

We are also deeply indebted to you for your patience and understanding, and the personal consideration given to our many legislative requests.

The same compliments are extended to the very able staff members of the committee, who have gone out of their way to assist us.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the ingredients of DAV legislative programs are found in resolutions adopted by our governing bodies, the national convention and the national executive committee.

Our most recent national convention, held in Denver, Colo., July 31 through August 4, 1967, approved more than 150 resolutions. A majority of the proposals call for modifications in existing veterans programs, while others would authorize new ones. Additionally, a limited number of proposals relate to our country's policy and position in Southeast Asia.

On this last score, with your permission, I would like to voice a few observations about the current epidemic of urban riots and antiwar demonstrations. I am thinking in particular of those who desecrate our flag, the draft-card burners and others who confuse freedom with license. Such matters may not be directly related to the immediate concerns of your committee; but I submit that they are of general concern to all Members of Congress—and to all Americans who cherish and understand the full dimensions of freedom.

Let me say first that no one, surely, understands better than the Members of Congress how precious is the right to dissent. We also recognize that our institutions have been carefully framed to accommodate all kinds of utterly opposing viewpoints—including the merits of our Vietnam policy. It so happens that the DAV is pledged by mandate of our national convention to support our policy in Vietnam—and we are proud to be counted in that category. But we recognize the right to those in opposition to disagree.

What we do not recognize—what we do condemn—what we view with disgust and outrage—are the antics of those who abuse their freedom, make a mockery of their rights and who subvert the whole meaning of liberty.

Let there be no confusion about the identity of these willful delinquents: I am talking about the so-called demonstrators who burn their draft cards, vilify the sacrifices of American soldiers, desecrate our flag, interfere with the movement of men and supplies, sit-in at the Pentagon and, in other viciously childish acts and protests, render aid and comfort to the enemies of everything we hold dear.

No single right of citizenship exists without a corresponding responsibility. Freedom is not license. The right of one individual cannot be equated as outweighing the rights of many individuals. There must be limits to tolerance. Otherwise we are inviting anarchy.

It is all well and good for crusaders to argue that personal folly and criminal disorder are the products of ignorance, want, and lack of privilege. But this country, this Government, and this Congress are fighting ignorance, want, and lack of privilege as never before in our history.

This great fight cannot and will not be sustained, if citizens cannot walk their streets in safety, if our shopkeepers are terrorized by criminals, if our police are maligned and attacked for doing their duty,