

AL'S HALF ACRE

\$65 Is Not Enough

By AL HERGENROT

How are you getting along on \$65 a month?

When the GI Bill of Rights was first passed, the \$65 allotment was an entirely reasonable amount for the single veteran to pay his room, board, and insurance with. The position of the married veteran has been, and continues to be, more precarious. Veterans everywhere were grateful for the opportunity provided by their government to get a college education, and have shown that they take the grant seriously by getting better grades than non-veterans in almost every college in the country.

College enrollment this fall indicates that more than half the students are veterans—something like 52 per cent. This can be read to indicate that veterans are prepared to supplement the \$65 from their savings or by working in order to meet expenses.

What may be a trend, however, was evident this summer when Congress adjourned leaving a substantial increase in committee

At that time, the registrar's office reported that inquiries from veterans seeking entrance to the college dropped sharply, although the increase provided for single veterans in the bill was only \$10 per month. A current survey shows that 32.2 per cent of the men attending college are holding part time jobs to supplement their income. The average rate of pay is 63.4 cents an hour.

It is time for us now to question whether the intention of the GI bill is being fulfilled. Is it right for the student attending school on the margin to drop out because he cannot make ends meet? It is not.

A college degree is becoming less of a novelty, but that makes it more the less valuable to every man and woman who holds one, and more important, to the country which is fortunate enough to have such a highly educated population.

The bill should be amended to raise student veterans' subsistence.

This is not a problem for the federal government alone. The average pay rate of 63.4 cents an hour is 63 cents higher than that paid to student help at Michigan State. Even a raise to the average rate paid by other colleges and universities would be a tremendous boost to those who find it necessary to work in order to remain in school.

Gerrymandering?

At the time of spring elections, the Marquette Students district contained barely enough students to warrant two seats on council. Shortly after, the population of the district had increased to an extent that would have allowed the area three seats had the newcomers been resident in the district at the time of official tabulation.

So the election rules were unofficially expanded for as long as it took to add a third representative from the Marquette Students area.

This action provided the precedent by which still a fourth member was brought into the council at its last session, five months after the election. The student population of the area is now approximately five times that counted in last fall's census.

This apparently means that the council has taken into itself the power to increase and/or decrease representation on the council at any time. This policy, followed to its logical conclusion, could lead to violent repercussions.

We are not contending that the married students should not have representation proportional to their numbers, and to their stake in campus life. Neither do we mean to reflect upon the ability of the new men brought to the council from that area.

But we do firmly believe that the present election rules should be so modified, in a legal manner, that in the future, we will know the makeup of the council immediately after the votes are cast.

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