

Mr. Commander, now I want to present to you one of the most faithful and dedicated members of the committee from the great State of New York—we have a number on the committee from New York—but Paul Fino has been one of the most faithful in veterans' legislation and is a friend of the program and, I am sure, of the American Legion.

I want to present to you Paul Fino.

Mr. FINO. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, with that kind of an introduction, I should rest my case, but I shall be brief.

For 16 years, as a member of this committee, Mr. National Commander, I have always entirely agreed with the position taken by your organization on veterans' problems. You have my assurance that I will continue that support.

I, too, want to congratulate you and your organization for its informative and constructive statement here this morning and you have again my assurance of support on your legislative programs.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr. DORN. Mr. Commander, now I want to present to you our great representative from the Volunteer State, known throughout the Nation as a friend of the veteran, "Fats" Everett.

Mr. EVERETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. [Applause.]

It is certainly a pleasure to hear this wonderful statement by our national commander of the American Legion.

Also, I wish to concur in what has been said by our distinguished colleagues thus far and assure you that we will continue to work with you and for you to the best of our ability and to cooperate in every way possible.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. [Applause.]

Mr. DORN. Now, Mr. Commander, I somewhat reluctantly, because I never know what John is going to say, but I do want to present to you one of the great members of the committee who is forthright and a warm friend of the Legion, John Saylor. [Applause.]

Mr. SAYLOR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Comrade Commander, you have had accolades from the beginning right down to now. Every time we meet, I end up being the gadfly that asks more questions.

I read this statement and it is a Jim-dandy. It says on page 5, the American Legion is "opposed to achieving economy by the destruction of the concept that the veteran is a special citizen because of service in the Armed Forces of the United States during a time of war or national emergency." I say "Amen."

I want to know why our organization says that anybody who has served during the national emergency between January 1, 1955, and August 5, 1964, can't become a member of our organization. It just puzzles me why for that period of years those people who served aren't eligible for a membership.

I am not going to ask you now but this is a matter that you ought to take up at your national convention. Congress still operates under that national emergency. We have got a law on the books that says Congress is supposed to adjourn by the 31st day of July every year.

When you ask the Parliamentarian why we are in session, we learn