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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

November 27, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: KEN COLE
SUBJECT: COMPARISON OF GI BILL EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

MR-7

As the controversy persists regarding how the Vietnam era veteran stands relative to benefits received by the World War II and Korean veterans, this information may be helpful. This comparison is based on a single veteran college student rate per 9-month school year.

Rates

Under the World War II program, veterans received an allowance of \$675. Their cost of tuition, books and supplies were paid, up to \$500. There also was a ceiling limitation on earnings plus subsistence. Veterans training under the Korean conflict bill received an allowance of \$990. When the current GI bill was enacted, veterans received \$900. This has been increased to \$1,980. The pending bill would further increase this amount.

The average cost of tuition and books for public and private schools for World War II was \$190 - \$446; currently it is \$652 - \$2,551.

Cost of Living Adjustment

When the World War II and Korean conflict rates are expanded on the basis of the CPI and compared to current GI bill rates, the current rates are about \$100 a year less for the average veteran attending public schools and about \$2,000 less for those attending higher priced private institutions.

Assuming enactment of a cost of living increase in the neighborhood of 18.2 to 23 percent, most veterans in public colleges would receive more than they would have under the World War II program. Eighty-one percent of the college trainees under the current program attend public schools.

Entitlement

Under the World War II program, veterans were allowed a maximum of 48 months entitlement after about 36 months of service. Entitlement under the Korean conflict bill was limited to a maximum of 36 months for 24 months of service. Under the current bill a maximum of 36 months is earned after 18 months of service.

Program Differences

There are substantial differences between the World War II and the current GI bill which makes comparison difficult. Some examples are: The World War II program permitted non-career OJT and avocational training. It did not provide tutorial assistance, free entitlement (PREP) for servicemen/women and educationally disadvantaged veterans, and other provisions available under the current program for the undereducated.