

Mr. ADAIR. Mr. Chairman. Commander, first of all, let me compliment you on your fine staff. They are competent, dedicated, capable people and particularly would I mention Chet Huber upon whose counsel and advice we have come to rely so heavily. The Disabled American Veterans are to be commended in having people of this type here to work with us. A great deal of the success of your program obviously depends upon the activities of your legislative director and his staff.

Now, on another point, you have made some complimentary remarks about the work of this committee and we are glad to have them. You have mentioned the President's message and we, too, were glad to have the two Presidential messages upon veterans' affairs. Reference was made, either directly or indirectly, to the speed with which some of the Presidential recommendations were passed by this committee and, indeed, enacted into law. Again giving ourselves a pat on the back, which we sometimes I think need to do, let me say that at least one reason that the Presidential recommendations met with such a favorable and speedy response was that this committee had had those matters under consideration, as you well know, for many years. In fact, upon some of them we had already held hearings long before the Presidential messages came up. So we were prepared to act and have been prepared to act. When we found that the Executive was also willing to move, that made it very easy for those provisions to be enacted into law.

Third, and the only specific question I want to put to you, you made reference to national cemeteries. You are quite correct in indicating that this is a matter to which we expect to devote considerable time and attention. Now, there have been proposals that, rather than enlarging existing cemeteries or establishing new ones, or perhaps as a substitute for the creative of new cemeteries, we arrange for areas in existing private cemeteries to be used for the burial of veterans. In some cemeteries these areas already exist, to a degree, and are called fields of honor, or something of that sort.

Does your organization have a position upon that point? Would you look with favor upon it? I might say it would not really be an incorporation in the national cemetery system but establishing in existing private cemeteries areas for the burial of veterans, and thus limiting to that degree the expansion of the national system.

Mr. BEATON. We have before us a study group and we have recommended a study in connection with this specific matter, Congressman Adair. We have taken no definite action that I know of presently, specifically in this area, on these separate assigned plots in cemeteries.

Mr. ADAIR. I would urge you to have your study group act rather quickly and then submit to our committee the results of its findings, because I take it, Mr. Chairman, that this will be one of the basic decisions that we will have to make. We would be glad to have the benefit of your studies in that respect.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BEATON. Thank you, Congressman Adair. [Applause.]

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Dulski, of New York.

Mr. DULSKI. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Commander, first of all, may I congratulate you on the fine statement that you have presented. I do not think you have missed any points that need