you someday to look into it. I know the insurance companies will howl, but we are used to that.

Mr. HALL. Congressman, I think I might add, in many of the instances of hospitalization of a veteran in a hospital, at least our organizational blanket insurance policy provides payment to that hospitalized veteran while he is in there.

Now, what you are saying should possibly be considered is a step further of paying the hospital for the services rendered to that veteran. I would say that your point is very well taken. I don't think there is any question that this avenue has been explored.

In all probability, if this came to pass, I would think that the AMVETS' position in all probability would be to support this, we would support this as a new avenue of revenue that might be used to supplement the hospital construction or enlargement program.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DORN. Thank you, Mr. Pucinski.

Mr. Fino.

Mr. FINO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Mr. National Commander, I want to say I am very happy to see you here before the committee. I want to compliment you on your very comprehensive and very constructive contribution.

Now, in line with what the gentleman from Illinois was saying about the health plans, I think it is a question of contract and if the veteran is willing to sign a health insurance contract which has that proviso—that they will not pay if a known source is paying that hospitalization or medical care—then it is a question of trying to get the insurance companies to modify or correct their contracts.

I don't think there is much that the Government can do in that respect. I recall several years ago this committee being very much concerned about the Federal Government spending the money and the insurance companies having received the premium, not fulfilling their obligations. But this is something else which the Congress should look into.

I was particularly interested in your observations regarding the housing program of the veterans, and I don't know whether you are aware of the fact but last week when we had the veterans bill before the committee I was very strenuously opposed to the bill which would remove the 6-percent ceiling, and I introduced an amendment that Congress would support that, to make sure the ceiling of 6-percent would remain intact and to further expand the direct-loan program to cover metropolitan areas where funds were not generally available for veterans, and, of course, as you know, this is in line with the recommendations made by the President's Advisory Commission.

I think something should be done to make sure our returning veterans or those that have returned and have served our country should get decent housing at the lowest possible cost. I think that the Government owes an obligation to our veterans to see that this is a reality.

More particularly, I am concerned because right before my Subcommittee on Housing of the Banking and Currency Committee, we are considering legislation on an omnibus housing bill which would provide homeownership for people of low and middle income at subsidized interest rates. The proposal made by the administration is to subsidize the interest rate from 1 percent to the fair market rates.