

(27-27)

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (DEM.-S.C.) ON BILLS TO PROVIDE  
READJUSTMENT BENEFITS TO VETERANS OF PEACETIME SERVICE. DELIVERED TO THE  
SENATE ON AUGUST 20, 1957

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Mr. President, I wish to call attention to the status of the veterans bills which were introduced in the present session of Congress to provide readjustment benefits to veterans of peacetime service. These bills were referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare at the beginning of this session and are now pending before the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, of which I am Chairman.

As Senators know, these bills raise a fundamental policy question which the Congress must decide. Never before in our history has the United States during peacetime had compulsory military service. In recognition of the nation's responsibility to our men and women who served in the Armed Forces during wartime, Congress has enacted a great variety of legislation for war veterans including, in our generation, the G.I. Bill of Rights for World War II and Korean veterans. The question confronting us today is whether some or all of the readjustment benefits granted to veterans who served in wartime should be made available to the millions of young Americans who, under the Selective Service Act, are required to serve in the Armed Forces during peacetime.

Many young veterans anxiously await the outcome of this question and I regret that it could not be resolved at this session of Congress. Unfortunately, however, although extensive hearings on the bills have been held, there are still a few factual questions to be explored. In addition, because of the recent reduction both in the Armed Forces and in the monthly call-ups under the draft

law, the Subcommittee desires to have more up-to-date cost estimates than those provided during the hearings. It is quite possible that cost estimates projected from, say October or November of this year, will show a substantial reduction in the cost estimates now on hand. The Subcommittee has, therefore, instructed its staff to develop these matters while the Senate is in adjournment, so that the necessary information will be available for immediate use when the Senate reconvenes in January.

Meanwhile, I hope Senators will be able to devote some time to the study of this very important proposed legislation concerning our young men and women in the service. I also hope Senators will be able to review the hearings which will be available for distribution either shortly before or shortly after the adjournment.