

What a breath of fresh air we have had this morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. National Commander, for making all of us breathe a little easier. Your presentation is one of the finest patriotic and constructive talks I have ever heard. I am going to say what I know all of you want me to say, and it is what I want to say, and that is that I am with you 100 percent in your program. [Applause.]

I agree enthusiastically with every word that you stated, Mr. National Commander. Your legislative goals are excellent. They are fair, they are reasonable and equitable. Believe me, they are richly deserved. I commend you, Mr. National Commander. I want to compliment you. I want to particularly compliment the fine representation of your organization from our great Empire State of New York. They do an incredible job and they are among the greatest bunch of fellows I have ever seen. I salute the DAV. You are a credit not only to the veterans of America but to all the people of our Nation. Congratulations to you, and thank God for the DAV. [Applause.]

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Ray Roberts, of Texas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Commander, it has been wonderful having you here. I think you can tell from the reception of this committee what they think of your statement. I would like to add one thing with reference to your statement concerning anarchy. I wish we had 100,000 veterans to be here in April when we are to be assaulted by some of the other groups. I do not believe that march would come off if we just had about 100,000 veterans here.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Duncan, of Tennessee.

Mr. DUNCAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

May I also compliment you, Mr. Commander, on the excellent statement you have made. I agree it is one of the finest statements that has ever been made here. The people I represent in the Volunteer State never question why we are in a war, but they always ask where it is. But once the veteran has returned and is maimed or disabled, they have always believed that it is just as much a cost of war as buying guns, tanks, battleships, to take care of the disabled veteran, his widow and his orphans. It is always notable to me, though, that in the President's recent message he did not recommend an increase in compensation for the disabled veterans. The cemetery program certainly has been a real problem and very little, if anything, is being done about it. It has always been a problem. There was some indication last year in the hearings that we had that some people want to phase out the entire cemetery program, but it is my opinion that since the program has been transferred to the Veterans' Affairs Committee that under the direction of our fine and able chairman you will see some action within this year on that program.

Thank you.

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

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. George Brown of California.

Mr. BROWN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I can only say that I share the very high regard expressed by the other members of the committee for the statement you have made, Mr. Commander. I think it is a very fine statement. I was particularly