

VETERANS BENEFITS.

Action of the House of Representatives in enacting a bill to provide muster-out pay with a maximum of \$300 for more than 60 days of active service was dictated in large measure by benefits which already exist for veterans of the present war and by the likelihood that in the future, there will be other legislation to provide for an adjustment of service pay. More than 18 bills were pending to provide muster-out pay, social security benefits and educational opportunities. If the highest benefits provided by these bills had been adopted, the cost would have been in the neighborhood of 20 billions of dollars. This would have exceeded the entire cost of benefits paid to veterans of the first world war and their dependents since 1917 to date by 5 billions. It was estimated that if a bill to adjust service pay were enacted in the future at the rate of \$1 per day for service at home and \$1.25 per day for service overseas, it will ultimately cost another 15 billions of dollars. These considerations had much to do with the adoption of the muster-out pay bill in the form in which it passed the House.

PRESENT BENEFITS FOR VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.

At the present time, those who have served or who are serving in the armed forces are entitled to a variety of benefits. These include (1) Hospitalization by the Veterans Administration in its 93 hospitals and homes (2) Vocational rehabilitation either by the Federal Government where their disabilities are the result of service or by the States if not service connected (3) Disability pensions which range from \$10 to \$100 per month depending on the degree of disability and special provisions in certain aggravated cases which run as high as \$250 per month (4) Government life insurance while in the service and the privilege of continuing that insurance after discharge. About 11,000,000 policies are now in effect and the average face value of those policies is about \$9000. (5) Veterans have re-employment rights when they return to civil life as provided in the Selective Service Act (6) Death benefits for surviving dependents are now provided for and (7) Unemployment compensation benefits exist in 36 states. It is expected that in a short time all states will make such provision for returning soldiers.

MUSTER-OUT PAY.

The House Bill has been simplified in the interest of easy administration and provides but three classes of pay. Those who served 60 days or less will receive \$100 while those who have served more than 60 days will receive \$200 and those with overseas service will receive \$300. It is payable only to the veteran or his guardian but is not payable to the veteran's estate if he dies. These payments would be tax exempt and cannot be attached by creditors.

THOSE NOT ENTITLED TO MUSTER-OUT PAY.

MUSTER OUT pay would NOT be paid to the following persons or classes of persons. (1) A member of the armed forces who at time of discharge was receiving base pay of the rank above that of Captain which is \$2400 a year (2) One who after discharge is entitled to receive retirement pay (3) one who has not served out of the country and who was discharged to take a civilian job (4) an Air Corps Reserve officer who is entitled to a lump-sum payment under the Act of 1936 (5) a person who has served in the specialized training programs such as college-training, V-12, V-5, etc. (6) any person who was discharged to go to a military school such as West Point (7) any person whose only service was at a military or naval school like West Point or Annapolis (8) any officer who remains in the service for 3 years or more after the present war ends.