

the Government, for example, over the quarter of a century that has passed or the 20 years anyway that has passed since many GI's after World War II went through postsecondary and college and university training of all kinds.

Mr. BARR. There have been only cursory estimates, Mr. Scheuer. I have heard estimates that as much as 50 percent of the economic growth that this country has experienced since the end of World War II can be directly attributed to our efforts in education.

We have grown from a nation with a GNP of roughly \$250 billion 20 years ago to a nation where today our gross national product is just under \$800 billion. We have tripled our dollar GNP. It is an incredible growth period.

I have never seen an analysis of how much of this can be attributed to the GI bill.

I would say, however, Mr. Scheuer, that a high proportion would be, because the GI bill has provided the management people, the scientists, the technicians, the people who have guided this growth, who have made the biggest impact on it. Of that 50 percent, I think it would be a high proportion you would have to ascribe to the GI bill.

Mr. SCHEUER. You don't have any more information?

Mr. BARR. No. I would be delighted to supply anything we have for the record.

(The information requested follows:)

GI BILL

It appears that no cost-effectiveness study has been made of the GI Bill educational provisions. Such a study would be difficult and complex, posing many conceptual and analytical problems, as well as the necessity for assembling a substantial volume of statistical data. While it is not possible to make a firm estimate of the cost of such a study, it would likely require the professional skills of a number of economists, statisticians, and PPBS specialists over a period of months. A reasonable estimate of the cost of a first cut at the problem might be on the order of \$100,000.

Mr. SCHEUER. I would hope since we are really getting into the business of fortifying postsecondary education, college education, on a big scale, and it will get bigger as the years go on, and I am sure at some point in time we will all be wanting to discuss from the cost-benefit point of view whether the loan program is the most expeditious way to do it or whether it should be a grant program as the GI bill was, with living stipends and the like, and I think we need more than generalities of the kind you have given us; they are hopeful and sympathetic, but nevertheless generalities; and I wonder whether this is the kind of thing your assistant secretary in charge of cost-benefit analysis might want to do some thinking on?

Mr. BARR. Now you are addressing yourself to the GI bill exclusively?

Mr. SCHEUER. Not exclusively. If there were other programs a generation or decade back that got folks into postsecondary and college education, I would certainly want to include them, but the GI bill is one that I had experience with, that millions of Americans benefited from two decades ago, where they have had careers in the meantime.

You could document in millions of cases that their careers were directly attributable to the postsecondary education that they got at the Government's hands. There ought to be some implications that we can