

STATEMENT OF SENATOR WALTER F. MONDALE (D-MINN.)
ON S.9 (THE COLD WAR G.I. BILL) IN THE
UNITED STATES SENATE, JULY 19, 1965

Mr. President, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise today to address the Senate in support of Senate Bill 9, the Cold War G.I. Bill. I was privileged to have sponsored this very necessary and worthwhile legislation on the day it was first introduced in the 89th Congress, January 6, 1965. Not only did I enthusiastically support Senator Yarborough, the distinguished author of this bill, but appeared in support of it before the Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs on February 19, 1965.

I feel especially qualified to ~~be a beneficiary of one of the previous G.I. Bills~~ I sponsor this legislation and will vote for its passage today, ^{for} ~~for~~ I was a beneficiary of one of the previous G.I. Bills. It gave me an opportunity to continue my education following my term of service during the Korean conflict, and enabled me to avoid the unhappy choice between foregoing further education or delaying it still longer in an effort to acquire the resources to gain it.

The same problems of readjustment and economic dislocation that we knew ten years ago are faced today by thousands of young men returning from service in the Armed Forces. These young Americans have been forced to disrupt their lives and careers to serve in the Armed Forces throughout the world. Then after completion of their term of service, these men face not only the serious problems of adapting back to civilian life, they also find themselves far, far behind those in their age group who were allowed to continue their schooling and their careers.

Thus the Cold War G.I. Bill has been proposed to balance this situation *and* to give the veteran who has sacrificed two, three or four years of his life a chance to catch up with his non-veteran companions whose lives were not disrupted by military service.

One of the main arguments against the bill has been that since the United States is officially at peace, it would be unprecedented and unwarranted to give peacetime servicemen benefits previously extended only to those who faced the hazards of war. *HOWEVER,* ~~that the distinction as to~~ whether the United States is officially at peace is a meaningless technicality when American servicemen are being killed and wounded in Vietnam and elsewhere. *IN ADDITION,* ~~that~~

~~neither~~ the World War II nor the Korean G.I. Bills made any distinction between those who served in the front lines and those who served in a safe stateside job. The two previous G.I. Bills were not intended as reward for combat duty, *and* ~~applied~~ applied to all veterans. Their main purpose was to help veterans readjust to civilian life and catch up to those whose lives were not disrupted by military service. This is also the purpose of the Cold War G.I. Bill.

In addition to the matter of fairness to Cold War servicemen, the Cold War G.I. Bill would also serve the national interest as did the World War II and Korean G.I. Bills.

It has been well established that the nation reaped tremendous

social and economic values from the two previous G.I. Bills, mainly as a result of the educational assistance they provided.

More than 7,800,000 World War II veterans -- nearly half of the 16,500,000 U.S. participants -- took some form of training under the G.I. bill.

Of the total enrolled: 2,200,000 attended colleges and universities; 3,500,000 went to schools below college level; 1,400,000 underwent on-the-job training; and 700,000 underwent on-the-farm training.

Today we are a far stronger nation because of the infusion of skilled and professional manpower gained through the G.I. bill; 450,000 engineers, 180,000 doctors, dentists, nurses, 360,000 schoolteachers, 150,000 scientists, 107,000 lawyers, 243,000 accountants, 36,000 clergymen of all faiths, 17,000 writers and journalists, 711,000 mechanics, 383,000 construction workers, 288,000 metalworkers, 138,000 electricians, 83,000 policemen and firemen, 61,000 printers and typesetters, and 70,000 who trained for business and executive careers.

⁷⁴⁶ The total cost of the program was \$14.5 billion. Eighty percent of this went directly to the veterans in the form of subsistence allowances. Nearly all the rest was spent on tuition and other training costs and only 5 cents out of every dollar went for administration.

Experts have stated that our present shortages in these and other essential occupations would have been even more critical

-- perhaps catastrophic -- had it not been for the G. I. Bills.

In Minnesota nearly 200,000 veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict were able to upgrade their education and training as a result of the G.I. Bills. The Cold War G.I. Bill would provide the same educational opportunities to about 34,000 more Minnesota veterans during the first five years of its operation.

Finally, it has been shown that G.I. Bills are really an investment which eventually pay for themselves. U.S. Census Bureau figures show that World War II veterans alone now pay the Federal Government \$1 billion dollars a year in additional taxes because of the increased earning power they attained from their G.I. schooling.

Altogether, it was the largest program of mass adult education ever undertaken at bargain rates. The \$14.5 billion cost has been more than recouped.

The G.I. bill continues to pay for itself at close to \$1 billion a year. The return comes from additional income tax paid by better educated, higher earning G.I. bill veterans.

I am pleased to add my support to this legislation.

STATEMENT of SENATOR W. F. MONDRAHE (D. MINN.)
ON THE FLOOR OF SENATE CONCERNING S. 9
(COLD WAR G.I. BILL), JULY 19, 1968

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I feel especially qualified to ~~indicate again that I~~ sponsor this legislation and ~~will~~ vote for its passage today, ^{for} ~~as~~ I was a beneficiary of one of the previous G.I. Bills. It gave me an opportunity to continue my education following my term of service during the Korean conflict, and enabled me to avoid the unhappy choice between foregoing further education or delaying it still longer in an effort to acquire the resources to gain it.

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Thus the Cold War G.I. Bill has been proposed to balance this situation *and* to give the veteran who has sacrificed two, three or four years of his life a chance to catch up with his non-veteran companions whose lives were not disrupted by military service.

One of the main arguments against the bill has been that since the United States is officially at peace, it would be unprecedented and unwarranted to give peacetime servicemen benefits previously extended only to those who faced the hazards of war. *However,* ~~supporters of the bill feel that~~ the distinction as to whether the United States is officially at peace is a meaningless technicality when American servicemen are being killed and wounded in Vietnam and elsewhere. *In addition,* ~~supporters also make the point~~ ~~that~~ neither the World War II nor the Korean G.I. Bills made any distinction between those who served in the front lines and those who served in a safe stateside job. The two previous G.I. Bills were not intended as reward for combat duty, *and* ~~they~~ applied to all veterans. Their main purpose was to help veterans readjust to civilian life and catch up to those whose lives were not disrupted by military service. This is also the purpose of the Cold War G.I. Bill.

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