

Further, I want to comment on your position on our involvement in Southeast Asia. As all of you know, these have been extremely critical days in the history of this Nation. Certainly, the President of this great country—I am not being political at all—but, certainly, he should derive much solace from the support that you have allowed him in this most serious, most complicated, international crisis. So, I salute you for all you have done.

I take great pride in my membership in the American Legion. I am delighted to see so many fellow New Yorkers here today, our Department Commander, and, in particular, the number of boys from Syracuse, my hometown.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. DORN. Mr. Commander, our next member of the committee has served as Department Commander of the great Volunteer State of Tennessee, and it was my honor last year to address a Memorial Day gathering at Mountain Home in Tennessee. That town is not in John's district, but close by. It is in the district of your good friend, Jim Quillen of the Rules Committee. There was manifested there a wonderful spirit, and I think the finest memorial service I have seen, with 10,000 people attending. There were the most beautiful flowers that I have ever seen—peonies—and children by the thousands were there. It was a great ceremony showing respect for those that made the supreme sacrifice in all of our wars.

I want to present to you John Duncan of Tennessee. [Applause.]

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

Mr. Commander, I, too, want to welcome you and my fellow Legionnaires to this committee.

I would also like to commend your Washington staff, Harold Stringer, and everyone that we are associated with there. They are top-class people, and they are certainly a real help to us in carrying out our daily duties.

I think I would say that you have presented an excellent statement. It is one which I think is very modest. In fact, in some instances, I think it is too modest, particularly in your income limitations sections.

It has always been my opinion that income limitations should be removed for certain World War I veterans, particularly those with incomes, for example, under \$3,300 or \$3,200. They should be able to earn all they can after they reach the age of 70 or 72, on the same basis as a social security recipient is able to earn all he can or all he desires after he has reached that age.

Most people know that the veteran has perhaps given more and received less and suffered more in the recent inflationary years than any other segment of our population. I know that you will be told this year that because of the war in Vietnam and defense appropriations that the Government doesn't have the money. I don't think you should let anyone tell you that because if you will look at the budget requests this year, you will see that the defense expenditure requests are up and health, education, and welfare requests were up 31 percent. Agriculture is up 40 percent. Education is up 22 percent, and the requests for veterans is up 11 percent.

Your proposal on the cemetery problem is certainly timely, and has been of great concern to me. In the 3 years plus that I have served on this committee, we have held some hearings. We have not held hear-