

In this connection, the President, in his recent message, placed a high degree of emphasis on the need for enlarging the opportunities for veterans' employment. The President proposed that service-disabled veterans receiving vocational rehabilitation on a part-time basis be given a training allowance. As you know, Mr. Chairman, presently a disabled veteran can take a vocational rehabilitation and receive a training allowance only if he trains full time. The President declared that "The disabled veteran should be able to keep his job while he prepares for a better one through vocational training, drawing the allowance it provides."

I think you might like to know, Mr. Chairman, that the DAV has also been inspired by the same spirit that motivated the President's recommendations. I am proud to announce, sir, that only yesterday our national executive committee—meeting here in Washington—has appropriated a quarter of a million dollars to institute two new programs of direct aid to veterans and their needy dependents.

We have earmarked \$200,000 for establishing a national scholarship program to create additional educational opportunities at the vocational training and college levels for children of service-connected disabled veterans of limited means—with first priority given to the youngsters of Vietnamese war veterans.

We have also earmarked \$50,000 for grants to accredited research projects working on the development of improved artificial limbs and other prosthetic appliances.

These projects are intended as a supplement to our existing national service program. You will be hearing more about them as the details for implementing them are worked out under appropriate guidelines by our national staff.

Mr. Chairman, my presentation this morning represents a general outline of our legislative objectives. There are many other significant proposals, both legislative and administrative, of high importance which we cannot possibly bring to notice at this hearing. It is a program that reflects the DAV's historic principle which seeks to improve the physical, social and economic well-being of men and women who sacrificed themselves for America. It focuses attention on the need for enhancing opportunity for employment and proper job placement so that the residual ability of the disabled veteran is used in the most productive way; that expert hospital and medical care be provided to restore disabled veterans to a state of good health; and to provide adequate and just compensation for service-incurred disabilities. In short, we want to assure that the disabled veteran is restored to as good a position in civilian life as that to which he may have aspired had he not been disabled in the service of his country.

At present, the people of our country are particularly conscious of military service and the national defense. The intensity of the war in Vietnam has markedly stimulated public interest in that war and its related issues.

These related issues, of course, are meaningfully represented in the programs which this committee and the Congress have approved for the benefit of the wartime disabled, his widow and orphans. These problems will continue to warrant and receive the attention of the DAV. As already indicated, the mainstream of our effort for this session of Congress is directed to improving the compensation pro-