

[E. 1958]

ARTICLE BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND(D-SC) IN THE ARMY-NAVY-AIR FORCE TIMES REGARDING NECESSITY FOR HIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION(S. 1165) TO PROVIDE INCENTIVE PAY FOR MEMBERS OF JAG.

Senator Strom Thurmond(D-SC), Brig. Gen., USAR, has introduced legislation to authorize accelerated promotion and increased pay for service lawyers. The proposed legislation, S. 1165, would give the lawyer-officer who obtained his legal education prior to military service a three year service credit for pay and promotion purposes and also provides for accelerated promotion from Lieutenant to Captain in the Army and Air Force and to Lieutenant in the Navy after the first anniversary of the officer's admission to practice.

The need for such legislation, according to Senator Thurmond, is crucial. It was reported that 41% of Army lawyers in JAG are serving in the rank of Lieutenant. The overwhelming majority of these officers are recent law school graduates and are serving their required tours of active duty in the Reserves in lieu of serving in enlisted status under Selective Service law requirements. Almost all of these officers leave the service upon completion of the minimum required tour, preferring to return to civilian life where they hope to realize a substantially better return on their investment in an average of seven years of advanced education. The resulting deficiency in experienced personnel in the legal field of the Armed Services is accentuated by the promotion and retirement of the more experienced legal officers.

Only by an effectively designed program to retain experienced legal officers can prompt trial for accused military personnel be accomplished, top legal services to our men in the Armed Forces and their commanders be provided, and capable handling of our multi-million dollar contracts for service procurement be insured.

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