

RADIO TAPE FOR WEEK of MARCH 16-22, 1957

COPY

This is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey in Washington.

For those of you with youngsters of draft age and of the age to begin thinking about college, we have some encouraging news about education this week.

The first of my several bills to broaden educational opportunities for young people is receiving careful study by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, in hearings which begin this week.

This is the proposal to extend the educational provisions of the GI Bill to veterans who entered service after January 31, 1955.

Few people realize just what a tremendous opportunity the GI bill gave those of our youngsters who would not otherwise have gone to college. Without the benefit of this program literally millions of young men and women, and hundreds of thousands of the most brilliant of them, would never have found it possible to go on to higher education.

Did you know that about half of all the veterans of World War II

COPY

took some kind of training after the war -- 7,900,000 of them!

And of the 5 million Korean veterans, over 1,700,000 took college training under the Korean GI Bill. That adds up to almost ten million young men and women who were aided in going to school, in return for service to their country. And in terms of the nation's economic strength, what a wonderful investment that was! Think of the teachers and engineers, the scientists and professional people of all kinds who were trained under the two GI bills!

And yet, we are still lagging badly behind the Soviet Union's powerful program for training scientists and engineers; We are still far too short of these trained people to keep up with the expanding needs of American industry and of National defense.

I look on my proposal to extend the Korean GI bill at least until July 1, 1959, and perhaps so long as selective service remains in effect, as only right and just. These youngsters in service since

COPY

1955 deserve the chance to go to school. They have earned it. In fact, because such a relatively few young men are being drafted out of those who are physically able, those who do enter service have even more reason for getting some constructive benefits.

But more than that, these bills -- like all of my several proposals which I introduced earlier this year to give American young people broader opportunity -- will provide programs which are good for the country.

I am hopeful that the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare will come out with a favorable report on either S. 667, or on S. 714, which I am co-sponsoring with Senator Neuberger.

Furthermore, formal consideration of these GI educational bills will undoubtedly stir up a great deal of Congressional interest in other proposals to broaden educational opportunities for non-veterans. It considerably brightens the prospects, I think for passage of my bill to provide scholarships for the brightest high-school

COPY

graduates each year who are unable to go on to college because they lack the necessary funds. As you may recall, when I introduced my Youth Opportunity Program in January, I pointed out that there are, in effect, 150,000 of our finest young minds going to waste every year because of a simple lack of funds. My bill, S. 869, would provide up to \$160 million each year for scholarships based on ability and need. Students would be selected on a strictly non-partisan and non-political basis, and would be eligible for up to \$1000 each year.

Under this bill, the student could select any accredited college or university, and the college would receive from the Federal Government an amount calculated to help pay the cost of teaching and equipment -- above and beyond the tuition from the student. A third provision of the bill would set up a low-interest loan program for full time students, to operate through the colleges and

COPY

universities. The Government would guarantee the loans, much as it guarantees GI mortgages. An interesting feature of this section of the bill, which will appeal to some of you folks who are feeling the pinch of the teacher shortage, is a "forgiveness" clause. This means that a graduate who goes into teaching can have part of his outstanding loan "forgotten," or "forgiven" by the Government for each year he or she teaches.

You know, I'm a great believer in education. It's not a cure-all, and it's not the answer to everything, but my friends, it can show us the way to the answers. We're a great nation -- bursting at the seams with energy, expanding by twenty-five and thirty-million people every ten years. We have the natural resources, the energy, the political institutions, and if we can only keep the level of our trained intelligence at the level of our expanding economy, we are going to stay solvent and we are going

COPY

-6-

to remain a leader in world affairs. It seems to me only a wise and reasonable investment to make sure that our young people are permitted -- and encouraged -- to go on to college and to make the best of the minds and hands that God has given them.

March 13, 1957



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org