

STATEMENT OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, ON INCREASED BENEFITS FOR VETERANS
UNDER THE GI BILL OF RIGHTS, FEBRUARY 17, 1948.

The increase in subsistence payments to Veteran-students, to become effective April 1, is a measure I have long favored, and I congratulate Congress and the President on their action.

While in ordinary times the present subsistence allowance may have been sufficient, the vast increase in the cost-of-living has made adjustments necessary.

When the educational benefits of the GI Bill of Rights were voted by the Congress, it was intended that the allowances should be ample enough to enable students to continue their education without making outside financial arrangements. In the past 2 years, most students found such to be impossible.

Congress rightly decided to re-examine this situation in order to alleviate hardships and fulfill the intent of the GI Bill of Rights. If living costs do not come down, Congress should re-evaluate the new schedule of allowances for adequacy.

We owe the freedom of our nation to the Veterans, and we should not stint our aid to them.