

ALLEVIATION OF FINANCIAL NEEDS

Pension not be reduced by reasons of fluctuation of income or estate after age 72.

EDUCATION

Educational assistance program for DIC widows. Estimated first year cost will be \$1 million.

Educational assistance program for wives of veterans permanently and totally disabled from service-connected causes. Estimated first year cost will be \$5 million.

HOUSING

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. On housing, did you people discuss taking the ceiling off of interest rates?

Mr. McCURDY. I did not hear the question.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. In discussing housing were interest rates discussed, lifting the ceiling of interest rates, which has been a recommendation of the administration?

Mr. McCURDY. There was a discussion that we regretted the increase but I don't know what our Commission could do about that. It is part of the overall economic rate structure of our country, and it is very hard.

Of course, as the chairman knows, I have always been for direct loans and the great profit that direct loans has shown to the VA would have a lot of money to finance the program involved with direct loans.

That is a solution where you can completely control the interest rate, but I realize that politically that is a difficult problem.

Direct loans to be made available to totally disabled service-connected veterans throughout the country.

Liberalization of VA policy regarding liability for losses on defaulted loans. Estimated first-year cost will be \$2 million.

INSURANCE

DIC payable where veteran died in service or had a service-connected disability and who had in-service waiver. Estimated first-year cost will be \$2 million.

Endorse legislation to improve the Government insurance program.

HEALTH SERVICES

Eliminate ability to pay affidavit and counseling for veterans who have reached age 65.

Nursing home care from contract hospitalization in Alaska and Hawaii.

Increase in amount paid to State nursing homes. Estimated first-year cost will be \$2 million.

Medical benefits for wives and children of 100 percent disabled. Estimated first-year cost will be \$12.5 million.

Medical benefits for widows and children of veterans who die of service-connected causes. Estimated first-year cost will be \$10 million.