

DRAFT OF STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON
SIGNING S. 1767 *by SDR*

This bill which I have signed today substantially carries out most of the recommendations made by me in a speech on *more specifically* July 28, 1943 and in messages to the Congress dated October 27, 1943 and November 23, 1943:

1. It gives service men and women the opportunity of *resuming* continuing their education or technical training after discharge, *or of taking a refresher or refresher course,* not only without charge but with the right to receive a monthly living allowance while pursuing their studies. *fraction up to \$500 per school year,*
2. It makes provision for the guarantee by the Federal Government of 50% of certain loans made to veterans for the purchase or construction of homes, farms and business properties. *not to exceed*
3. It provides for reasonable unemployment allowances payable each week to those veterans who are unable to find a job up to a maximum period of one year.
4. It establishes *improved* machinery for effective job counseling for veterans and for finding jobs for returning soldiers and sailors.
5. It authorizes the construction of *all necessary* very substantial additional hospital facilities.
6. It strengthens the authority of the Veterans' Administration to enable it to discharge its *existing and added* ~~many and varied~~ responsibilities with promptness and efficiency.

With the signing of this bill a well-rounded program of special veterans' benefits is nearly completed. It gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down.

By prior legislation, the Federal Government has already provided for the armed forces of this war: ^{adequate dependency allowances:} [^] mustering out pay; generous hospitalization, medical care, and vocational rehabilitation and training; liberal pensions in case of death or disability in military service; substantial war risk life insurance, and guaranty of premiums on commercial policies during service; protection of civil rights and suspension of enforcement of certain civil liabilities during service; emergency maternal care for wives of enlisted men; *and re-employment rights for returning veterans.*

This bill therefore and the former legislation provide the special benefits which are due to the members of our armed forces — for they "have been compelled to make greater economic sacrifice and every other kind of sacrifice than the rest of us, and are entitled to definite action to help take care of their special problems". *Insert (A)*

There still remains one recommendation which I made on November 23, 1943 which I trust that the Congress will soon adopt -- the extension of social security credits under the federal old-age

and survivors' insurance law to all service men and women for the period of their service.

I trust that the Congress will also soon provide similar opportunities for post-war education and unemployment ~~allowances~~^{insurance} to the members of the merchant marine, who have risked their lives time and again during this war for the welfare of their country.

But apart from these special benefits which fulfill the special needs of veterans, there is still much to be done.

As I stated in my message to the Congress of November 23, 1943,

"What our service men and women want, more than anything else, is the assurance of satisfactory employment upon their return to civil life. The first task after the war is to provide employment for them and for our demobilized workers . . . The goal after the war should be the maximum utilization of our human and material resources."

Insert (B)

~~We must continue to cope with the serious problems of economic reconversion and readjustment that will face us after the war so that private industry will be able to provide jobs at that time for the largest possible number. This time we have begun to make plans far in advance of the day of peace. The Executive Branch of the Government has taken and is taking whatever steps it can. The Congress is now considering this subject and I hope that it will soon enact appropriate legislation to accomplish the objective.~~

That still remains our major domestic post-war responsibility.

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