

dental benefits, although these benefits were extended to earlier war veterans. To establish equity for these recent veterans, the Commission recommends that Vietnam Era veterans be provided a complete episode of treatment for all non-compensable dental disabilities found to be present within one year after discharge from military service. We propose that eligible veterans be given up to one year from the date of separation to file application for this treatment, which must be finished within two years after application is completed.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 47

The Commission recommends extension of certain fringe medical benefits to veterans of service on or after February 1, 1955.

Background to Recommendation:

Since the Korean Conflict, only veterans of the "Cold-War Period," which extends from February 1, 1955 to August 5, 1964, have been excluded from certain fringe medical benefits. The service of these men, however, may have occurred under conditions like those of war. In addition, these men were conscripted and thus subjected to the same disruption in their individual lives as those who served during actual periods of war.

Veterans of the Cold-War Period have already been extended certain benefits formerly restricted to wartime periods of service, such as G.I. educational assistance, hospitalization for nonservice-connected disabilities, various presumptions of service connection for disablement, and assistance in purchasing an automobile. In accordance with these precedents, and in recognition of the nature of service for veterans of the Cold-War Period, the Commission recommends that the following fringe medical benefits be extended to veterans with service on or after February 1, 1955:

- (1) Payment to State homes for part of the cost of hospitalization, domiciliary care, or nursing home care of "each veteran of any war" under 38 USC 641;
- (2) The program of grants to States to construct nursing home facilities for the care of war veterans (38 USC 5032);
- (3) Authority to use private contract beds for the hospital care of women veterans and of "veterans of any war" in a commonwealth or possession for nonservice-connected conditions (38 USC 601 (4) C (ii) and (iii));