

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Would you like to call on your members or would you like me to call on them? You have been serving with them and you may have a different priority than I have.

Mr. McCURDY. We will start alphabetically and call on Andy Borg, of Wisconsin, the past national commander in chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. BORG. Mr. Chairman of this Commission and Mr. Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, it has been a real pleasure for me to serve on this Commission.

I feel that we have tried to do what we believe is for the best interests of the veteran and the widow and the orphan, keeping in mind, of course, money problems. I have never served on such a conscientious committee or commission as long as I can remember.

I really hope that the recommendations that we have made will be enacted into law, and they weren't made in this report without a great deal of discussion and argument, and finally we voted and it is our opinion on all the recommendations.

I would like to call the chairman's attention to recommendation No. 79 which deals with the problem that you raised. You will note in our language that we do believe that injuries or diseases incurred as a result of combat should receive special consideration and we thought that a study should be made.

We were not certain as to the amount. So it was the recommendation of the Commission that a study be made by the Veterans' Administration.

Again, let me say that I have been well pleased and happy to have had a part in preparing this report, and I personally am very proud of the document that we presented to you this morning.

Thank you.

Mr. McCURDY. Mr. Claude L. Callegary, of Maryland, the past national commander of the Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. CALLEGARY. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, as you probably know, I started out on this Commission probably aware mostly of the problems of disabled veterans, service connected, which the DAV is concerned with.

During the course of these hearings around the country, we heard from all the 50 States, including Alaska and Hawaii, and we heard about the problems not only of the service connected, but of the widows and the children and these people in the pension areas, the 72-year-old "big war" veterans, as our chairman calls them.

We did pay, Mr. Chairman, special attention—for example, in recommendation No. 56—to the educational needs of widows. For example, we asked the Congress to confer on that widow, educational benefits. In effect, what her husband was entitled to if he would have lived.

We felt this was a step forward. We got into a serious area, a small area, for example, of direct loans for totally disabled veterans.

It is quite obvious to us that these people could not purchase a home with the benefits they were getting and they could not qualify for loans and in many instances they were being discriminated against. The testimony on these points was very voluminous, as you well know.