

\$30,000 with the Government paying the extra premium charged because of the service-connected disability.

Mr. Chairman, in this presentation we have tried to cover and give emphasis to some of the major recommendations advanced by DAV State and National officers during the course of the hearings. There are many other significant proposals, both legislative and administrative, of high importance which we cannot possibly bring to attention at this hearing. They have, however, been made a part of the Commission's hearing record, and we trust that all of them will receive your thoughtful and sympathetic consideration.

We wish also to call your attention to the attached charts in which we have attempted to portray the cost of the veterans' program in its proper perspective. You will note that, in spite of the vast increase in the size of the program that has occurred since 1933, when the present system was adopted, the total Government expenditures for veterans benefits have actually decreased in comparison to their percentage of the gross national product.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to say that you and your associates on the Commission have been most cooperative, very responsive, and warmly compassionate. On behalf of the Disabled American Veterans I want to thank you very much indeed.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Commander, you made an excellent statement. I would like to present the members of our committee and ask them to make any comments they might like to make.

I would like first to present Mr. James A. Haley of Florida.

Mr. HALEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Commander, you have presented a very fine and I think a needful program from your organization. Looking over the men and women in this room this morning, who have contributed time and services to our great Nation, I feel this Nation should be grateful for that service and the sacrifices that you have made. I say that anything this Government, a grateful government, can do to alleviate the suffering of these men and women, we should gladly do. We seem to think that we must take care of other peoples of the world and sometimes it seems to me that we forget the men and women who have served us so well in time of crisis. We have carried the battle flag of this Republic in the far-flung battlefields of the world and have been victorious. With men and women of your type we can continue to do this.

I was very grateful, Mr. Commander, to hear that your great organization, and I think all organizations of veterans and all Americans should become alarmed about the situation that we have in our Nation today. I think that probably you are a little light, I might say, on what should be done with people who burn draft cards and burn the flag of our Nation. I think I have a better remedy for those people. I would load them aboard a ship, take them 500 miles out in the ocean, chain an anchor around their necks, and tell them to swim to any nation whose flag they could respect. I don't think we need that type of people in this great country of ours. I deplore the fact that apparently organizations and people high in government have continued to encourage, I might say, this kind of a situation. I just don't think those kind of people are Americans, and I wish we could get rid of them.

Mr. BEATON. Thank you, Congressman, for those fine remarks.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Agair of Indiana.