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Public hearings on proposals to extend benefits to veterans

Strom Thurmond

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSALS FOR GI PEACETIME BENEFITS, MARCH 5, 1957.

Washington, March 5--Senator Strom Thurmond, Democrat of South Carolina, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, today announced public hearings will begin Monday, March 18, on proposals to amend or extend the Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1952, popularly known as the Korean G.I. Bill of Rights.

Several of the bills to be considered, the Senator said, would extend to veterans of peacetime service in the Armed Forces readjustment benefits such as educational and vocational assistance, loan credit assistance, unemployment compensation, mustering-out payments and job placement assistance until such time as existing laws authorizing military conscription cease to be effective.

Senator Thurmond said: "The growing interest in extending to peacetime veterans the same kind of readjustment benefits we have made available to veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict, as evidenced in the introduction of important legislative proposals before our Subcommittee, makes it essential that the Congress examine all the many aspects of this problem and secure the views of qualified experts and interested parties. The United States has never before had compulsory military service during peacetime. While Congress, recognizing the Nation's responsibility to the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces during wartime, has enacted a wide variety of legislation for war veterans, we are now confronted with a basic policy decision, namely: shall some or all of the readjustment benefits hitherto granted to veterans who served during periods of war be extended to the millions of young Americans who, because of the ever-present threat to our Nation's security, are required to serve in the Armed Forces during peacetime."

Among the principal bills which the Subcommittee will consider are the following: S. 667, introduced by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.); S. 714, introduced by Senator Richard Neuberger (D.- Ore.); S. 1095 and S. 1282, introduced by Senator Francis Case (R.-S.Dak.); and S.1158, introduced by Senator Thomas H. Kuchel (R.-Calif.). These bills extend some or all of the provisions of the Korean G. I. Bill of Rights either for a specific period of time or until such time as existing laws authorizing compulsory military service cease to be effective.

In addition, the Subcommittee has before it a proposal introduced by Senator Milton R. Young (R.-N.D.), S. 1129, to increase the education and training allowances under the Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1952, for those now receiving such allowances; and S. 166, introduced by Senator James Eastland (D.-Miss.), which extends the period during which certain veterans may qualify for educational and training benefits under either the World War II or Korean G. I. Bill of Rights.

Finally, the Subcommittee will consider a proposal by Senator John McClellan (D.- Ark.), and others, S. 1061, which would require certain private educational institutions and training establishments to file non-Communist affidavits with the Veterans' Administration.

The Members of the Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, in addition to Senator Thurmond, Chairman, are: Senator Lister Hill (D.-Ala.), Senator John F. Kennedy (D.-Mass.), Senator Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz.), and Senator John Sherman Cooper (R.-Ky.).