

I would like to present Melvin L. Jacobsen, the director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Nevada.

Mr. JACOBSEN. Chairman Bob, Chairman Teague, members of the committee, it has been an education and a privilege to be on this Commission, especially with the type of men that are on this Commission.

Our instructions in the beginning were to go out to the grassroots. We did go out to the grassroots. We listened to these people. We have talked to them individually before the Commission and this is the product of these hearings. I am very proud of this report and hope that you folks will be.

I know this report will bring all of our veterans groups closer together with a better understanding of what we, the people in the United States, are trying to do for the veteran and his dependents.

Thank you, Bob.

Mr. McCURDY. Thank you.

I would like to present Mr. Eldon James of Virginia, the past national commander of the American Legion.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it would be an undue trespass on time if I tried to express my feelings about this effort. I might say very briefly that first of all I think it has been another exercise in democracy at work as we heard very many witnesses all over the country.

I can say to you for this Commission that we are exhausted from the exercise. The fortunate thing for us is that we are through, but for you it is a continuing process.

We are grateful for the tenacity with which you go after your job continually.

There are a lot of little tidbits in this report, members of the committee, that may be easily lost because they are not particularly dramatic, but they are there. As for example, some of us have little pet things that we are concerned about. As for example, on page 57 there is a neat little statement at the bottom of that page that says, "The Commission recognizes the value in the terms of improved quality of mental care, of locating veteran's hospitals with reasonable proximity to medical teaching and research centers.

"Unfortunately the number of such centers now and in the foreseeable future is so limited that the total application of this principle is unrealistic." We go on to conclude that though this is a fine principle and ideal, we must be realistic about modernization and construction in locations where there are not medical centers at the time.

I just cite that as an example of the fact that there are many, as I said, little tidbits in here that are of great magnitude, really.

But I think the flavor of what we have tried to say can be summarized and the thought we have tried to keep foremost in our minds could be summarized in the first conclusion, Mr. Chairman, on page 12 of the report, where we recognize that military service in times of national stress constitutes the highest response to the obligations of citizenship and should continue to be the basis of reciprocal obligation on the part of the Nation to provide reasonable assistance to veterans commensurate with the greatest sacrifice by them.

I think this is what we stand for, what this country was built on, and what we believe in and must keep in mind. Very peculiarly I