

of the finest statements ever to have been offered to this committee. In particular, I was delighted with your position, the position which you have again expressed relevant to our involvement in Southeast Asia. Many of those around the dais this morning come to you fresh from a meeting with our Secretary of State, Dean Rusk. I can only wish that every one of you had the opportunity to be present at that meeting and certainly your confidence in the integrity of those charged with the awesome responsibility insofar as our foreign policy is concerned would indeed be bolstered. I commend you on your position and your support. I commend you on your reflection on the President's messages. For the first time in the history of this Nation our Chief Executive has seen fit to pursue this course of action. There are many things we would like to talk about, but time does not allow.

The cemetery issue, for instance, has been one which I have looked upon with disgust relevant to the ruling of the Department of the Army with respect to the use of Arlington. As has been said before certainly in death there should be no rank. You can take great pride in the activity of Mr. Callegary and his activities on the Veterans' Advisory Committee. He is serving in a great way. I can only conclude with the message that I support your legislation, your legislative objectives, entirely. In my estimation this Nation's greatest obligation is to those labeled disabled American veterans. [Applause.]

Mr. BEATON. Thank you very much.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Our lovely lady from Massachusetts, Mrs. Heckler. [Applause.]

Mrs. HECKLER. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Mr. Commander, I also wish to extend my warm welcome to all present and tell you how very delighted I am to see you here. We in Washington have observed so many who illogically, irrationally demonstrate and protest that it is a joy to see those who believe and exercise their constitutional rights to change the existing law within the legitimate channels of government by appearing before this committee. [Applause.]

As the only New Englander on the committee, I also have a special warm welcome for those of you from New England and especially those from Massachusetts.

Mr. Commander, your statement pleased me from the outset. I must say that I was influenced slightly by the very fact that you gave special prominence to the distaff contribution and to the national commander of the auxiliary and her staff, quite appropriately I felt.

So I was definitely on your team, you probably noticed my use of a crutch on the way in. I have by virtue of a personal experience a special sympathy for anyone who has a disability. As a matter of fact, the chairman this morning asked me as I hobbled in, whether or not I was going to apply for membership. [Laughter.]

I certainly would like to. However, my disability was not service connected; automobile connected, rather. So I am afraid I do not qualify.

As a result of your statement, however, I feel that you have left us, each of us, with a very clear idea of what your organization needs and we certainly feel that your proposals are meritorious and your needs most deserving. As one member of this committee, I certainly intend to support your requests and to follow the great leadership, the