It was nearly a year before V-E Day that Congress passed the GI Bill of Rights. This means that the lawmakers had to anticipate the return of more than twelve million men and women and make provision for loans, education, hospitalization, claims, unemployment compensation, job placement and a host of other items. Considering the number of details which had to be anticipated, it can be said that it was a reasonably good foundation on which to build for the future. Like all legislation however, time and experience reveals weaknesses and defects which must be cured by amendment and already the House has enacted a series of amendments to meet new needs and circumstances. It might be well to consider some of these.

PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES.

Prosthetic appliances includes such things as false tooth, glass eyes, artificial limbs and other appliances for veterans who were wounded in the service. Heretofore it was difficult to secure the right kind of appliances and to have them properly fitted. The amendments provide that such appliances shall be procured by the Veterans Administration and that travel allowances shall be available to veterans to go to a hospital or other institution as often as may be necessary to have such appliances fitted by experts.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS.

Not all veterans might be able to enroll in an educational course within two years after discharge or after termination of hostilities as provided in the original act so this has been increased to four years. A veteran might not be able to complete an educational course in seven years so it's been increased to 9 years. It was discovered that $50 per month for the subsistence of a single veteran while attending school or $75 per month in the case of a veteran with a family might be too meager and those have accordingly been increased to $60 and $85 respectively. Nor did the original GI Bill provide for correspondence courses. The amendments have remedied this defect so that a veteran might take such a course.

LOAN BENEFITS.

In general, the original bill provided that a veteran might apply for a loan to purchase a home, farm, or business and that 50% of the loan but not to exceed $2000 would be guaranteed by the Federal Government but the veteran must apply for a loan within 2 years of discharge or termination of hostilities. Doubtless there will be many veterans who may not need a loan within the first two years after separation and this has been increased to 6 years. Proving that the veteran is eligible for a loan was a bit complex and involved under the original act. As amended, the veterans discharge certificate is all that is needed to prove eligibility. Heretofore, the approval of the Veterans Administrator was required on a loan application. Under the amendments that will be no longer necessary. In addition, the method of appraisal of property on which a loan is requested has also been simplified and made more workable.

SENATE ACTION.

House action on these amendments was taken in July of this year. Since then, this Bill has been considered by the Senate and additional changes have been made. Among other things, the Senate (1) Removed the 25-year age restriction on education and also eliminated the requirement that a veterans education must have been interrupted by war service in order to qualify for educational benefits, (2) subsistence allowances for single veterans attending school has been increased to $65 per month and in the case of veterans with dependents to $90, (3) the re-payment period on farm and business loans has been extended from 20 years to 35 years. The Bill now goes to a conference Committee to iron out the differences between the two Houses. As time reveals other weaknesses and defects, those too will be cured after proper study and consideration.