

work from the back to the front, back to the very first page of this report where we have expanded also the principle that we believe is so important, that the security of this Nation is based on the commitment of those citizens who have served in the uniformed forces of our country.

This contribution on their part has nearly always involved the loss of economic opportunity, often it has required the sacrifice of the veteran's health, and in many instances the supreme sacrifice of life itself.

Then we go on to point out that the prestige and the strength of this Nation depends upon a mutual obligation, and that, if nothing else, is what we try to inject into the thinking of this report.

Thank you.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. I have noticed a lot of tidbits and I notice that one particular member of the committee got a number of his tidbits in there.

Mr. McCURDY. I would like to present Mr. William Rice, the director, of veterans' affairs from the State of Colorado.

Mr. RICE. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, it has been a real pleasure and privilege to have been a member of this Commission.

I have served over 20 years in the field of veterans' affairs and I felt that I knew some of the problems that our veterans in this country were faced with. When it became possible to meet with these individuals personally, in groups throughout the country, I realized that my thinking of some of the injustices that exist was correct, and that it was real rewarding to hear the testimony for these individuals to have their day in court. As this material was furnished me from transcript of meetings and studies that we have requested, I reread and studied and ended up buying another pair of glasses to be very sure I was reading correctly.

I was real pleased to see that the veteran, in my thinking, was again going to be placed in the proper perspective. I think that perhaps the people in this country had forgotten the obligation to those that donned the uniform in this country, that he was not the first-class citizen he once was.

As I went over this report and reviewed the discussions we had which were at great length, this, as Mr. James said—the little tidbits in here—everyone had something to say.

As we discussed the pros and cons, resolved the differences, the image of the veteran changed and became what I think it should be. I know that you distinguished gentlemen on this committee are going to handle this report so that something read good will come out of it. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve on this Commission.

It is something that will give you the thinking of not only the Commission, but of all of those that appear before us.

I thank you.

Mr. McCURDY. I would like to present, Col. Warren A. Robinson, a very distinguished retired officer, who in World War II was Mr. Teague's commanding officer.

Colonel Robinson.

Col. ROBINSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Colonel Teague, and members of this very fine committee, I wrote a speech last night to give here today. I spent hours doing it. I stopped