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SURVEY OF VETERAN ATTITUDES
AND OPINIONS RELATIVE TO THEIR EDUCATION
AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE

by

Lewis J. Menzel

THIS BOOK DOES
NOT CIRCULATE

A problem submitted to the Faculty of South Dakota State
College of Mechanic Arts in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of Master of Science.

June, 1950

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Problem

Many people have adopted peculiar ideas as to the attitudes and opinions of veterans who are attending colleges under the government program, which is commonly called the G. I. Bill. This report of a veterans' study which was carried on during the registration for spring quarter of the 1947-1948 school year at South Dakota State College located at Brookings, South Dakota. It is hoped that these findings may be of some value in straightening out those individuals, giving them a clearer picture of the attitudes and opinions of veterans, and especially of those attending South Dakota State College.

Source of Information

The questionnaire, which was used to obtain this information, was adopted from the American Council on Education, which carried on a similar study of veterans attending all types of colleges located in all sections of the United States. The study was further stimulated by the publication of special bulletins prepared by a Committee of the American Council on Education which received financial assistance from the Disabled American Veterans Organization. The director of the original study by the American Council on Education was Ralph J. Strom of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This study is an outgrowth of the information and encouragement from the American Council of Education and administrative authorities connected with veteran affairs at South Dakota State College.

The Purpose of the Study

In preparing this series of bulletins, the American Council on Education had a three-fold purpose:¹

1. To present findings of these nation-wide surveys to administrators and personnel workers in colleges and universities.
2. To stimulate local studies on the various campuses and, by doing so, to permit comparison of the local results with those of the nation-wide survey.
3. Through steps 1 and 2 above, to emphasize the particular services and techniques required of the colleges to meet the special needs of the disabled students.

The purposes in reporting the findings from South Dakota State College are two-fold. First, to show the comparison of the results from South Dakota State College with those of the nation and, secondly, to present the findings to the administrators, personnel workers, and teachers so they might obtain a clearer view of the veterans' attitudes and opinions on this campus. The third purpose as given by the American Council on Education will not apply at South Dakota State College because there are no veterans attending this institution who must receive special assistance because of his disability.

Obtaining the Information

The information for this study was obtained by distributing a questionnaire to all veterans registering for the spring quarter of the 1947-1948 school year at South Dakota State College. The answers

1. Bulletin, "American Council on Education Study of Disabled Veterans in Colleges and Universities", February 27, 1948

were all given voluntarily by all of the veterans. A total of 1098 veterans were given the questionnaire. Of this number a total of 846 completed and returned it. With this large number of returns it is felt that a good sampling of the veterans has been obtained and therefore should give a significant degree of reliability to the results. The number of veterans completing the questionnaire by classes is as follows: freshmen 146, sophomores 350, juniors 198, seniors 137, and graduate students 15.

Groupings for Comparisons

In order to obtain a clearer view of the actual situations at South Dakota State College, it is felt that a three-fold comparison should be made. This three-fold comparison will include the following groups:

1. Class Groups
 - A. Junior College -- This group is to include the freshman and sophomore students.
 - B. Senior College -- This group is to include the junior and senior students.
 - C. Graduate College -- This group is to include only those students who are working toward graduate degrees.
2. Divisional Groups
 - A. Agriculture Division
 - B. Engineering Division
 - C. General Science Division
 - D. General Registration Division
 - E. Pharmacy Division

In this divisional grouping, each group except the General Registration Division, will contain veterans of every class rank. No students are allowed to remain in the General Registration Division after they have completed their sophomore year.

3. South Dakota State College Total

This is the combined totals for all students in all divisions and classes.

The comparisons of the above named groups from the campus of South Dakota State College with those of veterans all over the nation were made in the following areas of college life: (1) Entrance into College, (2) vocational interests, (3) attitudes toward instruction, (4) participation in extra-curricular activities, (5) living conditions, and (6) attitudes and complaints.

This study analyzes the major areas of study as covered in the questionnaire. Several parts of the questionnaire as furnished by the American Council of Education were not answered by the veterans while answers to other questions did not furnish sufficient material for this study. This study, therefore, does not present a complete comparison of answers to all questions found on the questionnaire.

COMPARATIVE AREA STUDY

Entrance Into College

G. I. Bill and College Attendance - Many people today feel that colleges and universities are increasing in size because of the great influence of federal aid to the veterans. They firmly believe that the veterans who are attending colleges and universities would not be going to school if it were not for this federal aid. Table I illustrates the percentage of veterans who think they would have gone to college if there had been no G. I. or rehabilitation bills passed by congress.

TABLE I

"Do you think you would have gone to college if there had been no G. I. or Rehabilitation Bill passed by Congress?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students		
Number of Veteran Responses	485	326	12	823	---
Responses	Percentages			Percentages	
Yes	62	72	92	66	73
No	29	23	0	26	22
Don't Know	9	5	8	8	5

	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm		
Number of Veteran Responses	267	237	83	157	69	823	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	69	61	64	71	69	66	73
No	23	29	30	26	25	26	22
Don't Know	8	10	6	3	6	8	5

From this double table it is evident that the majority of the veterans would have gone to college even if there had been no G. I. bill. It is significant that the senior college and graduate students present a definite increase in the percentages over those from the junior college. The explanation for this can be based up the fact that among them are the older and more mature students who have had some previous college work.

There is still plenty of evidence that federal aid has assisted many of the veterans financially in the fact that in almost all groups about one-fourth of the veterans admit they would not have gone to college except through the assistance received from the G. I. bill. This is especially true with the married veterans who are finding the financial assistance very important as far as their staying in college is concerned.

Vocational Interests

Pre-war Versus Present Vocations - A question that has aroused considerable interest among educators and the general public has been the extent to which the present vocational goals of our veterans are different from what they were prior to their military service. The influence of war experiences on the vocational plans of the service-men has been a subject of considerable speculation. In an effort to find this out, the veterans were asked whether or not their present vocational goals were the same as those which they had prior to the war. Table II shows the comparison of results received at South Dakota State College and from those of the national survey.

TABLE II

"Is the Vocation in which you are now entered the same as that vocation you planned to enter before you went into the armed services?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students		
Number of Veteran Responses	496	335	15	846	---
Responses	Percentages			Percentages	
Yes	47	48	80	48	51
No	27	34	20	30	35
Don't Know	26	18	---	22	14

	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm		
Number of Veteran Responses	276	238	85	172	75	846	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	45	58	36	47	45	48	51
No	37	20	28	28	37	30	35
Don't Know	18	22	36	25	18	22	14

The findings indicate that one-half of the veterans in the nation as well as South Dakota State College still have the same vocational goals. Thirty-five percent of the veterans in the nation have changed whereas only thirty percent have changed at the college. The twenty-two percent of South Dakota

State College veterans who did not know are evidently undecided as to their vocational goals, before they went into service and did not decide upon a goal until they had returned to college.

In the class grouping we again find the graduate students are still working toward their same vocational objectives, whereas the junior college group and the senior college group conform more closely to the national average. In the junior college group, which is composed of freshmen and sophomores, we find twenty-six percent who did not know their vocational objective. Because of this large percentage it is evident that South Dakota State College can help veterans in selecting their vocational objective by giving them adequate vocational guidance during their freshmen and sophomore years in college.

In the divisional grouping, the engineering division has the largest percentage of its students who are following the same vocation as before they entered service. The agriculture, general science, and pharmacy divisions compare very closely with the national average. And again we find in the general registration group, a larger number of underclassmen who do not know if they are following the same vocational objective. This is probably because we have here a group of students who are still undecided as to their vocational goals.

Vocational guidance - Because the veterans' administration and many colleges and universities in this country were aroused by the large percentage of veterans who were undecided as to their vocational objective, they installed extensive counseling and guidance facilities to assist the college veteran in the selection of an appropriate vocational goal or course of training. The American Council on Education also studied the vocational guidance of the institution they were attending. They

found that only one-third of the veterans in the nation received adequate vocational guidance, as can be noted in Table III.

TABLE III

"Do you feel that you received adequate vocational guidance from any official source at the school in which you are now enrolled?"

	<u>Class Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students				
Number of Veteran Responses	496	329	15			840	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	55	56	67			55	33
No	11	10	6			11	16
Don't Know	34	34	27			34	51
	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm.		
Number of Veteran Responses	276	233	85	172	74	840	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	57	48	59	65	45	55	33
No	9	12	6	12	16	11	16
Don't Know	34	40	35	23	39	34	51

As we noted in the preceding paragraph, only-one-third of the veterans in the nation felt they had received adequate vocational guidance from the school in which they were attending. The students at South Dakota State

College were more fortunate as over half of them were satisfied with the vocational guidance they received from the college. However, to determine whether the colleges or universities are at fault is very difficult as can be noted when we see that over half of the students in the nation either did not have any opinion on this matter or did not consult the institution for vocational guidance at all. About one-third of the students from South Dakota State College received no benefit from the local guidance program. Of this small percentage it is difficult to determine if the college is at fault or the individual veteran.

The class groupings from South Dakota State College, both the junior college and senior college groups, compare with the college as a whole. It is apparent that these two groups have about equal percentage of difficulty with the vocational guidance problem.

The divisional groupings indicate that the veterans were obtaining the greatest percentage of satisfaction in the general science division. Another significant finding is that among the veterans in general registration only a very small percentage of veterans claimed that they were not receiving adequate vocational guidance from the college. As this group is composed of freshmen and sophomores who have not established their vocational goals, it points to the fact that they must be satisfied in the progress they are making during their first two years of college work.

Relation between vocation and college courses - An important step in determining whether a student is satisfied with his vocational training is to ascertain whether the individual feels that the courses he is taking are directly related to the vocation for which he is preparing. Table IV shows the veterans' reaction to this question.

TABLE IV

"Do you feel that the majority of courses you are taking now are directly related to the vocation you are preparing for?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total		
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students				
Number of Veteran Responses	493	328	14	835	---		
Responses	Percentages			Percentages			
Yes	81	88	100	84	78		
No	15	11	--	13	20		
Don't Know	4	1	--	3	2		
	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm.		
Number of Veteran Responses	263	238	86	168	80	835	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	85	90	67	81	83	84	78
No	12	9	20	15	16	13	20
Don't Know	3	1	13	4	1	3	2

The findings at South Dakota State College reveal that 84 percent of the veterans believe that the courses they are now taking are directly related to the vocation for which they are preparing. This attitude of veterans at this college is somewhat better than that found in most of the colleges and universities throughout the country.

In the class groupings, the graduate students are definitely set in their vocational objectives and thus 100 percent of the veterans in this group are satisfied that the courses they are taking are leading to their vocational goals. The senior college group is also much better satisfied than is the junior college group.

In the divisional group, the general registration veterans have a smaller percentage who feel that the courses are directly related and a much larger percentage who feel that they are not related. The reason for this is that these veterans are uncertain as to their vocational goals. Thirteen percent of these veterans did not know if there was any connection.

Vocational Progress - Another important item concerning veterans' vocational interests is the attitude the veteran has toward the progress he is making in his vocational training program. The veterans' attitudes in regard to their progress can be noted in Table V.

TABLE V

"Do you feel that at present you are making excellent, about average, or unsatisfactory progress toward your chosen vocation?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students		
Number of Veteran Responses	487	330	14	831	---
Responses	Percentages			Percentages	
Excellent	7	22	57	14	21
About Average	87	76	43	82	72
Unsatisfactory	6	2	—	4	7

	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm.		
Number of Veteran Responses	265	235	92	171	78	831	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Excellent	14	14	4	18	15	14	21
About Average	82	82	86	79	82	82	72
Unsatisfactory	4	4	10	3	3	4	7

The comparison between the national total and the total from South Dakota State College showed that one in every five veterans in the country indicated that he was making excellent progress in his chosen vocation, while only one in every seven at South Dakota State College felt that he was making excellent progress. The percentage of veterans at South Dakota

State College that felt they were making average progress is higher than that throughout the country, and a smaller percentage of the veterans on this campus felt they were doing unsatisfactory work.

In the class grouping, we again find the graduate students making excellent progress, whereas the junior college has a large percentage who are doing average work and about equal percentages doing excellent and unsatisfactory.

In the divisional group, we find that the general registration veterans have the largest percentage doing unsatisfactory work. This is probably due to the fact that they do not have a definite vocational objective in mind, and therefore their interests are not concentrated to any particular field of study. As general registration students they are gaining a wide knowledge in many fields which will aid them at a later date in making their final selection as to their vocational objective.

Attitude Toward Instruction

Teaching - The tremendous growth of colleges and universities in this country since the end of the war through the enrollment of one and one-quarter million veterans has raised numerous questions as to the adequacy of the instruction given to our ex-servicemen. Many of the veterans, who were considerably older and more mature, felt that the teachers were treating them as high-school students. However, this attitude changed as the teachers became adapted to having older students in class. The attitude of the veterans themselves toward their instruction is revealed in the following table.

TABLE VI

"In your opinion is the teaching you are now getting in college very poor, inferior, about average, good, or very good?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students		
Number of Veteran Responses	488	329	15	833	---
Responses	Percentages			Percentages	
Poor	4	9	13	6	1
Inferior	13	10	--	12	7
Average	56	59	27	56	33
Good	24	19	40	22	35
Very Good	3	3	20	4	24

	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm.		
Number of Veteran Responses	269	233	83	184	73	833	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Poor	6	8	1	9	5	6	1
Inferior	10	13	11	14	11	12	7
Average	60	59	59	48	52	56	33
Good	22	18	24	26	25	22	35
Very Good	7	3	5	2	2	4	24

The comparison between South Dakota State College and the country as a whole shows a marked difference between the attitudes of the veterans toward their instruction on this campus and the attitudes of the veterans

from all over the nation. Probably the most striking example can be noted in the fact that over half of the veterans in the nation rated their instruction as good or very good, while at South Dakota State College only about one-fourth would so rate their instruction. Over half of the veterans at South Dakota State College rated their instructors as about average, while only one-third of the veterans all over the nation gave this rating. On this campus we also find that about twenty percent rated the instruction as poor or inferior while the national total amounted to eight percent in the same area.

In the class grouping, the graduate students rated their instructors fairly well in comparison to the national total. One of the surprising results is that the junior college group rated their instructors higher than did those in the senior college group. Normally an older and more mature student is easier to satisfy, as he has learned to study for himself and the teacher is not as important to him.

The divisional group shows very little difference whatever. The general registration veterans reported a smaller percentage of poor and inferior teachers than did any of the other divisions.

Evaluation of Instruction - Following in the same line of thought, the veterans were also asked if their instruction was as good as they thought it should be. The results are shown in Table VII.

TABLE VII

"Is the instruction as good as you think it should be?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total		
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students				
Number of Veterans Responses	485	332	15	832	---		
Responses	Percentages			Percentages			
Yes	26	18	47	23	42		
No	51	57	53	54	48		
Don't Know	23	25	---	23	10		
	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm.		
Number of Veteran Responses	279	232	82	167	72	832	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	21	20	34	23	33	23	42
No	57	59	35	53	40	54	48
Don't Know	22	21	31	24	27	23	10

From all indication in the national study and the one carried on at South Dakota State College campus, the majority of the veterans do not feel that the instruction they are receiving is as good as it should be. At South Dakota State College, about one-fourth of the veterans were uncertain in their answers while one-tenth of the national total showed this same uncertainty.

In the class grouping, we find that all show over half of the veterans believing that the teaching could be better. The graduate students are more satisfied than are either the junior college or senior college veterans. In the answers of the graduate students, we also find that they are very definite as none of them did not know how they were going to answer the question.

As far as South Dakota State College is concerned, the general registration and pharmacy students feel that their instruction is somewhat better than that of the veterans in the other divisions. One-third of them thought their instruction was as good as it should be. Over half of the veterans in agriculture, engineering, and general science divisions thought that it should have been better.

Comparison of Instruction - Since the swarm of veterans began to invade college campuses two years ago, an important question has been bothering educators and students. Have the swollen enrollments and oversized classes reduced the quality of instruction? The following tables present a summary of the responses received from the nation wide survey and the one carried on at the South Dakota State College campus.

TABLE VIII

"Do you Think that the Large Enrollment of Students of State College Today as Compared to Pre-war Enrollment has Raised, Lowered, or had no Effect upon the Teaching?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students		
Number of Veteran Responses	461	316	15	794	---
Responses	Percentages			Percentages	
Raised	29	32	27	30	43
Lowered	29	30	40	29	24
No Effect	42	38	33	41	33

	<u>DIVISIONAL GROUP</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm.		
Number of Veteran Responses	254	223	80	168	69	794	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Raised	35	27	24	33	22	30	43
Lowered	31	30	27	24	37	29	24
No Effect	34	43	49	43	41	41	33

In the national total, forty-three percent of the veterans were of the opinion that the larger enrollment had raised the standards of teaching, while twenty-four percent believed that it lowered the standards and thirty-three percent felt that the large enrollment did not have any effects upon

the teaching. At South Dakota State College, the survey shows that about thirty percent believed that the enrollment had raised the standards of teaching and thirty percent believed that it had lowered these standards. The largest percentage of the veterans on this campus, however, were of the opinion that the large enrollment did not have any effect upon the standards of the teaching.

In trying to find the reason for so many of the veterans at South Dakota State College believing that the large enrollment did not have any effect, we can note in the junior college grouping forty-two percent were of this opinion. This group was not familiar with any of the pre-war teaching standards as most of them attended college very little or probably not at all before the war.

In the divisional groupings, we find that they all correspond very closely to the State College total except in general registration. Here we find almost half of the veterans believing that the larger enrollment has had no effect upon the teaching, and again we realize that these are the younger college students.

Teaching Standards - In attempting to discover the reasons why the veterans believed that the standards had been raised or lowered, the national survey gave a list of answers from which the veteran could choose one or more answers. In the survey at South Dakota State College, the veterans supplied their own reasons. A total of 165 veterans gave the reasons why they believed the standards were raised while 214 gave reasons why they believed that the standards were lowered. Because of the small number of responses, the comparison of the reasons why the veterans considered the standards had been raised or lowered will be made only between South Dakota State College and the national totals. The results can be noted in Table IX and Table X.

TABLE IX

"In What ways has the Larger Enrollments Raised the Teaching Standards?"

Reason	State College	
	Total	National Total
Students more mature	15	20
Raised graduation requirements	--	10
Raised entrance requirements	--	10
More competition	80	37
Larger selection of courses	--	3
Better instructors	5	6
Tougher courses	--	4
School tries to get rid of less fit	--	3
Miscellaneous	--	11

TABLE X

"In What ways has the Large Enrollment Lowered the Teaching Standards?"

Reason	State College	
	Total	National Total
Less individual attention	16	29
Less personal contact	--	10
Classes too crowded	41	37
Poor instructors	38	17
Lack of facilities	--	7
Teachers overloaded	5	--
Miscellaneous	--	10

For South Dakota State College, eighty percent of the veterans felt that the larger number of veterans on the campus has created more competi-

tion and for this reason they had to try all the harder to keep up in their classes. The same was true in the national survey as they found over a third of the veterans believing the increased enrollment had also increased the competition and thus raised the teaching standards. In the national survey, they also found that the more mature veterans had a great deal of influence in raising the standards of teaching in the colleges throughout the nation.

In the national survey and the one carried on at this campus, we find that about forty percent of both groups believed that the crowded conditions of the classes contributed much to the lowering of teaching standards. Another forty percent of State College students believe the teaching standards have been lowered by the increased enrollment because the college is forced into hiring poor instructors. Another five percent of the veterans on this campus who stated that the teaching standards have been lowered believed that the teachers were overloaded and thus did not have sufficient time for adequate preparation of their classroom material.

Participation in Extra-curricular Activities

Veteran Participation in Activities - One of the questions asked the veterans in the nation's colleges pertains to the extent of participation in extra-curricular activities. More than one-half of the veterans of World War II now attending colleges and universities take little part in organized student organizations and activities according to the results of this nationwide poll of veterans in college. The following table shows the percentage of veterans attending South Dakota State College that take little, active, or a large part in extra-curricular activities.

TABLE XI

"To What Extent do you Take Part in Organized Student Activities such as Vet's Club, Student Government, or Other Clubs?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total
	Junior	Senior	Graduate		
Number of Veteran Responses	490	328	14	832	---
Responses	Percentages			Percentages	
Little	68	59	57	64	58
Active	31	38	43	34	35
Large	1	3	--	2	7

	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm		
Number of Veteran Responses	269	236	82	168	77	832	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Little	54	65	80	70	66	64	58
Active	44	33	20	27	34	34	35
Large	2	2	0	3	0	2	7

At South Dakota State College, we find that about two-thirds of the veterans take but little part in organized student activities as compared to about one-half of the veterans in the nation-wide survey. About one-third of the veterans in both surveys revealed that they took an active part, and only two percent of the State College veterans took a large part as compared to seven percent in the nation.

The class grouping indicate that the junior college veterans take a very small part in organized student activities as almost seventy percent revealed that they took but a small part in such activities. About forty percent of the senior college and graduate students take an active part in the outside activities.

As far as the divisional grouping is concerned, the agriculture division veterans indicated that about half of them took an active or a large part in organized student activities. They are followed by the engineering and pharmacy divisions where about one-third of the veterans take an active or large part in such activities. The veterans in general registration have either a greater lack of interest or of opportunity to participate as eighty percent stated that they took but a small part in these organized student activities.

Veterans' Club - As soon as the servicemen began returning to the college campuses, numerous predictions were made with regard to the role they would play, as a separate group, in the program of the college. The nationwide survey disclosed that on many campuses the veterans formed separate organizations similar to the Vet's Club which was organized on the South Dakota State College campus. The results of interviewing such clubs are revealed in Table XII. .

TABLE XII

"Do you Feel that the Veterans' Organization, run by the students, is Doing Anything much to Help You?"

	<u>Class Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students				
Number of Veteran Responses	491	329	14			834	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	35	32	29			33	13
No	19	35	21			25	44
Don't Know	46	33	50			42	43

	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm.		
Number of Veteran Responses	264	240	89	163	78	834	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	31	37	27	39	29	33	13
No	28	23	17	23	36	25	44
Don't Know	41	40	56	38	35	42	43

Only thirteen percent of the veterans interviewed in the nation-wide survey felt that the benefits from veteran organized clubs were very substantial.. However, at South Dakota State College, one-third of the veterans believed that the veterans' organization was doing a fine job. Almost a half of the veterans in the nation did not believe that the veterans' organizations were doing anything to help them as compared to one-fourth of those on this campus. Perhaps one of the most significant findings was that forty-two

and forty-three percent of the local veterans and the national veterans did not know or had no opinion as to the effectiveness of such student veteran groups. Of those who did reply that such groups were of help, assistance was found primarily in the area of housing. Others felt that these groups gave the veterans some representation on the campus, were instrumental in providing additional social activities for veterans, and were helpful in publicizing the particular problems of the veteran students.

It seems significant that of the freshmen and sophomores on the South Dakota State College campus only nineteen percent felt that the veterans' organization was not doing anything to help the students. As this is by far the largest group on the campus, it is evident that the local veterans' organization has reached a large majority of the veterans and given them some assistance during their freshmen and sophomore years in school.

In the divisional grouping about forty percent of the engineering and general science veterans claimed that the local veterans' organization was helping them and another forty percent just did not know or did not have an opinion on the question.

Living Conditions

Housing - One of the most troublesome problems faced by the college administrators and by the veterans themselves has been that of securing adequate housing for the veterans and their families. This critical problem has been handled very well by college administrators as can be noted from the tabulation in Table XIII.

TABLE XIII

"Do you Feel the College or University Helped you as much as it Could in Securing Adequate Housing?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students		
Number of Veteran Responses	482	320	13	815	---
Responses	Percentages			Percentages	
Yes	62	68	70	64	42
No	13	8	15	11	8
Did not ask for help	23	23	15	23	46
Don't Know	2	1	0	2	4

	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm		
Number of Veteran Responses	257	231	86	164	77	815	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	71	59	65	61	64	64	42
No	11	13	8	9	14	11	8
Did not ask for Help	16	27	25	28	19	23	46
Don't Know	2	1	2	2	3	2	4

The colleges throughout the country should feel proud that they have been able to handle the housing situation as well as the above table seems to indicate. At South Dakota State College and in the nation, eighty-seven

and eighty-eight percent of the veterans reported that they either had received as much help as they could or they did not request help in securing housing. Slightly more than ten percent either did not know or reported that they did not receive adequate assistance from the colleges and universities in solving the housing problem.

The class groupings at South Dakota State College shows no significant variations from replies of the veterans as a whole. About one-fourth of all the veterans at this college do not ask for assistance as compared with about one-half in the nation.

A significant factor as far as South Dakota State College is concerned can be noted in the divisional grouping. In the agriculture division seventy-one percent of the veterans felt that they had received adequate help in securing housing whereas only sixteen percent did not ask for help. It is evident that most of the students in agriculture are from farms and must have some assistance in securing adequate housing facilities. It is felt that the administration at South Dakota State College is doing everything possible to obtain housing for its veterans, and the results of this survey shows that a very large majority of the veterans are absolutely satisfied with the present program.

Study Conditions - With the increased enrollments and the necessity, in many instances, of using every available room for student residences, some question has arisen as to the effect of such emergency housing on the studies of the students. Because this question refers to home conditions, and because many of the veterans are married, the conclusions for Table XIV will present a comparison of single students at South Dakota State College and single students in the nation-wide survey as well as a comparison of married students on this campus and married students in the nation-wide survey.

TABLE XIV

"What effects have the study conditions in your home had upon your grades?"

	<u>Single</u>		<u>Married</u>	
	State College Total	National Total	State College Total	National Total
Number of Veteran Responses	521	---	264	---
Responses	Percentages		Percentages	
None at all	34	48	25	41
Helped	23	22	28	35
Lowered	18	19	22	16
Don't Know	25	11	25	8

In comparing questionnaires submitted by single veterans, about one-fourth of those attending South Dakota State College did not know if there were any effects of their home conditions upon their grades. Almost fifty percent of the students in the nation felt that there was no effect whatsoever, while on this campus thirty-four percent had this feeling. About one-fifth of the single veterans in both groups felt that their grades had been raised and one-fifth felt that they had been lowered.

The married veterans at South Dakota State College and in the nation indicated a larger percentage were helped by their home conditions than were the single veterans. Probably the most significant factor is that such a small percentage of the married veterans throughout the nation felt that their grades have been lowered because of their home conditions.

Financial Problems - One of the more important problems which the present congress faces has been that of determining whether or not the subsistence payments to college veterans should be increased again. Favorable action was taken on February 3, 1948, when a bill was passed by congress which increased the subsistence allowances. The present law provides a single veteran with \$75.00 per month, a married veteran with \$105.00 per month, and a married veteran with a child or other dependents with \$120.00 per month. The reasons for these increases were based upon a survey which showed that it cost the veterans much more than that amount per month to live with the prices in there present inflated conditions. Table XV presents the amount it costs single and married veterans for subsistence based upon a percentage basis. Because of the great difference in the cost of living for married veterans and single veterans, the cost per month for married veterans shows a difference of twenty dollars.

TABLE XV

"How much a month does it cost you to live?"

	<u>Single Veterans</u>		<u>Married Veterans</u>	
	State College Total	National Total	State College Total	National Total
Number of Veteran Responses	528	---	250	---
Cost Per Month	Percentages		Percentages	
\$50 - 59	1	4	\$80 - 99	2
\$60 - 69	9	7	\$100-119	16
\$70 - 79	22	7	\$120-139	28
\$80 - 89	25	10	\$140-159	33
\$90 - 99	15	11	\$160-179	10
\$100-109	17	18	\$180-199	3
\$110-119	4	9	\$200-219	6
\$120-129	4	14	\$220-239	2
\$130-139	2	4	\$240-259	0
\$140-149	0	2	\$260-279	0
\$150 and over	1	14	\$280 and over	0
Median Expense	\$90.91	\$106.13	Median Expense	\$154.08
				\$169.50

In comparing the cost of living for single veterans at South Dakota State College and that of veterans all over the nation, we find that it costs the average veteran about \$16.00 less per month on this campus. In checking a little closer we see that the median expense at South Dakota State College is \$90.91 per month while the national average for single veterans is \$106.13 per month. Eighty percent of the veterans on this campus, who are single spend between \$70.00 to \$109.00 per month, while in the nation less than fifty percent of the veterans indicated that their

cost of living fell in this range.

The married veterans at South Dakota State College have an average expenditure for subsistence of \$154.08 compared with \$169.50 for the veterans throughout the country. Seventy-five percent of the veterans on this campus spend less than \$150.00 per month for living expenses while about fifty percent of the veterans in the nation spend less than this amount.

The cost of living at South Dakota State College could show considerable differences because of the large number of veterans attending college who make their homes with their parents in Brookings and the large number who receive part of their room and board through outside employment. In checking this survey, which covered 550 single veterans and 250 married veterans, only 113 single veterans or twenty percent of the single veterans indicated that they received any remuneration from outside employment, while 107 or thirty-six percent of the married veterans showed outside earnings. In the national survey, about thirty percent of the single veterans showed outside employment while forty-three percent of the married veterans indicated that they did part time work. As far as the earningpower of these veterans, the national survey showed that of the single veterans working eighty-five percent of them received \$20.00 per week or less, as compared to seventy-five percent for the same figure on this campus. Seventy-five percent of the married veterans in the nation received \$20.00 or less per week while sixty-five percent of the married veterans on the local campus earned \$20.00 per week. From this comparison we can note that both the single and married veterans at South Dakota State College were earning a little less per week than

most veterans in the nation.

Attitudes and Complaints of College Life

Veteran and Non-veteran Attitude - Many generalizations have been made in the last two years relative to the differences in the attitudes between the veterans and non-veterans attending colleges and universities in this country. Table XVI presents the viewpoints of veterans of the nation and of those from South Dakota State College in regard to this question.

TABLE XVI

"Would you say that your attitude toward your education is different from that of the non-veteran toward his?"

	<u>Class Group</u>			State College Total	National Total
	Junior College	Senior College	Graduate Students		
Number of Veteran Responses	470	326	15	811	---
Responses	Percentages			Percentages	
Yes	44	50	40	47	60
No	25	24	40	24	28
Don't Know	31	26	20	29	12

	<u>Divisional Group</u>					State College Total	National Total
	Agric.	Eng.	Gen. Reg.	Gen. Sc.	Pharm.		
Number of Veteran Responses	267	226	75	170	73	811	---
Responses	Percentages					Percentages	
Yes	46	49	41	44	53	47	60
No	27	21	19	29	26	24	28
Don't Know	27	30	40	27	21	29	12

The national survey showed that sixty percent of the veterans believed that their attitude toward their education was different than that of the non-veteran as compared to less than fifty percent at South Dakota State College. In both instances about one-fourth of the veterans did not feel there was any difference between the attitudes. Twenty-nine percent of

the veterans attending South Dakota State College indicated that they did not know if their attitudes were different. This undoubtedly is based upon the fact that most of them had not attended college as a non-veteran so were not familiar with the attitudes of a non-veteran.

In the class and divisional groupings the most significant variation occurred in the response of general registration veterans, among whom forty percent felt that they did not know if their attitudes were different from those of the non-veteran. Again we would like to remind the reader that the general registration veterans are composed of freshmen and sophomores, who evidently have not attended college as non-veterans and thus felt they were unqualified to answer the question.

Reasons for attitude differences - The veterans who answered that they felt their attitudes were different from those of the non-veteran were also asked in what ways were they different. Table XVII shows the findings of the surveys on this question.

TABLE XVII

"If yes -- In what ways are your attitudes different?"

Responses	State	National
	College Total	Total
	Percentages	
More serious and sincere	49	46
More mature and settled	25	20
More practical and definite	22	19
Others	4	15

Again it should be noted that the veterans on the national survey were supplied with a number of given responses while the veterans at South Dakota State College supplied their own response. Even under these

conditions, in both surveys about fifty percent believed that their attitudes were more serious and sincere. About fifty percent of the veterans attending South Dakota State College indicated that they believed their attitudes were different because they were more mature and settled or because they were more practical and definite in their vocational goals. This compares to about forty percent on the national survey giving the same answers. In the national survey, veterans gave numerous other reasons for the remaining fifteen percent.

Complaints of Veterans - As far as the attitudes of the veterans toward their college life was concerned, about ninety-five percent indicated that they were very well satisfied or had but few "gripes". The students who indicated they had some criticisms of their college life were requested to give their reasons for these complaints. This tabulation is shown in Table XVIII

TABLE XVIII

"What are your main complaints of college life?"

Responses	Percentages	
	State College Total	National Total
Tuition too high	-	5
Subsistence too low	-	19
Discipline not adjusted to veterans	-	5
Food prices too high	17	9
Classes too large	-	17
Poor instructors	35	50
Abolish Saturday classes	30	-
Health service for veteran families	8	-
Poor housing administration	4	5
Miscellaneous	6	26

The veterans on the national survey were supplied with a number of given responses while the veterans at South Dakota State College supplied their own reasons. The main complaint of all veterans was that poor instructors are now employed on the college staffs. On the national survey, the next two items that the veterans complained about were the low subsistence payments and the large classes. The second major complaint from South Dakota State College was the use of Saturdays for regular classes. The chief reason for this is that many of the students are farm boys who can help their folks over week-ends. Moreover, many veterans could not do as much outside work as they wished as Saturdays are the days that most local people need extra help for numerous odd jobs. The third complaint from this campus is in regard to the quality of the food that is being served from the different facilities at such high prices. Most of the other complaints were of a minor nature and were evidently forgotten shortly after they were listed.

SUMMARY

This material has been collected and presented to show a comparison of a study of attitudes and opinions of the veterans attending South Dakota State College and those results which were found by the American Council on Education in their nation-wide survey. A brief summarization of these results will be presented in the following paragraphs.

(1) The G. I. or rehabilitation bills have meant a great deal to all veterans attending colleges. The results of the surveys show that one-fourth of the veterans would not have attended college at all except for the financial aid received under one of the above congressional provisions.

(2) We know that our colleges and universities are doing a good job handling the large number of students in their classrooms, when we take into consideration that about ninety-five percent of all veterans admit that they are making average or excellent progress toward their vocations. Because only about fifty percent of the veterans are still enrolled in courses they planned to enter before they went into military service, vocational guidance is an important part of the administration in all colleges. A very small percentage of the veterans submitting replies indicated that they were not receiving adequate vocational guidance, thus giving encouragement to those individuals operating these programs.

(3) Eighty percent of the Veterans at South Dakota State College believe that the instruction that they are receiving is average or better. However, when asked whether they thought it was as good as it could be, over fifty percent said "no". This is also noted as a similar finding of the national survey. The veterans realize the handicaps which face colleges and universities with the crowded classes and they are satisfied

that everything is being done for their best interest. They are not complaining about the instructors too much but do feel that some of them could be of higher calibre. However, a majority of the veterans believe that the teaching standards have been raised by the increased enrollment rather than lowered. The main reason for this belief seems to be that there is more competition in the classrooms because of the increased number of students. The people who believe that standards have been lowered feel that the classrooms are too crowded and this makes for poor instruction.

(4) About sixty percent of the veterans in both surveys indicated that they took but a little part in extra-curricular activities. The reason for this is that they wish to spend this time on their classwork, which they believe should come first. Many of the veterans do not pay too much attention to any of the activities. Forty percent of the veterans replied that they know if the veterans' organizations were helping them.

(5) The greatest of all problems, which is housing, the survey shows that a large number of all colleges and universities are satisfying a large percentage of the veterans in their efforts to find housing facilities. Just a small percentage of the South Dakota State College veterans and of the veterans throughout the nation feel that the colleges are failing in this. A larger percentage of the married veterans feel that the study conditions in their homes have lowered their grades than do the single. About eighty percent of all the veterans either "do not know", "were helped", or "felt that the home study conditions did not have any effects upon their grades". An important factor in the living conditions is the cost of the necessary items for subsistence. It has been shown that the veterans at South Dakota State College spend less for subsistence than the average veteran attending other colleges in the country. The complaints against low subsistence

allotments cannot be too legitimate as about seventy-five of the single veterans and sixty percent of the married veterans do no outside work to supplement their G. I. allowance.

(6) Only one-fourth of the veterans in both surveys believed that their attitude toward their education was the same as that of the non-veteran, while sixty percent of the veterans on the national survey were of the opinion that their attitudes were different from those of the non-veteran. Only fifty percent of the veterans at South Dakota State College believed that their attitudes were different, whereas about thirty percent did not know. The reasons most veterans in the surveys gave were that they were more serious and sincere, more mature and settled, and more practical and definite in their vocational goals.

(7) The major complaints on the national survey were in regard to poor instructors, large classes, and low subsistence for veterans. The survey from South Dakota State College revealed that veterans were a little dissatisfied with their teachers, with Saturday classes, with the poor quality and high prices of food.

CONCLUSIONS

The most important conclusion that can be drawn from this study is that over ninety-five percent of the veterans are either very well satisfied or have but a few minor complaints about their college life. The few objections that veterans attending South Dakota State College have listed can be attributed to the natural conditions which follow any war. These complaints include high cost of living and the scarcity of trained teachers for classroom instruction.

The administrators of our colleges and universities have felt that the need for additional classroom and housing space. The veterans realizing this handicap, feel that the administrators are doing a great deal to help them wherever possible.

The veterans attending South Dakota State College realize that the average cost of living is much less at this school in comparison with that at larger colleges, and thus few veterans find it necessary to accept outside employment in order to help them through college.

All of the comparisons that have been made between South Dakota State College and the colleges and universities from all over the nation reveal that the percentages are very closely related.

In many respects the conclusions would point toward many advantages of veterans attending this school as the attitudes and opinions relative to their education are much more favorable here than is the average which was obtained from the national survey conducted by the American Council on Education.

APPENDIX

VETERANS' STUDY
AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION
AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE

INTRODUCTION: This survey is being made for the American Council on Education. They want to know what problems veterans have so they can assist State College in solving these problems.

1. What division are you in? _____
2. Are you in school under the provisions of the G. I. Bill _____, The Rehab bill _____, The G. I. Bill though eligible under the Rehab bill _____?
3. Are you single _____, married _____, divorced _____?
 a. (If ever married) How many children do you have? _____
 b. How many dependents do you have? _____
4. Give your class rank-- Fr. _____, Soph. _____, Jr. _____, Sr. _____, Grad. Stud. _____.
5. Would you have gone to college if there had been no G. I. bill? Yes _____ No _____ DK _____
6. How many hours are you carrying this quarter? _____. In your opinion is this a light _____, average _____, or heavy _____ load for State College.
7. How many quarter hours have you completed since you left service? _____
8. How many quarter hours had you before you entered service? _____
9. What percent of disability do you have? _____ What type of disability _____
 _____ Won't give type _____
10. How old are you? _____
11. What vocation are you preparing for at the present time? _____
12. Is this the same vocation you planned to enter before you went into the armed forces? Yes _____, No _____, Don't Know _____.
 a. What vocation did you plan to enter before your service? _____
 b. If your course is changed why did you change? _____
13. How many times have you changed the vocation which you plan to enter, since you started training under the G. I. program? _____
14. Do you feel that the majority of the courses you are taking now are directly related to the vocation you are preparing for? Yes _____, No _____, D. K. _____
15. Do you feel that at present you are making excellent _____, about average _____ or unsatisfactory _____ progress toward your chosen vocation? If unsatisfactory-- Why? _____
16. Do you feel that you have received adequate vocational guidance from any official source at State College in selecting your vocation? Yes _____ No _____
 Did not consult institution _____, Don't Know _____.
17. Did you consult anyone outside of the college in selecting your vocation? Yes _____, No _____, Don't Know _____.
18. In your opinion is the teaching you are now getting in college: (a) poor _____, (b) inferior _____, (c) about average _____, (d) good _____, or very good _____
 Is it as good as you think it should be? Yes _____, No _____, Don't Know _____
19. Do you think that the larger number of students in State College today's as compared to the pre-war enrollment has lowered _____, not affected _____, or raised _____ its educational standards?
 In what ways has the large enrollment lowered or raised these standards?

20. To what extent do you take part in organized student activities such as the Vet's Club, student government, or other clubs? Take very little part _____, take an active part _____, go in for such things on a large scale _____.
21. To what extent do you take part in informal social recreational activities such as dances, parties, bull sessions, athletic events, etc.? Take very little part _____, take an average part _____, go in for such things in a big way _____.
22. Do you feel that the Vet's Club run by the students is doing anything much to help you? Yes _____ No _____ Don't Know _____ Why or why not? _____
-
23. Are you a member of any of the following veterans' organizations? American Legion _____, D.A.V. _____ V.F. W. _____, A.V.C. _____ Others _____
24. What types of residence do you live in now? Room in private home or rooming house, rented apartment or full house _____, house that you own _____ living with relatives _____, prefab or trailer unit _____ hotel room _____ fraternity house _____ dormitory _____, or other _____
25. Do you feel the college helped you as much as it could in securing adequate housing? Yes _____ No _____ Did not ask them for help _____ Don't Know _____
26. Are the costs to you for room and board lumped together _____, or do you pay them separately _____? If lumped together how much do you pay? \$ _____ If separately how much do you spend a month for rent? \$ _____ Food? \$ _____
27. How much a month does it cost you to live? \$ _____.
28. How many hours did you work last week for pay? _____ How much earned? \$ _____
29. Did you work any this past summer to earn money to help pay your way through school? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, how much did you save for this year's school expenses? \$ _____ Spent as I made it _____
30. What are your present savings that you can use to help pay your way through college? \$ _____
31. Has any disability kept you from doing part time work? Yes _____ No _____
32. (If married) Is your wife employed full-time _____, part-time _____, intermittently _____, or not at all _____?
33. (If married) Do you feel that your living conditions, housing, finances, and the like, while you have been in college, have interfered with _____, been a help to _____, had no effect upon _____, maintaining the happy relationships in your family?
34. What effects have the study conditions in your home had upon your grades? None _____, helped _____, lowered _____, Don't Know _____ If helped, in what ways has it helped? _____
-
35. Can you give any specific examples where State College has consulted their students about administrative problems such as tuition cost, teaching effectiveness, prerequisites, grading standards, counseling facilities, etc.?
-
36. What other things could State College do to make college life easier for veterans?
-
-

37. Have any provisions been made by State College for children or wives of veterans, such as nursery schools, pre-school training, recreational or instructional programs, medical care or protection, etc.? Yes _____
 No _____ What could the college do? _____

38. Would you say that your attitude toward your education is different from that of the non-veteran? Yes _____ No _____ Don't Know _____ (If yes)
 In What ways? _____

39. All in all, would you say you are now pretty well satisfied with college life _____, feel pretty good about it except for a few gripes _____, or are about fed up with it _____? Don't Know _____
40. What are your main complaints of college life? _____

Name of veteran _____

Local address _____ Telephone _____

When do you expect to graduate or leave school? Month _____ Year _____