

as they were prior to the passage of Public Law 356 in 1952, so that any given percentage of disability will be compensated for in an amount equal to that percentage of the rate for total disability.

4. In further support of our recommendations to the U.S. Veterans Advisory Commission, AMVETS would also support favorable action on the following:

(a) Additional \$20 monthly payment be made for each child, to widows receiving dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) regardless of the number of children involved and independently of any other Federal benefits due the widow.

(b) Since no change in the basic rate of DIC has been made since 1963, we recommend that this basic rate be increased from \$120 to \$130 per month while still retaining the 12-percent clause.

(c) AMVETS recognize that the basic purpose of the compensation program is to make up for the loss of a veteran's earning capacity due to service-connected disabilities. To fulfill the intent of the service-connected program, we feel that DIC payments should be established for the survivors of veterans whose total disability has been established for 20 years or more, regardless of whether or not death was due to the service-connected disability.

(d) Considering the fact that for many disabled veterans the statutory award is all the actual compensation they receive, and further allowing for the fact that these awards have been permitted to fall so far out of perspective with the continually rising cost of living, AMVETS recommends the increase in special statutory awards from \$47 to \$55 per month.

PENSIONS

Pension is provided by law for veterans in need who are totally disabled due to causes not related to service in the Armed Forces.

The amount of pension payable, if any, is determined by the amount of other income to which the beneficiary is entitled.

AMVETS are gratified that Congress has passed and the President has signed Public Law 90-275. We believe the key in this new law is the assurance that those receiving pension payments will not suffer a net loss in total income.

When social security payments were last increased, some 29,000 Americans were affected with a net loss of income. Without passage of Public Law 90-275, another 275,000 would have suffered by any further changes in social security benefits.

However, another important byproduct of Public Law 90-275 that has not been publicized is the fact that approximately 1 million people are getting raises in total net income as a result of the new rate and income limitation schedules established by Public Law 90-275. AMVETS commend you, Mr. Chairman, the members of this committee, the Congress, and the President for the liberalization of pension payments.

Providing educational opportunities for as many as possible has become a generally recognized national goal. The economic gain to our Nation as a result of the educating of our returning World War II veterans is a proven fact.