

We of the VFW will never countenance a substitution of the dove for the eagle as the bird emblematic of this great Nation, and neither will we view with favor an eagle emasculated by indecision and delay. [Applause.]

For this reason, together with the lessons taught by the history we have made, we grow impatient with those who espouse the dogma of appeasement. [Applause.]

We view with scorn the poor, pathetic creatures who wear men's clothing, but refuse to serve their country. [Applause.]

We take unyielding issue with those freeloaders of democracy who align themselves with draft dodgers, card burners, anti-American demonstrators, and the Communist disciples of "peace at any price." [Applause.]

The creation and security of a strong and independently free nation in South Vietnam, standing as a bulwark against Communist aggression, is of great importance to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the national security of our country.

It was my great privilege and honor to be selected by the President to serve on the delegation which witnessed the free elections in that troubled land. Neither I nor the organization I represent have any doubt whatever as to the cause for which our young men fight.

Upon my return from Vietnam I called our national legislative and security committees into session here in Washington. As you know, these committees are made up of distinguished Americans. They have carefully analyzed the 300 resolutions which our members adopted at our National Convention in New Orleans. It was their purpose to recommend a priority legislative and security program for 1968, which would be truly representative of our organizational goals to the second session of the 90th Congress.

This they have done, and that program has been officially approved. Each of you has been furnished with a copy. It would be deeply appreciated, Mr. Chairman, if a copy of that program, entitled "Top Priority Legislative and Security Goals of the VFW for 1968," together with a digest of our VFW resolutions, might be made a part of my remarks at this time.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Without objection it will be placed in the record.

(The information follows:)

TOP PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE AND SECURITY GOALS FOR 1968

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Joseph Scerra, Commander in Chief

V.F.W. NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE GOALS, 1967-68

The President's historic message outlining the Nation's responsibilities to veterans and the establishment of a Presidential Study Group to conduct a comprehensive study of compensation, pension and other veterans benefits, makes it possible to advance in giant strides toward the attainment of long-sought goals. Most hopefully these milestones will provide the basis for further assistance to those who have served in the Armed Forces and thereby rendered a special service to the Nation which entitles them or, if deceased, their survivors to special consideration.

Our course of action during the coming year—

To broaden and improve existing programs.

To win acceptance of new veterans concepts.

Creation of a standing Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.