

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Hanley, do you have a question?

Mr. HANLEY. I simply want to compliment Mr. McCurdy and the Commission for their outstanding service to the cause of the veteran and the cause of our Nation in general. It appears to me that they have come forth with what looks like a very comprehensive report on which actions we should be taking to improve upon our veteran benefits programs.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mrs. Heckler.

Mrs. HECKLER. I would like to commend the Commission for their work on this report and I must say it would take me quite a while to read through the 1,400 recommendations presented to your group.

I am interested in the widow's rights, but I agree with the chairman—the right of remarried widows to receive benefits should not be limited to those widows who are aged 60 and older.

I wonder if you talked about the use of veterans hospitals; did you go into whether or not the veterans hospital care should be extended to persons other than the veterans? Was this a part of your recommendations?

Mr. McCURDY. I am sorry—I could not understand the question. I could not hear the question.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Why don't you move to the microphone, Mrs. Heckler? This room is not satisfactory.

Mr. McCURDY. I understand now. Do you mean the widows?

Mrs. HECKLER. Yes.

Mr. McCURDY. We had mixed testimony on this and in the testimony that we received throughout the country, there was a great reluctancy on the part of many to open veterans hospitals to anybody but veterans.

However, we did have many who testified on the same basis where beds are available that it should be open to widows also. But other than that, no.

Mrs. HECKLER. To reach a conclusion on this, did you make a recommendation on whether or not the veterans hospitals should be opened to widows? Is that part of your report?

Mr. McCURDY. Yes, we made a recommendation that the widows be hospitalized.

Mrs. HECKLER. What about the national cemeteries and the battle monuments? Did you make a recommendation as to who would have the authority over them? Would it be the Veterans' Administration?

Mr. McCURDY. We recommended that first this committee should have jurisdiction over all of them; second, that the VA should have administrative authority over all of them, except Interior and those national monuments.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mrs. Heckler, if you would yield for a second, it is my understanding that at the moment the administration is making a study of whether a law is required or whether certain things can be done through Executive order. But we will be hearing something from them soon as far as the battle monuments are concerned.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Brown.

Mr. BROWN. No questions.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Roberts.