

If legislation is enacted that hospital care for the widows and children of service-connected deceased veterans is to be provided by the Veterans' Administration in private hospitals on a fee basis, AMVETS feels we would better use the taxpayers dollars by utilizing the recognized facilities of the present 166 Veterans' Administration hospitals on a bed-available basis.

Commenting favorably on extension of education rights to widows, Mrs. Heckler of the 10th Congressional District of Massachusetts recently stated, "The bill embodies a genuine, practical effort to assist the women who must bear a sharply increased burden because of the military service our Nation has asked of its men".

AMVETS truly feel that this statement would be equally applicable to this proposed use of Veterans' Administration hospitals facilities to care for the family of our veterans as well as their education.

AMVETS feel that by the passage of this legislation we would not only assure that Veterans' Administration hospitals would be utilized to their fullest capacity, but we would be fulfilling our obligations to those veterans who have died in service to our country.

IV. EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

A. Veterans employment service

We are informed that as of October 1968, there were approximately 406,000 veteran applications on file in the 2,200 local offices of the State-Federal employment security offices over the Nation. Of this number, approximately 54,000 were disabled American veteran applicants. Further, that the majority of these applicants were World War II and Korean veterans.

Over the country, according to estimates available to us, 1,830,000 veterans made applications for jobs at the local employment offices in 1968. They were placed in 1,163,500 jobs. Included in this group were 156,000 disabled veterans. We feel this to be an excellent and commendable record.

We are concerned, however, from reports reaching us from our employment committees and post employment officers to the effect that adequate service is not being made available to veteran applicants at local public employment offices. This fact, together with an anticipated 950,000 separated Vietnam veterans returning to civilian life in the current calendar year raises severe questions in our minds.

Beginning in 1966, reports began to reach AMVETS from veterans who felt they had not been granted adequate services at these offices and comments from our employment chairmen and post employment people to the same effect. In checking with local office managers and the national office of the veterans employment service, we were faced with an admission that the time of the local veterans employment rights representatives was being utilized in crash programs and long range anti-poverty programs recently being implemented. In AMVETS view, the problem could best be solved by earmarking funds within the Department of Labor budget process to provide for veterans employment representative positions at the local office level and perhaps more important, the issuance of regulations which would guarantee and complement the provision of adequate time for them to perform their duties. Most certainly, with the increasing numbers of veterans returning from Vietnam and an apparent increasing work-