

to the death pension program but it is not yet available to widows of those who die of service-connected disabilities. The housebound allowance is not available to either program.

The Commission believes that with the continuing increase in the number of aging widows in the population, many will become housebound and in need of regular aid and attendance. Either condition will impose intolerable hardship on what is largely a group of widows who have no one available to assist them in the routines of life nor the means to obtain this assistance. We recommend that a special allowance of \$50 per month be provided to housebound DIC and death compensation widows, and \$35 per month be provided to housebound widows receiving pension who meet the criteria for these benefits.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15

The Commission recommends that a clothing allowance of \$150 per year be provided to veterans who have incurred additional expenses because of clothing wear caused by prosthetic appliances.

Background to Recommendation:

Veterans who wear prosthetic appliances that cause excessive wear on clothes can now send their clothing to the Veterans Administration for repair. Because of the considerable period of time a veteran is thus deprived of his clothing, most of the cost is, in effect, absorbed by him. The Commission therefore recommends that veterans who have incurred additional expenses because of wearing of prosthetic appliances, be paid \$150 a year as a special allowance.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 16

The Commission recommends that Vietnam Era Veterans' eligibility for assistance in purchasing a specially-equipped automobile be made the same as that of World War II and Korean Conflict veterans.

Background to Recommendation:

Assistance towards the purchase of an automobile was initially provided by law for veterans of World War II who