

Advisory Commission's report, it states the veteran should not be considered in the same class as those on public welfare, and again, we feel very definitely and have always felt very definitely, that this clause should be eliminated from any and all pension programs.

These two points in our legislative program we feel should be removed from the law, and it should be done this year. Of course, we feel that our entire legislative program—and again, let me repeat that four of our legislative points have been recommended by the Veterans' Advisory Commission—is a reasonable program to fit the current needs of the Veterans of World War I, and we certainly hope that the Veterans' Affairs Committee will give this legislative program their serious consideration, particularly, and let us put particular emphasis on these two points in our program that have caused quite a bit of concern in our veterans' group.

We sincerely appreciate this opportunity to appear before this distinguished committee to present the legislative program of the Veterans of World War I.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM OF THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I, USA, INC.

1. We propose the elimination of social security and other retirement programs to which the veteran has contributed for consideration as income for the purpose of qualifying for pension.

(a) The corpus of estate should not be counted for pension purposes.

(b) We believe the present law pertaining to spouses' income where income about \$1,200 is counted as income against the veteran is unrealistic and we propose this amount be raised to \$2,000.

(c) We believe that income limitations should be set at \$2,400 if single for veteran and widow, and \$3,600 for married with dependents.

(d) An escalation clause for compensation and pensions according to the cost-of-living index.

(e) A cost-of-living increase for all veterans and widows under the law in effect as of June 30, 1960, should be granted.

(f) Eliminate the annual financial report when veteran reaches age 67.

2. Increase in the basic rate of compensation payments for service-connected veterans, and statutory awards.

3. Elimination of the so-called pauper's oath for purpose of entering Veterans' Administration hospitals.

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I OF THE U.S.A., INC.,
Washington, D.C., April 19, 1968.

HON. OLIN E. TEAGUE, M.C.,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 2311 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TEAGUE: We are deeply appreciative of the Organization's opportunity to appear before your Committee on April 4, to present our Legislative Program. We would like to call to your attention, Mr. Chairman, as well as all the distinguished Members of your Veterans' Affairs Committee, two points in our program which we feel are of vital importance to the older veterans.

1. The income questionnaire that is sent out from the Veterans' Administration every year inquiring as to the annual income of the veterans who are on the pension rolls.

We feel very definitely that, after a veteran has reached the age of 72 and has been on the pension rolls for two years or more, that his income has become static. Many of the older veterans on pension have their pension stopped every year, at least temporarily, because they are confused and do not fill out the income