

However, as stated in section 4(b) of the Service Contract Act, the Secretary of Labor may by administrative action establish reasonable limitations on the application of the act's provisions or grant reasonable variations, tolerances, or exemption therefrom which he finds to be "necessary and proper in the public interest or to avoid serious impairment of the conduct of Government business." Petitions for exemption under section 4(b) of the Service Contract Act should be submitted through the headquarters office of the contracting agency.

Sincerely yours,

BEN P. ROBERTSON, *Deputy Administrator.*

I have your acknowledgement of my letter and in view of the fact that the ruling of the Department of Labor is already having an adverse effect on the community nursing home program, may I urge you again to give me a reply on this matter at the earliest possible time.

I have been furnished with a copy of the letter to you from the Administrator of Veterans Affairs on this same general subject, and would appreciate being furnished with a copy of your reply to Administrator Driver.

I look forward to hearing from you at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely yours,

OLIN E. TEAGUE, *Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C., June 11, 1968.

HON. LYNDON B. JOHNSON,
*President of the United States,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am greatly concerned about a recent ruling by the Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, Department of Labor, which is in the process of wrecking the Veterans Administration hometown nursing care program. I brought this matter to the attention of the Secretary of Labor on May 22, 1968, and heard nothing from him until June 3,

*Chairman, Subcommittee on Intermediate Care Committee on Veterans
Affairs.*

[Telegram]

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES,
June 13, 1968.

HON. W. WILLARD WIRTZ,
*Secretary of Labor,
Washington, D.C.:*

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was the chief proponent of the Veterans Nursing Care Act of 1964, which authorizes the Veterans Administration to take care of veterans in community nursing homes. It is shocking to learn that nursing homes are being closed from this veterans program because of an interpretation by the Public Contracts Division of your Department of Labor.