



CHAPTER II

Alleviation of Financial Needs of Veterans and Survivors Not Connected with Military Service

RECOMMENDATION NO. 17

The Commission recommends that pension, as a benefit for war veterans and their survivors, should be maintained as a Federal program providing financial aid above and beyond the levels of public assistance and that, within reasonably improved limits, increases in other forms of income should not adversely affect veterans' pension benefits.

Background to Recommendation:

The pension program was devised by a grateful Nation and has developed from its birth as the recognition of an obligation to the war veteran population. As such, the program receives the annual approval of Congress, subject to change at all times to assure help to those qualified.

Fundamentally it is a means supplement program for war veterans and their survivors who, because of conditions not related to service, become indigent or have insufficient income to meet the cost of food, housing, clothing, medical care, and other necessities. It provides financial aid to war veterans in need who are permanently and totally disabled from disease or injuries without regard to service origin. From the beginning it has been intended that it be offered and received in dignity.