

RECOMMENDATION NO. 64

The Commission recommends that the Veterans Administration not be made a provider of services for the purpose of reimbursement under the Medicare provisions of the Social Security Act.

Background to Recommendation:

The Social Security Act now provides that no payment may be made under the provisions of the act to any Federal provider of service or other Federal agency and no payment may be made to any provider or person for any item or service which the provider or person is obligated by a law of, or a contract with, the United States to render at public expense. Legislation has been introduced which would remove this restriction and permit the use of Federal hospitals in certain areas. Legislation has also been introduced that would provide that the Veterans Administration be reimbursed from the Social Security trust fund for veterans 65 and over hospitalized in veterans hospitals. We believe that such action, would inevitably lead to the mixing of services provided by the nation to its war veterans with Social Security Medicare benefits, and that such a mixing of benefits is not to the best interest of veterans. The Commission therefore recommends that the Veterans Administration hospital system be reserved for the treatment of veterans and that the VA's responsibility for their care and treatment not be diluted.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 65

The Commission recommends that medical benefits similar to those in the Military Medical Benefits Act be provided for wives and children of veterans who are on VA compensation rolls as 100 percent disabled.

Background to Recommendation:

In most cases, wives of veterans who are 100 percent disabled are not able to work because of the need for their presence in the home. Neither the wife nor the veteran who likewise cannot work is able to have a health insurance policy providing for care for the family. Severe illness