

morning. Otherwise, I am sure none of us would have missed your statement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. [Applause.]

Mr. SAYLOR. I wanted to tell my friend from New York I heard of a new bird, speaking of "hawks", "doves", "owls". Last night I heard about one that's called the "chicken hawk". He's the one that says, "I'm in favor of continuing the war, but I want someone else to do the fighting." [Applause.]

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Commander, I would like to recognize Mr. Dorn of South Carolina.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Commander, I have had a moment here to glance through your statement to the committee. It is an excellent statement and I would like to mention this to you in the presence of the distinguished members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and of the young people gathered here.

Everywhere I have been in the last 6 weeks people have asked me, "Why Vietnam?" And I have always used as an illustration the Veterans of Foreign Wars, you men who went overseas and kept the tide of war from the United States.

Bombs have fallen on every single major power in the world—on China, Japan, France, Italy, Germany, Russia and England. The only major nation in the world today where bombs haven't fallen on the civilian population is the United States of America and it's due to you men who went overseas and kept this tide of war from reaching the civilian population and women and children of this country, and this is why we are in South Vietnam.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Commander, I would like to take about a minute and give you a little status report on our legislative situation in the committee.

Before I do that, I would like to also compliment your staff, Cooper Holt and Francis Stover, with whom I deal most of the time. They come to our offices, they know everything we are doing and they know the problems we have, and we do have problems in passing veterans' legislation.

I would also like to say I have the best staff in Congress and I would like for my committee staff to stand up. [Applause.]

Again, there is no politics in our staff. I am not sure, but I think some of them were appointed by Mrs. Rogers when she was chairman, and I don't know who else. But at the time I took over the committee, we did not change staffs. We did not fire anyone.

There has been some staff turnover over the years since I became chairman, but I'm sure Pat Patterson was one of Mrs. Rogers' appointees; I am sure George Turner was appointed by Mrs. Rogers. There has been no politics there either, Mr. Commander. It has been a case of trying to do what's best for our veterans programs.

Something that has happened in the last year you may be interested in has been the establishing of V.A. contact offices in Vietnam. We have a number. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs and I made a couple of trips over there in the interest of these contact offices and at first the military were rather reluctant and rather cool to the idea. Now, more requests are coming in to establish more contact offices.