

questionnaire properly. These veterans, in some cases, live from 10-15-20 miles away from the County Service Officer. It has come to our attention that in the Metropolitan area of Washington, alone 2600 veterans or widows are in this category at the present time. We feel that this is an injustice to the older, often confused veteran of 72. It would not entail any increase in expense; on the other hand, it would reduce the expenses of administering this program.

2. The so-called "Pauper's Oath" for admittance into a Veterans' Administration Hospital.

Many of our older veterans, although entitled to this service in the Veterans' Administration Hospital, are fearful of taking advantage of it, even though their income is not sufficient for them to go into a private hospital.

We feel that these two points in our program should be taken care of at this session of Congress, as our veterans are passing away so rapidly that time is of the essence. These recommendations have been endorsed by all Veterans' Organizations, as well as the Veterans' Advisory Commission, and we would hope that on these two points, action would be taken before adjournment of the 90th Congress.

Respectfully yours,

PHILIP F. O'BRIEN, *National Commander.*

4. Outpatient care and medicines for veterans and widows over 65.

(a) Nursing home care under the V.A. to be expanded to 8,000 beds in addition to an increase in contract nursing home beds. Eliminate 6 months clause in nursing home care.

5. National cemeteries should be established in Alaska and other areas. National cemeteries should be enlarged, and new ones should be established where the need is greatest according to veteran population.

(a) In view of modern cost of living, burial allowance of \$250 is unrealistic, and we believe this should be established in the amount of \$350.

(b) We vigorously protest the discrimination in effect with regard to Arlington National Cemetery and recommend that burial space be made available to all veterans without restrictions until filled, after which it should become a national shrine. All national cemeteries should be turned over to, and handled by, the Veterans' Administration.

And representing the organization of the Veterans of World War I, I and our national adjutant and our secretary, Mrs. Iversen, give to you our sincere thanks for this opportunity to appear.

Mr. DORN. We want to thank you and this good lady back here, too, for this fine statement and the rest of it will appear in the record without any objection from the committee, along with any other material you might care to submit.

Mr. Pucinski.

Mr. PUCINSKI. I would like to join the chairman in commending you for your excellent statement. You might like to know in my district, Jefferson Barracks is the most vocal and hard-working veterans group in the district, with all due respect to the others. Some of these fellows out there are always working very hard for veterans' causes.

I will be happy to send them your testimony today.

Mr. HUDSON. Thank you, Mr. Congressman.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Fino.

Mr. FINO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I, too, want to join the Congressman in complimenting you for appearing before the committee and want to say your budget request this morning is very reasonable and I think it is a fair and equitable