

by the colonel's office this morning to have a cup of coffee and as I was leaving there, someone whispered into my ear, "Colonel Robby, you know there is such a thing as contempt of Congress." I said, "How much does it cost if you get found guilty," and they said, "Somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000 and maybe 3 years in jail."

I threw away my speech on the way over here. So I humbly come before you, sir, and say how proud I am to be here. How proud I am to have anything to do with this report and how proud I am to get some of those tidbits in there.

That is a word you can play around with and probably end up in front of the Ethics Committee, too. But you don't know how hard it has been during this year, Mr. Chairman, to crawl on your hands and knees and cry all the way before this Commission to get some of these things in here.

Some of the things I lost, well, you will never hear of those. But I do hope that you won't just, and I know you won't, accept these priorities that Bob has given you and forget to look a little deeper, for instance on Recommendations 74, 75, and 76. Now I know they may not pertain to this committee, but we do hope that you will give it your blessing and send it on to Mr. Rivers and his very fine committee, and tell him, "Look, we have done all the work for you—now, Mr. Rivers, let us see if we can't do something for this fine bunch of retired veterans who have been long neglected and gotten only a few of the crumbs from the veteran's table."

Once again, thank you for letting me say my piece. Once again, thank you for letting me be on this very fine Commission.

Mr. McCurdy. I would like to present Mr. Peter Wheeler who is the director of veterans' affairs from the State of Georgia.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am happy to learn this morning what Colonel Robinson was doing last night, writing a speech. It has been a great honor and a pleasure for me during the past year to serve on this Commission and to have the opportunity of going into every part of our great country and listening to veterans from every State in the Union tell us what they think the veteran's programs in our country should be.

The thing that has impressed me most is the fact that in nearly every meeting that we held we had many veterans who traveled at their own expense hundreds of miles. Some slept in their automobiles at night, to have an opportunity to stand up and to sound off to a group that was sent out to hear what they thought, perhaps for the first time, they had an opportunity to say exactly what they felt and express it in a way they wanted to.

I think if we didn't do anything else, by the fact that we listened to this group, we have accomplished a great deal. I was very pleased with the grass roots report that we received from all over the country.

Veterans and nonveterans alike turned out to testify before the Commission. The thing that impressed me most about this report is that the members of this Commission, after listening to all of this testimony all over the United States, feel differently from the way that some groups have expressed themselves in the past—that the veteran is a select group, that he is entitled to some special consideration from a grateful