

veteran with the disability. The Commission feels that this validation is long overdue and should be expedited. It further recommends that the principle of equalization of compensation with degree of disability should be kept firmly in mind in the evaluation of the results of this survey.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

The Commission recommends that an additional monthly payment of \$20 for each child be made to widows receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, independent of any Social Security or Railroad Retirement payments.

Background to Recommendation:

At present, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is payable to the widow of a veteran who died from service-connected causes at the monthly rate of \$120 plus 12 percent of her husband's basic military pay. (Refer to Commission recommendation proposing an increase in this basic monthly rate). No additional amount is payable for children below age 18, except where the widow has two or more such children, and the monthly total of her Social Security benefits (under Title 42 U.S.C. 402), Railroad Retirement benefits (under Title 45 U.S.C. 228e), and special allowance (under Title 38 U.S.C. 412(a)), is less than the monthly Social Security payment--usually \$136.20--the widow and children would receive if the deceased veteran had been fully and currently insured with an average monthly wage of \$160. If this total in benefits is less than \$136.20, the widow's rate of DIC is increased by \$28 monthly for each child in excess of one, so long as the total amount of this increase does not exceed the difference between the \$136.20 figure and the Social Security actually received.

Adequate provision is contained in the law for children 18 years of age or over. However, the provisions made for widows during the trying years when they are raising their orphaned children tend to cause hardship.

The hardship increases for widows with more than two children. At present, the widow with no children receives the same amount of DIC payments each month as the widow with seven children under 18. The widow with seven children does have her DIC supplemented by Social Security payments, but these payments do not increase to cover more than two