

give its highest priority to recommendations for well-deserved increases in the rates of service-connected disability compensation. As President Johnson has said: "We have not forgotten nor shall we ever forget their service to our country."

Another significant DAV proposal on the subject of compensation calls for a long-delayed increase in single statutory awards payable for loss of limbs, body organs, and arrested tuberculosis. On July 1, 1952, there was granted an increase of \$5 per month over the rate which had prevailed since September 1, 1946, a period of 21 years.

We believe that further consideration of the facts of this matter by the committee will lead to recommendations for substantial increases in the special monthly compensation for these disabilities.

Moving now to the subject of service-connected death benefits, Mr. Chairman, the DAV most emphatically supports the enactment of legislation to increase the present rates of dependency and indemnity compensation payable to the widows, children, and dependent parents of deceased veterans whose death resulted directly from service-connected causes. Our reasons for urging the adoption of such increases are essentially the same as those expressed earlier with respect to the need for increases in the rates of service-connected disability compensation.

Mr. Chairman, I would at this point like to mention, in concise fashion, a few of the proposals which represent some of the most prime and pressing problems for disabled veterans and their dependents. Nothing in the order of presentation should be construed as indicating degrees of priority.

The proposals call for: Extending the full range of wartime benefits for veterans disabled as a result of extra-hazardous service; additional monthly compensation for veterans who have suffered the service-connected loss of a kidney or the loss of a lung; clothing allowances for veterans who, because of service-connected disability, wear prosthetic appliances which tend to wear out or tear their clothing; raise to a realistic level the present \$1,600 allowance for the purchase of an automobile; to establish an independent court of veterans' appeals; to provide an additional monthly allowance for widows who are receiving service-connected death benefits and who are in need of regular aid and attendance; to provide for concurrent payments of compensation and pension under a specified formula; to provide additional compensation for dependents of veterans whose disability is rated not less than 40 percent; to increase the present burial allowance to \$400; to provide dependency and indemnity compensation to widows of deceased veterans who are rated 100 percent service connected for 20 or more years; to extend war orphans educational benefits on a proportionate basis to children of veterans rated at not less than 40 percent.

As expressed earlier, Mr. Chairman, time does not allow a detailed accounting of all our national convention resolutions. There is an assortment of proposals relating to employment, GI home loans, insurance and the national cemetery programs that will demand our attention during the course of this session of Congress.

In the field of insurance we favor, among other things, the enactment of legislation to increase the maximum coverage of GI insurance to \$30,000.

On the subject of housing, we request an increase in the grant for specially adapted housing in line with the increase in building costs