

GI Bill Of Rights, Aims, Benefits Reviewed By Service Officer Of Medford American Legion Post 15

More than 1,000,000 veterans are now eligible to receive benefits under the GI bill of Rights which recently became the law of the land. Under this law the veteran may buy, build or repair a home, get money at 4% on a long-time loan to pay back taxes or delinquent debts on a home, start and equip a new business, purchase, build up and stock up a farm, complete high school and university education if interrupted by the war, draw special benefits if unable to find a job, have free and competent hospitalization if he or she needs it.

Asked to comment upon the law Ernest L. Barnes, service officer of Medford Post No. 15, American Legion, said yesterday: "This law was not the work of any one man or set of men.

It was fought out in American Legion posts all over the country. It is a national bill. Men who had been through the fire got together to prevent any such condition as existed after the World War. At that time we had no experience upon which to draw, but this time we had some idea of what returning veterans would find and we have just started to handle the situation. The thing which struck me as much as anything else was the selfishness with which other organizations supported the American Legion in its efforts to prevent a breakdown among the veterans.

One Administration.

"Administration of the law," continued Barnes, "will be through the Veterans' Administration at Washington, D. C.

This organization was set up in July, 1930, under an act of congress and all federal agencies dealing with veterans' affairs were consolidated and co-ordinated under this single control. At that time it was our idea to prevent and do away with the confusion incident to overlapping agencies and bureaus and president Hoover agreed thoroughly with the plan and the veterans in congress gathered up the loose ends under that veterans' bill.

"The GI bill of rights is not a gravy train. The idea is to put returning men and women on their feet. They have worn the cloth of their country and are entitled to recognition in the American way. Any veteran who has served 90 days or more since September 15, 1940, and has received a discharge other than dishonorable is eligible for benefits. Even some of the dishonorable discharges will be reviewed if equities demand it. Veterans who served less than 90 days and have a service connected disability are eligible. This was included in the law to take care of those few

cases in which men were injured early in their service. The law sets up a method of review and adjudication for claims which are denied so that every veteran may have his day in court and be heard.

"While this law is to be administered from Washington it will not be necessary to go back there or write your congressman to get your case started. The case will be started from the office of your local service officer. All you have to do is call upon the service officer of the local post and he will start your case for you. In fact, this has been going on for some time now. Plans are now in the mill to have representatives of the Veterans' Administration more widely scattered and accessible in order that the cases may go through quickly and without delay, due to long correspondence."

Some of the more important provisions of the GI bill of rights are cited by Barnes as follows:

1. It is presumed as matter of law that any veteran who entered the service under 25 years of age was interrupted as to

schooling and he is entitled to the benefits of the law without presenting further evidence on that point. If he was over 25 years of age at the time he entered service he or she will have to prove interruption. The veteran is entitled to tuition and fees up to \$500 and \$50 a month subsistence if no dependents and \$75 a month with dependents. He may choose his school. However, he must be qualified to pursue his courses and must keep up his work. The limit is four years.

2. He may borrow up to \$2000 at not to exceed 4% to buy or repair a home, get into business, start a farm, and get started again in life. The government will guarantee this loan up to the amount stated. The loan is repayable in 20 years.

3. For each calendar month of active service the veteran can draw a flat weekly payment of \$20 for four weeks if he cannot find a job. The limit is 52 weeks for the first two years after discharge. It will not be granted to those who refuse suitable jobs.

5. The law gives the Veter-

ans' Administration the status of an essential war agency and is entitled to priorities in equipment, personnel, supplies and materials of all kinds second only to the army and navy.

6. The Veterans' Administration is authorized to spend as high as \$500,000,000 to provide additional facilities for the care of wounded and disabled veterans.

7. There is no distinction between GI Joe and GI Jenny. They fought side by side at Bataan and Corregidor, stormed North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and they are together today on the beaches of Normandy.

Lily Hitchcock Coit, who donated Coit Tower to San Francisco, dashed to every city fire on horseback.

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Monday, June 26, 1944

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Dr. Taylor Given San Diego Post

Ashland, June 26.—Dr. Arthur S. Taylor, who has been taking Red Cross administration work in Washington, D. C., has returned to San Francisco and was immediately assigned to San Diego. The general practice is that they take additional work at a camp but the need is so urgent at San Diego that those men who had undergone administrative training were as-

signed at once. Dr. Taylor was head of history at SOCE before entering Red Cross work.

Closing time for Classified ads 9 a. m. — Too Late to Classify, 12:30 p. m.

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