

The special award provides compensation for such obvious and serious conditions as amputation of a limb, loss of an eye, deafness of both ears, or inability to communicate by speech.

The law also provides this special award for veterans suffering anatomical loss or loss of use of a creative organ. However, with the loss of only one paired procreative organ, parenthood can still be achieved. Thus, benefits are now paid when there is, in fact, no absence of procreative power.

History suggests that Congress intended to grant this special award for such defects as loss of procreative power. The Commission recommends the law be clarified so that in the future a loss of procreative power rather than organ will be the governing criterion. To avoid hardship, however, we feel that veterans now receiving payment for anatomical loss or loss of use of a creative organ should continue to receive this payment, whether or not they retain procreative power.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12

The Commission recommends discontinuation of the statutory award and graduated ratings for arrested tuberculosis with the provision that veterans receiving compensation under the present law continue to receive payment.

Background to Recommendation:

At present, the law (Title 38 U.S.C., Section 314 (q)) provides a minimum rate of disability compensation (\$67 per month for wartime cases and \$54 per month for peacetime cases) for veterans with service-connected tuberculosis which has reached a state of complete arrest. Section 356 of Title 38 U.S.C. prescribes gradually reduced disability ratings for tuberculosis during the 11-year period after the disease has first become arrested.

A minimum rate of compensation for arrested tuberculosis has been provided almost continuously since 1926. At that time, tuberculosis was a dread disease. It was believed that few persons suffering from the disease could expect to live more than 20 years; that even if arrested, the disease was almost certain to recur; and that the only effective therapy was the "rest cure" followed by a slow and progressive course of exercise. The death rate from tuberculosis