

In these instances the veteran may be granted a 100 percent disability rating by the Veterans' Administration, but the recoupment provisions continue to bar the payment of disability compensation until such time as the full amount of severance pay has been recouped.

In order to alleviate this type of hardship situation, the DAV recommends that the rate at which disability severance pay may be recouped should be limited to a monthly amount not in excess of the compensation to which the veteran would currently be entitled for the degree of disability assigned on his initial VA rating, and that the balance between that amount and any elevated evaluation should be made payable to the veteran rather than being applied toward the recoupment of his severance pay.

We also propose a modification of existing law for the purpose of extending the full range of wartime benefits to a very deserving group of VA beneficiaries.

Enactment of the cold war GI bill, Public Law 89-358, in March of 1966, and the Veterans Pension and Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967 on August 31 of this year, did much to provide a measure of wartime benefits for veterans who have served in time of peace under wartime conditions.

There still remains, however, a group of some 5,939 disabled peacetime veterans who are paid disability compensation at wartime rates but who are not entitled to other wartime benefits.

We wish to strongly emphasize that the right of appeal is entirely limited to the issues of service connection of disability or cause of death and the right of a widow, dependent parent, or child to receive compensation therefor.

The need for approval of this recommendation—which proposes to give to the Nation's veterans their day in court—is real and critical.

#### DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

The DAV most emphatically recommends approval of increases in the current rates of dependency and indemnity compensation payable to widows of veterans who die from service-connected causes. Our reasons for urging adoption of such increases are essentially the same as those expressed earlier with respect to the need for increases in disability compensation rates.

The second recommendation would authorize payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to widows of veterans who, at time of death, are entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated permanently and totally disabling for 20 years or more.

We in the DAV believe that a veteran who became disabled under wartime conditions, while performing extrahazardous service, should be fundamentally entitled to the same benefits provided for war veterans who became disabled under similar circumstances. We heartily recommend that, in the American spirit of fairplay, equal treatment be accorded these deserving veterans and the full range of wartime benefits be provided for them.

Before leaving the subject of service-connected compensation benefits, I wish to mention one of the more urgent DAV recommendations