

Another DAV recommendation in the field of compensation concerns a proposal to enable certain permanently and totally disabled veterans to receive the full rate of disability compensation found payable for their wartime service-connected disabilities and also a proportionate amount of disability pension under a specified formula. The formula would apply to compensable ratings ranging from 10 through 90 percent.

The amount payable under the formula is determined by deducting from 100 percent the compensation rating evaluation, the result representing the percentage of pension payable in the case. For example, a veteran rated 40 percent for compensation purposes would receive his full rate of payment, \$82 a month for his service-connected disability, and in addition, an amount equivalent to 60 percent of the pension ordinarily payable.

The recommendation does not ask that a veteran be given the full amounts of both compensation and pension, and we make no such request, nor are we asking that the veteran be paid twice for the same disability. We are only asking, and we think with complete justification, that the service-connected disabled veteran, who is drawing compensation, be permitted to participate in the non-service-connected pension program.

The next DAV recommendation associated with compensation proposes to reduce from 50 to 40 percent the minimum-disability requirement in determining eligibility of service-connected disabled veterans for additional compensation for dependents. Under existing law, a veteran who is totally disabled and has a wife receives an additional \$25 compensation monthly. A veteran rated 50 percent and with a wife receives additional compensation equal to one-half of \$25, or \$12.50. Veterans rated 40 percent receive nothing additional for their dependents. Presently, a veteran rated 50 percent who has a wife and three children receives \$181 per month as opposed to a 40-percent disabled veteran with the same number of dependents who receives only \$82 monthly.

This seems highly unreasonable in view of the fact that many disabilities rated at 40 percent for compensation purposes reflect a high degree of impairment. Some of the disabilities rated at 40 percent include leg amputations; multiple-finger amputations; enucleation of an eye; and severe symptoms associated with diseases covering all systems of the body. Any one of these conditions can place the individual in the seriously disabled class where his industrial capacity is adversely affected.

We earnestly urge that the Commission recommend favorably on this proposal.

The following additional recommendations relating to compensation are set forth for the Commission's consideration:

Under existing law, provision is made that a disability which has been continuously rated at or above a certain percentage for 20 or more years shall not thereafter be rated at a lesser percentage, except upon the showing that the rating was based on fraud. It has been brought to attention that occasions arise where a disability rating is reduced during the statutory 20-year period and a short time later, on the basis of previously unrevealed facts or additional medical evidence, the prior rating is restored. Instances also occur where a rating reduction is