

ters represent the views of groups without numeration of the participants. Secondly, the issues have not been uniformly framed. In this respect the writers generally lack the sophisticated technical knowledge enjoyed by those who testified before the Commission and who had the benefit of the Commission's clarifying interrogation. This has led to the third element of "impurity": the necessity for the tabulator to arbitrarily use his judgment in categorization. For example, suggestions for "increased benefits" without specification of an approach to this objective have been treated as suggestions for "increased pension rates" (where pension is the benefit in question), although in some instances the content and context have permitted them to be considered suggestions for "service pension." (It should be noted that a direct increase in pension rates, an increase in the income levels, or an exclusion of certain items as income will result in a general increase in the pension benefit.)

Those who testified before the Commission, being more learned in veterans legislation and having broader interests, offered suggestions in many areas. The letters indicate that most were written from the author's personal frame of reference, and are generally pension oriented and World War I oriented. In spite of necessary inexactness the following tabulation is believed to present the consensus and is a fair indication of areas of priority. The tabulation is presented in the order of frequency.

It should be mentioned for the benefit of any evaluation which may be applied that the use of mimeographed and stereotyped letters was quite high.

CONTENTS

Group I: Compensation for Service Connected Disabilities and Death; Related Benefits:

- Service Dates and Eligibility Factors.
- Distinctions in Compensation Rates Because of Nature of Service.
- Rating Schedule Policy; Criteria for Service Connection.
- Presumption of Service Connection.
- Protection.
- Individual Unemployability.
- Suggestions Pertaining to Claims Procedures, Effective Dates, Evaluations, Award Adjustments and other Administrative Practices.
- Compensation and Rates for Service Connected Disability:
 - Statutory Awards.
 - Disability Compensation (Rates).
 - Additional Compensation Because of Dependents.
 - Concurrent Entitlement to Several Benefits.
 - Automobile Benefit.
 - Suggestions Relating to Death Benefit Programs Generally.
 - Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
 - Death Compensation.

Group II: Alleviation of Financial Needs of Veterans and Survivors not Connected With Military Service:

- General Policy and Basic Concepts.
- Liberalization of Service Requirements.
- Suggestions Relating to Unemployability, Totality and Permanency.
- Suggestions Relating to New Programs Based on Factors other than Need.
- Suggestions Relating to Administrative Procedures, Award Adjustments, Effective Dates, etc.