

As many of you, I am sure, know, we prepared a new brochure, a card that can be mailed in to the V.A. asking for information and there is no question that this business of giving the boys a chance to know about the GI bill and to think about it while they are over there, while they do have some time to think, is having a tremendous effect on what happens under the GI bill.

I wonder, Mr. Commander, if the VFW has considered an honorary membership for men returning from Vietnam? It seems to me that would be a very good program, if a boy had an opportunity to go to your meetings. I think the reason most men who come back don't join veterans organizations is that they don't have a good conception of what goes on. So I hope that maybe you would consider an honorary membership for these men when they come back. I think they would continue to be members of the VFW. Have you considered that at all?

Mr. SCERRA. We have considered it, Mr. Chairman. It is under consideration at this time.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Right.

As far as legislation is concerned—

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, may I elaborate on that just a bit?

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOLT. We have formulated a policy which has been given to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs for his approval which would carry the furnishing of the listing of the Vietnam returnees down to the local community where we want to welcome these boys home. All it lacks now is the definite approval of our commander in chief, which I know he will give and we are personally going to take this listing down to the local, community level. There VFW members will contact these boys personally, thank them for the job they have done and welcome them back into the community where they belong.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Thank you.

Tomorrow our committee will meet on a housing bill which is rather far reaching and which we hope will rejuvenate and start a veterans housing program going again.

As you know, and I am sure most of you do know, we have been waiting for a report from the President's Veterans Advisory Commission. We have tentatively scheduled a hearing for March 19, and I would hope that that commission will come in here with a program that can be enacted, and that they will work with us and not recommend the world with a fence around it, when they know we cannot enact but a small part of what they recommend.

I would hope they come in here with a priority list, with a cost analysis of what the program's costs are, and I hope it will be of some help our committee in trying to resolve problems. We know the problems, the answers are what are hard to come by.

I think, Mr. Commander, that I can promise you that before August 1 this committee will have passed a compensation bill; that this committee will have passed some legislation on the extension of educational benefits. For example, we have problems of boys who went to school under the War Orphans Act and now they find themselves a veteran of Vietnam themselves, and they aren't eligible to go on to school as other Vietnam veterans are. I don't know what we do about it. There is a precedent for some extension, for updating most of the training.