

February 4, 1944

[Act To Provide Payments to Members of Armed Forces]

FDR Speech File

February 4, 1944

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE SIGNING OF S. 1543, An Act
To provide for mustering-out payments to members of the
armed forces, and for other purposes".

The Mustering-Out Payment Bill which I have just signed is a step in the comprehensive program that I recommended on July 28, 1943 and again on October 27, 1943 and November 23, 1943, for the special protection of the members of the armed forces. It will ease the period of transition from military to civilian life, by providing the funds immediately needed to enable our service men and women to look for jobs and resume their peace-time pursuits.

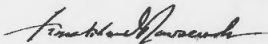
It is an important first step in the program of demobilization. The other measures recommended in the program, however, should also be adopted.

The Federal Government should make it financially possible, for example, for members of the armed forces to resume their interrupted studies and to educate and train themselves for peace-time jobs and responsibilities. The future welfare of this nation requires that we promptly make good the educational deficit created by this war.

We must also provide our service men and women with social security credits for the period of their military service, so that they may fully enjoy the benefits of the social security laws upon their return to civilian life.

We must make our plans now and take all necessary steps to see to it that there will be good jobs awaiting our returning service men and women. But we must anticipate that there may be unemployment during the period of reconversion, and we must therefore establish now suitable machinery for the payment of reasonable unemployment allowances to those veterans who are unable to obtain jobs within a reasonable period after their discharge.

Through the prompt enactment of this program of veteran benefits, we shall furnish those who have served their country in the armed services with the sense of security which they have richly earned and which is so necessary to a high fighting morale.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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