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Questions on Veterans Administration testimony at Veterans Subcommittee hearings

Strom Thurmond

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QUESTIONS BY SENATOR THURMOND (D-SC) ON VA TESTIMONY AT VETERANS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS, MARCH 18, 1957.

I. (At page 8, first witness Veterans' Administration, statement is made that: "Unlike World War II veterans, upon discharge the majority of the usual home-buying group will be well below the usual home-buying age for the general populace. I, therefore, cannot recommend the enactment of this section of the bill.")

Note: (The witness quotes this from the report of the Veterans' Administrator, already in the record.)

QUESTIONS: 1. What is the usual home-buying age for the general populace?

2. What is the source of that statistic?

3. How does the usual home-buying age of the World War II and Korean veteran compare with that of the general populace?

4. Would a minimum age requirement, say 25, for example, remove the objection to extending the loan credit assistance program?

5. Is not the income of the veteran, or his ability to repay the loan, a more important consideration than his age?

6. How does the business judgment of the lending institution affect this matter? Where, because of the veterans age, business considerations weigh against the loan, will the lending institution make the loan simply because Congress has not imposed an age restriction?

II. In discussing the additional costs for salaries and administration that would result from extending loan credit assistance, you estimated such additional costs at about $25. per loan.

QUESTION: Would it be feasible to pass this cost along to the veteran obtaining the loan?

III. I understand that under the present loan program, a lending agent brings together the veteran and the lending institution and charges the veteran a fee therefor, amounting to one percent of the loan.
QUESTION: Is the Veterans' Administration satisfied with this practice?

IV. You stated in your testimony that approximately 1.7 million veterans have entered training under the act from 1952 to date; and that benefit payments under the Act are expected to total over five billion dollars.

QUESTION: Are these figures for both educational and vocational (on the job training) assistance benefits?

Note: (If the figures are overall figures, request a breakdown on the number of veterans who have received educational benefits and the number who have received vocational assistance benefits. Also a breakdown on the respective estimated costs.)

V. QUESTIONS: a. How many veterans actually enter the jobs or vocations for which they are trained?

b. How long do they remain in these jobs?

VI. QUESTION: What would be the cost of an educational assistance program that only paid for the veterans' tuition, books, and fees?

VII. QUESTION: Would it be feasible to have an educational assistance program providing for complete payment of tuition, books and fees, with subsistence whatever; but granting each veteran the option to obtain a subsistence loan, bearing low or possibly no interest?

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-2-