

The next thing I would like to ask you about and hope to call attention through you to your service officer: It comes to my attention that a number of veterans, service-connected veterans, when they die suddenly are probably seen not by their family doctor but by some doctor or hospital resident when they are taken in after being picked up off the street.

The doctor looks at them and says, "Well, he must have died of a heart attack."

This is a man that has 100-percent service-connected disability. He has never had a heart condition in his life. A strange doctor signs the death certificate, and says he had a heart attack. The Veterans' Administration then says the man died of a heart attack. That is not service connected. They don't give the widow, children, or family any benefit.

This is a place where I feel that a service officer can render a tremendous service to the families of veterans to see to it that the Veterans' Administration can't hide behind a death certificate issued by a doctor that never saw the patient alive.

Commander, I hope you have a real successful year, that you get more than the 2,600,000. If you came in here next year and your successor said that he had strived to meet your goal that you made 5 million members of the American Legion, we would have the greatest organization on earth and I sure hope that you get that done during your term. [Applause.]

Mr. GALBRAITH. Mr. Congressman, by powers vested in me, I just now placed you on my rehabilitation commission. [Applause.]

Mr. SAYLOR. There is just one thing, Commander. If you determined that with McCurdy, that is all that is necessary. I will accept that, sir; and go back to work. [Applause.]

Mr. SAYLOR. Once more, now that I am a member of the official family, I may be able to get the American Legion to go along with one of my pet gripes. That is that I still think we must have a court of veterans appeals. [Applause.]

Mr. SAYLOR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DORN. Thank you, Mr. Saylor.

Mr. Commander, I would like to present to you a good, warm personal friend to all of us who is not coming back next Congress. This is of his own volition—voluntarily not coming back. We do hope he will appear here again in the next few years.

I want to present Horace Kornegay from North Carolina. [Applause.]

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

Mr. Commander, I would like to join with my colleagues in expressing our appreciation to you and to the Legion for being here with us today and for that excellent statement which you made.

I also would like to take the opportunity to commend your Washington staff for the fine and diligent job that it does in representing the Legion and the veterans of this country generally, and tell you of the great assistance that it is to this committee in arriving at what is just and proper in matters of legislation.

I think particular applause should go to Mr. Bob McCurdy, who is the Chairman of the President's Veterans' Advisory Commission, for the dedication, energy, enthusiasm, and just real good common-