

This principle recognizes the additional disability attendant on the non-service-connected loss of function of a second paired organ when service connection has been established for the other organ.

We, in the DAV, believe that this same principle applies with equal force to veterans who have suffered the service-connected loss or use of one extremity and who, subsequent to service, incur a similar disability of the paired extremity. The resulting disability is the same in each case and we urge the Commission to recommend this reasonable extension of the principle of "paired organ" impairment established by the Congress in 1962.

The next recommendation would authorize an annual clothing allowance of \$300 to veterans who, because of service-connected disabilities, are constrained to wear prosthetic appliances which tend to wear out or tear their clothing.

The proposal expressed in this recommendation is a matter of special importance for veterans who suffer with limb amputations. It is a fact that the necessary prosthetic appliances hasten the wearing out process of items of clothing. Trousers and sleeves of their jackets are subject to tearing or wearing out very quickly.

We think it most fair and reasonable that these veterans be compensated with an allowance, and we urge the Commission's approval of this most deserving and appealing relief measure.

Another provision of existing law urgently in need of revision is the allowance of \$1,600 toward purchase of an automobile for veterans who, as a result of military duty, have lost or lost the use of one or both feet, one or both hands, or who have suffered permanent impairment of vision of both eyes as defined by law.

The basic rate of \$1,600 was authorized by Public Law 663, 79th Congress, effective August 8, 1946, and has remained constant ever since. In asking for favorable consideration in this matter, we think it only necessary to say that this amount is entirely out of date with current prices.

If the merit of this proposal is properly accessed, we think the Commission will agree, at once, that a proposed increase in the \$1,600 grant is both reasonable and supportable.

Also in need of revision, are the current provisions with regard to the recoupment of military disability severance pay.

Members of the Armed Forces of the United States rendered permanently unfit to perform their military duties because of a service incurred disability may, under certain specified conditions, be granted disability severance pay, which is a lump-sum, nonrecurring benefit computed on the basis of rank and length of service.

Present law requires, however, that the amount of such severance pay shall be deducted from any compensation for the same disability to which the veteran may be entitled under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration. As severance pay often amounts to several thousands of dollars and recovery of this amount from disability compensation generally requires an extended period of time, the present recoupment provisions often result in hardship situations.

On many occasions the service connected disability, which may have been ratable at 10 to 30 percent disabling at the time of discharge, unexpectedly changes into a totally disabling condition with consequent termination of the veteran's income.