

pitals or a VA hospital. Has the DAV talked at all of the widows of men, and I would say men killed directly as a result of the war, on the possibility of their being permitted to go into a VA hospital?

Mr. BEATON. That is a highly technical question and I am going to ask our legislative director to answer that, with your indulgence, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Chet?

Mr. HUBER. Yes, we considered this at our last national convention. I heard very much about this subject during our travels with the Advisory Commission. Our attitude is that we would favor that they be given care and treatment when they need it, but on a similar basis that is provided to the military, sort of a medicare-type program—direct payment—rather than have them admitted directly to the hospital. We sort of feel veterans' hospitals are for veterans, at this point.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Commander, I notice that you did not comment on the President's proposal of extending educational benefits to veterans who would serve in poverty areas after their release from service. Did that have any meaning?

Mr. BEATON. It certainly did. We certainly concur that these people ought to be given special attention. We did run through this particular area. I do not know just why we decided that should not be included in our report. As a matter of fact, I think we did have it at one time.

Mr. HUBER. The reason we did not take a legislative position is that the proposal does not specifically apply to disabled veterans but to veterans generally. That is why we did not comment. It is not that we do not favor it. Rather, it is our policy to take a legislative position only on programs that pertain to disabled veterans.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. The reason I ask is I am not sure that I favor it. Our veterans' program has always been tied to what a man did in service. I am rather suspicious of a program that ties our veterans' programs into a welfare program. [Applause.]

I have not made up my mind but that is my first impression after reading it, that I have considerable doubts about beginning to tie our veterans' programs into any kind of a welfare, Great Society program. We will take it under consideration. We hope you people will be ready to testify on it.

Mr. BEATON. Certainly we will.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Again, it is good to have all of you here. We hope you have enjoyed your stay in Washington. Any of you who would like to visit our committee, it is just around the corner and we would be glad to have you.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. If there is nothing else, the committee will be adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:20 a.m., the committee adjourned.)