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Congress Approves  
College Aid Bill

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A major education bill cleared the U. S. Congress and awaits President Johnson's signature to become law. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives gave approval to the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The measure is a compromise version of Senate and House passed bills. It is the third major piece of education legislation to be approved by Congress this year. Already signed into law is the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965. Foundation for such federal aid to colleges was laid two years ago when Congress passed the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 which provides funds for construction purposes.

The bill is considered a "breakthrough" in aid to education because it provides for the first time federal scholarships for needy students. It sets up a number of teacher programs, including a National Teacher Corps.

Also new in the Higher Education Act of 1965 is the provision for community service and continuing education programs, which would cast the nation's colleges in the role of solving community problems.

The measure basically is a five-year program of aid to higher education, with financial authorizations for most programs for the first three years. Generally it would (1) provide for community service and continuing education programs designed to assist in the solution of community problems in rural, urban or suburban areas; (2) provide a program for improvement of college and university libraries; (3) authorize special assistance to improve education at "developing" institutions of higher education; (4) authorize loan insurance and scholarships for students, and expand the current work-study program; (5) establish a National Teacher Corps and provide teacher fellowships; (6) provide grants to colleges to purchase new equipment and make minor building alterations, and expand the current program of grants for construction of classrooms, libraries and laboratories.

In all of the programs provided by the bill no distinction is made between public and private colleges and universities. However, each title does contain a provision prohibiting the use of federal funds for sectarian instruction or religious worship or in connection with a school or department of divinity.

The bill authorizes \$125 million for the first three years for community service and continuing education programs for solving community problems. Such problems as housing, poverty, government, recreation, employment, youth opportunities, transportation, health, and land use could be included. The program would be administered on a state plan by a state designated agency.

Authorization of \$150 million for three years is provided for grants to colleges to strengthen libraries. Basic grants and supplementary grants are provided to assist in the acquisition of library books, periodicals, documents, magnetic tapes, phonograph records, audiovisual materials, and other related library materials. Special purpose grants are also provided to meet special needs for additional library resources, to meet special national or regional needs in the library and information sciences, and to assist in the joint use of library facilities.

Grants are also authorized to institutions of higher education for training in librarianship, and for research and demonstration projects relating to libraries and the training of library personnel.

A one year program of grants is provided to strengthen "developing" institutions of higher education, and for a national teaching fellow program to encourage graduate students and junior faculty members to teach at such "developing" institutions. Co-operative arrangements for strengthening these "developing" institutions could include faculty exchanges, faculty training and improvement programs, introduction of new curriculums, joint use of facilities, etc.

Federal scholarships for needy students are provided in the form of "educational opportunity grants." A total of \$70 million for each of three years is authorized for such grants. In addition there is a program of low-interest insured loans under which the government would underwrite loans made to students by private lending agencies.

The work-study program, already in operation under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (war on poverty), will be expanded and transferred to the Office of Education. This program provides part-time employment for students of low-income families. Such employment may be for the institution itself or for a public or private nonprofit organization arranged by the institution.

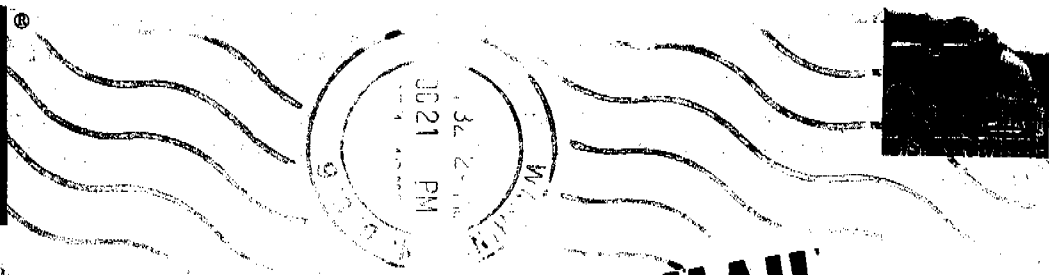
The new National Teacher Corps program will recruit experienced teachers, and college graduates not yet experienced in teaching, for up to 2 years of service in schools in areas with high concentrations of low-income families. There is also provided a program of fellowships for teachers in elementary and secondary schools for graduate study.

The existing program of construction grants to colleges (Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963) is doubled under the new education measure. The interest rate on loans for construction purposes is fixed at a flat three per cent per year.

Also provided is a program of grants for the acquisition of equipment and for minor remodeling of buildings. Equipment could include audiovisual materials, printed and published materials other than textbooks for classrooms or libraries, and equipment used in science, mathematics, foreign languages, history, geography, government, English, humanities, arts, etc., as well as television equipment for closed-circuit instruction.

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