

Mr. BEATON. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Horace Kornegay, of North Carolina.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Commander, you stated in conclusion that this appearance or hearing here before our committee was the highlight of your midwinter conference. I want to say that it occurred to me, as one member of this committee, that the appearance of the Disabled American Veterans each year before this committee is certainly a highlight and high point in the year's activities of the committee. We welcome you here and certainly congratulate you on one of the finest statements that I have ever, frankly, heard coming from a commander of any veterans' organizations in my years here in Congress and on the committee.

Mr. BEATON. Thank you.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Not only did you succinctly and very reasonably set forth your mandates and the needs of the veterans of this country, you touched on another matter that is of great concern to me and, I am sure, to all the Members of the Congress. As has been indicated to the members of your organization, we are all interested in it, that subject of disloyalty in this country, one of disregard for law and order and the rights of others and the carrying of the right of dissent to a ridiculous and very destructive conclusion.

I congratulate you on that statement and say we would be in much better shape in this country if more people felt as you and your organization do. So again, thank you for that.

In connection with your staff, I would like to join with my other colleagues in saying that you have a marvelous staff here in Washington. Your very able assistant legislative counsel, Mr. Chet Huber, to my way of thinking is one of the finest persons I have known. He enjoys the confidence and the help and support of all the Members of the Congress and it is always a pleasure to have him come in and talk to us in behalf of the Disabled American Veterans. He is doing a great job for you. I know you are certainly proud of him, as we here on the committee are.

You spoke of compensation. To me, that is certainly a must matter, a must item of business in our committee because in so many areas increases have been granted by the Congress; twice I think, in connection with the military pay, civil service pay, social security, non-service-connected pensions. There has not been an increase in service-connected pensions recently. I want to assure you of my great interest in that matter. There are others, but that is certainly one of the first matters of business we ought to take up in this committee. I also appreciate a great deal your reference to a Board of Veterans' Appeals, a matter which I have long been interested in and certainly have not forgotten about it, and appreciate the fact that the DAV has through the years stood so strongly behind that effort to create that Board.

I am very hopeful something can be done about it.

Thank you very much for coming. It is always a pleasure to see you.

Mr. BEATON. Thank you very much, Congressman. [Applause.]

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Seymour Halpern, of New York. You might notice there are six New Yorkers on this committee and here is another one.

Mr. HALPERN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.