Mr. President, I send to the desk two bills for reference to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

One of the bills amends the War Orphans' Educational Assistance Act of 1956, the other amends the Act providing vocational rehabilitation for disabled veterans.

Mr. President, the bill concerning the War Orphans Act amends the present law so as to authorize the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to approve courses of special vocational training for eligible persons under the Act. Presently, mentally retarded war orphans do not obtain any benefits under the Act, because the special courses suitable to their needs are not authorized by existing law. The bill corrects this situation by authorizing the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to approve a special course of vocational training which is suitable for the particular person and which is required because of a mental or physical handicap.

The bill concerning vocational rehabilitation for disabled veterans amends Public Law 894, 81st Congress so as to afford such vocational rehabilitation training to Peacetime veterans (persons entering the Armed Forces subsequent to January 31, 1955) who sustained a service-connected disability rated at 30 per cent or more of the total disability. World War II and Korean veterans have previously received this type of training without regard to the type of training. It seems appropriate for Congress now to take action to provide similar training to Peacetime veterans in cases where the service-connected disability is substantial. The demarcation line drawn by the
requirement of a 30 per cent disability is appropriate to maintain the
distinction which Congress has traditionally maintained between Peacetime
and wartime veterans in providing veterans Benefits.

Finally, Mr. President, I would note that the bill to amend the War
Orphans' Act is sponsored by eleven members on the Committee on Labor and
Public Welfare. Sponsors in addition to myself are Senators Hill, Murray,
Kennedy, McNamara, Morse, Yarborough, Smith of N. J., Ives, Purtell and
Cooper.

The bill to afford vocational rehabilitation to Peacetime veterans is
sponsored by twelve members of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.
Sponsors in addition to myself are Senators Hill, Murray, Kennedy, McNamara,
Morse, Yarborough, Smith of N. J., Ives, Purtell, Allott and Cooper.