

be supplemented by other sources of assistance, such as the work-study and low interest guaranteed loan programs provided under the Higher Education Act of 1965. However, the veteran is presently denied the choice of accepting both an educational opportunity grant and his G.I. Bill allowance, no matter how great his need.

To remedy this sort of situation, the Commission recommends that eligible veterans, on the basis of established need, be permitted to receive educational assistance from other Federal programs in order to supplement their G.I. Bill benefits. The needs criterion would limit the amount of Federal aid a veteran may accept under the non-G.I. Bill program to the total amount required for reaching his educational objective. This criterion would apply only to the concurrent receipt of G.I. Bill and other Federal educational benefits.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 30

The Commission recommends establishment of an educational assistance program for widows receiving DIC.

Background to Recommendation:

Upon the deaths of their husbands, widows of veterans who die from service-connected disabilities often face an abrupt loss of adequate financial support, and must, in many instances, adjust their living standards to a substantially lower level. Barring employment or remarriage, their expectations for income are limited to VA benefits and, perhaps, to Social Security. At present, the current monthly DIC payment for all widows averages \$153.79.

The modest security provided by DIC should not induce widows to lead withdrawn or sheltered lives. It is preferable and necessary to encourage widows to return to the "main stream," both economically and socially. This goal could be furthered through additional training and education.

Additional training would make it possible for widows to supplement their income, thereby enabling them to achieve a comfortable standard of living. The national economy would benefit from such training because the costs of training would eventually be returned as additional income tax revenues. In addition, the nation would gain needed skills for its manpower resources.