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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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FOR RELEASE

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NEW G.I. BILL FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Senator Bob Dole today announced the introduction of the Comprehensive Vietnam Era Veteran's Educational Benefits Act of 1973, extending the eligibility period for veterans from 8 to 10 years and providing for tuition payment by the Veteran's Administration. Dole is a co-sponsor of the measure.

This bill is designed to improve the present GI Bill and bring VA educational benefits up to a level received by veterans of previous wars.

"Tuition assistance is a major provision of this legislation", Dole stated. "Past opposition to providing such aid is based on abuses which plagued the system of VA tuition payments after World War II. The bill introduced today contains protections against such abuse."

In his introductory floor statement prepared for delivery today, Dole pointed out that conditions have changed vastly since the post-World War II period, justifying changes in the assistance programs. Explaining the provisions of the bill, the Kansas Senator urged his colleagues to give their full support.

Major provisions contained in the bill are as follows:

(1) Tuition payment: VA pays up to \$600 per school year after the veteran pays the first \$400.

(2) Eligibility period: Increased from 8 to 10 years.

(3) Subsistence allowance: Increased 13.6% for all VA education programs.

(4) 36 month entitlement period: an extension of up to 9 additional months for on-going education programs.

(5) Establishment of a Vietnam Era Veterans Communication Center and Veterans Advisory Committee as a task force to combine government and private efforts to make veterans programs more effective and more widely utilized.

(6) Removal of restrictions on the work-study program.

(7) Provision allowing a veteran to draw his full 36 month entitlement in larger amounts over a shorter period of time.

Co-sponsors of the bill, with Dole, are Senators George McGovern (D-S.Dak.), Charles Mathias (R-Md.), and Daniel Inouye (D-Ha.).