

fices experienced by them. With this in mind, the obligation to provide for the disabled and needy veteran as well as his dependents is a national commitment.

2. Veterans with disabilities incurred in service in time of national peril should be given first priority in the range of special programs.

3. The payment of pensions to veterans for non-service-connected conditions is soundly based on the principle of economic need.

4. Hospital and domiciliary care, including institutional medical treatment, for non-service-connected disabilities should be provided for veterans of wartime and comparable service where the veteran is financially unable to defray the cost of private hospitalization.

5. Basic benefits, geared to serious non-service-connected needs, for veterans of war or similar periods should not be displaced or absorbed by general welfare programs.

6. The national obligation to provide liberally for disabled and needy veterans and their dependents must be met through sound and enduring programs which can be supported without excessive demands on the financial resources of the Nation.

7. Young veterans returning from service should be given full opportunity for rehabilitation and readjustment.

8. Veterans programs should be kept current with economic standards.

9. The Veterans' Administration should be given Cabinet status. Further improvement could be made by establishing a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and by combining some of various Federal cemetery functions under the Veterans' Administration.

The report of recommendations which we are submitting is based on these conclusions. Although we would like to see our 79 recommendations implemented immediately we are fully aware that there are limitations that will prevent this.

We have therefore selected a few items which are urgent and should have immediate attention. These recommendations are:

Compensation—Basic compensation rate payable to service-connected totally disabled veterans be increased. Estimated first year cost will be \$139 million.

Appropriate cost-of-living increase in compensation rates to veterans with 10-90 percent disabilities. Estimated first year cost will be \$68 million.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. If you would let me comment right there, we have hearings scheduled in April for compensation bills, and I am sure that rate increases will be our first order of business.

Mr. McCURDY. Thank you, sir.

Cemeteries—Improvements in cemetery administration.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. We will have hearings this month on cemeteries.

Mr. McCURDY. Education—Vocational rehabilitation on less than full-time basis—estimated first year cost will be \$4 million.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. We will have hearings in April on education.

Mr. McCURDY. Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see that we are still in agreement on our priorities.