

STATEMENT OF LESLIE P. BURGHOFF, JR., PRESIDENT, ACCOMPANIED BY HAROLD BENNETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; HARRY SWIGERT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT; AND ARTHUR HAYNES, MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER, PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Mr. DORN. We now have with us Mr. Leslie P. Burghoff, Jr., president of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and we are glad to have you. You may proceed in any way you care to. If you want to summarize you may or if you want to read your full statement you may do it, but I want you to know you are most welcome and we are pleased to have you here, and I regret that the time is beginning to run out on us, but we are mighty glad to have you.

Mr. BURGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Accompanying me today, on my right, is Mr. Harold Bennett, executive director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, from our national office; Mr. Harry Swigert, administrative assistant at my right, and in back of the room, Mr. Arthur Haynes, member of our Capital area chapter.

Mr. Chairman and members of this esteemed committee, the Paralyzed Veterans of America is truly appreciative for the opportunity to present its legislative program which we submit for your consideration.

PVA and its 22 member chapters are intimately aware of the laudatory record of dedication and service held by this committee in its continuing effort to insure the well-being of this country's veterans. We respectfully commend you for it.

I will take this opportunity to express to you our deep-felt gratitude for your successful work in providing Public Law 90-77 which directly and specifically aides our members—those veterans in receipt of aid and attendance benefits. Many of our problem areas concerning medical supplies, prosthetics, drugs, and equal overall benefits for those who served in Vietnam have been favorably resolved legislatively, by the passage of Public Law 90-77.

The educational and vocational provisions of this law, together with the recent steps taken by the President, are indeed notable advances in aiding our returning servicemen to become a contributing factor in our American society.

MEDICAL CARE

We have noted, in each of our previous presentations to this distinguished committee, our very serious concern with the program of medical care and rehabilitation in the Veterans' Administration hospitals for veterans afflicted with spinal cord disorders.

This holds our highest priority. We have called attention to the growing shortages of professional and nonprofessional personnel on the paraplegic wards. During the past 2 years these shortages have been glaringly revealed by the influx of many veterans of the war in Vietnam who have suffered spinal cord injuries directly attributable to their active duty in service to our country.

During these past few months we have seen indications of an effort to correct these deficiencies. We are specifically pleased with the