

## GI Education Program Full Of Abuses; Congress Ready For Remedial Legislation

By ROWLAND EVANS JR.

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Education of veterans has become big business, but the Veterans Administration (VA) says neither veterans nor taxpayers are getting their money's worth.

In a report to Congress VA cites 238 cases of what it calls abuses of the GI education program. Here are two:

1. The board of directors of a jewelry-repair school bought a local supply company and sold supplies to the school at a 33 per cent markup. VA pays for all supplies needed by veterans in their training.

2. A radio and television school billed VA for lessons never given to veterans. VA recovered \$125,000 on that one.

Since passage of the GI bill in June, 1944, some 7,600 new schools have been set up to train veterans. About 5,700 are profit schools.

These schools are approved by individual states, not VA. They are turning out thousands of carpenters, brick layers, radio and television repairmen, dressmakers, tailors, mechanics, etc.

About 850,000 veterans are training in under-college-level schools. The number is increasing. But VA says that while by and large the schools are honest the training is not always good. And congressmen say there will never be enough jobs in these trades to handle the huge turnout.

Rep. Wheeler (D-Ga.) tells of a Philadelphia school which was turning out meat cutters. It ran a three-shift day, five hours a shift, using VA-purchased meat. It is the same story in other towns and cities.

VA says these schools thrive in unemployment areas.

Any school which can get approval from its state can go into GI bill education. VA must pay the bills until it can show that the school is not giving good training. But VA says it cannot police more than 40,000 approved schools all the time. It can check attendance records but says these records are sometimes falsified.

### Graft Is Intimated

Some states are believed to have encouraged mushrooming schools for the money they bring to community and state. A school of 1,000 trainees represents about a \$100,000 a month veterans' subsistence payroll, not counting tuition to owners, and supplies and equipment.

VA has issued a regulation which will forbid a veteran from switching from one course to another in a different field.

But Senator Taft (R-Ohio) is sponsoring a bill which would forbid VA's making any regulations designed to curb a veteran's training. His bill, passed by the Senate, would allow a veteran to switch freely from one course to another. The House has not yet acted.

The VA says that if the Taft bill should become law the cost of GI education, now running at a \$2,500,000,000 a year clip, would perhaps double.

Backers of the Taft bill say that if VA has its way schools will suffer from too much federal interference and veterans' training will be curtailed.

## Atomic Plant Is Again Involved In Labor Dispute

OAK RIDGE, Tenn., Feb. 14—(AP)—Construction of a \$66,000,000 atomic plant again is involved in a labor dispute.

An Atomic Energy commission spokesman said 225 plumbers and steamfitters left their jobs three hours before a shift was due to end yesterday.

The workers' idleness was "no action of the union," said A. E. Galyon, business agent of A. F. L. Plumbers, local 102.

"The company ran them off. It is definitely no strike," Galyon added.

C. A. Budnik, project manager for the Maxon Construction Co. of Dayton, O., said the company had received no notification from the union.

The Maxon firm is building the plant, known as K-29, under a contract with the AEC. Maxon also is building the K-31 plant which will cost \$162,000,000.

Construction on both projects was halted early in December when a wildcat strike saw 2,200 workers leave their jobs. They returned four days later upon the urging of their parent union, the Knoxville Building Trades council (AFL).

No official reason for the December walkout was given.

## Samuel L. Noble, Oil Tycoon, Dies

HOUSTON, Feb. 15 — (AP) — Samuel Lloyd Noble, prominent oil man, Oklahoma Republican leader and philanthropist, died unexpectedly Tuesday. He was 53.

Noble was chairman and President of the J. S. Abercrombie company and the old Ocean Oil company, both of Houston. In May 1946, a newly formed company in which he was the main stockholder purchased the Abercrombie concern and holdings for a consideration then reported to exceed \$50,000,000.

Noble also was chairman of the Noble Drilling company of Tulsa.

Noble was one of the biggest drilling contractors in the world. Unofficial estimates of his wealth ranged over \$40,000,000. He was chairman and president of several oil companies.

Noble was born in Indian territory and worked up from a school teacher.

He served two terms as regent for the University of Oklahoma.

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