the majority from doing what they are there to do."

As always in Congress, the bill was being considered in the context of a bigger legislative equation. Perkins, for example, who has seen his committee divided against itself on the campus-unrest issue, is responsible for steering the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) authorization bill, which still contains the bulk of the poverty program, through an unenthusiastic House. He was no doubt apprehensive that further delay or an all-out fight on the campus-unrest bill could adversely affect the OEO bill. The Administration, concerned about extension of the surtax and other priority measures, is not anxious to offend either side in the campus-unrest question by wading into the fight.

The climate of discussion on the issue has moderated since the end of the school year as incidents receded into the past and constituent mail dwindled.

In Congress a campus tour by 22 younger Republican members has had a cooling influence. A report based on a synthesis of their impressions carried the leading conclusion that "In our opinion the fundamental responsibility for order and conduct on the campus lies with the university community."

Those who made the tour would not necessarily reject imposition of federal requirements on institutions—Erlern-born himself was one of the travelers. But the group's report achieved a measure of insight and balance not always found in congressional documents. The report discusses not only the actions of militants but the criticisms which the militants say led to campus disturbances.

The quality of the report seems due to the fact that the congressmen trav-

Rubella Vaccine Is Licensed

The government has licensed a rubella vaccine to help fight against German measles, a viral infection which is known to cause birth defects in children when women contract it during pregnancy. In addition, Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary Robert Finch has announced that a nationwide distribution of the live virus vaccine is already under way. The new rubella vaccine was manufactured by a Pennsylvania company from a virus strain developed in 1965 by scientists of the National Institutes of Health. About 18 million doses are expected to be available for use in private and government immunization programs during the next year in an effort to counter an expected nationwide epidemic. Public health experts, who say that German measles usually reaches epidemic proportions in the United States every 7 to 10 years, believe such an epidemic may occur in late 1970 or early 1971.

Although the disease is relatively mild in children and in most adults, rubella can cause serious damage to unborn children if women contract it during pregnancy. When the last nationwide epidemic occurred in 1964-65, an estimated 30,000 fetal deaths occurred and more than 20,000 babies were born with serious birth defects, such as loss of vision and hearing, heart disease, and mental retardation.

The development of the rubella vaccine has resulted from the combined efforts of government, university, and industry scientists over an 8-year period. In 1961 two teams of scientists working independently proved that the development of a vaccine against the disease was possible. Thomas H. Weller and Franklin A. Neva of Harvard and Edward L. Buescher and Malcolm S. Artenstein of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center reported simultaneously the isolation of the rubella virus for the first time and its growth in cell cultures. Four years later, two National Institutes of Health scientists, Harry M. Meyer, Jr., and Paul D. Parkman, first successfully developed a live attenuated virus strain. Since that time researchers have been experimenting with processes for manufacturing and testing the vaccine, which led the federal government, in 1969, to grant the first license for rubella vaccine to the Merck Sharp and Dohme Company in Pennsylvania.

For months prior to granting the first license, the federal government has been considering who would be the recipients of the new vaccine once it had been successfully manufactured and tested. Last month, the Public Health Service advisory committee recommended that the vaccine be distributed only on a selective basis. Priorities are to be given to young children in order to diminish the risk that pregnant women will be exposed to the infection. The vaccine will not be recommended for routine use in women of childbearing age, and care will be taken not to administer it to pregnant women. About 2 million doses of the vaccine are expected to be distributed by the end of August.—MARTI MUELLER