

in the right direction and I think there would probably be more demand for some of the vacant beds in our VA installations.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Now, I have introduced legislation that would permit the veteran to assign his unused GI benefits to his children. Take a man who fought in World War II and came back and for reasons known best to himself, economic or otherwise, was not able to use up the GI benefit he had coming. He did not go on to college. I went on to law school but many didn't. It seems to me that this is a kind of inherent right we have given the veteran. If he has not, for whatever reasons, utilized those benefits, it would occur to me that he really ought to be able to transfer those benefits to his children today.

I know it is costly. I know there are those who just throw up their hands and say, "Do you know what this will cost?"

I have always felt that when you invest in people that investment comes back manifold.

Would you have any views on the concept of letting the veteran, whether he is from World War II or Korea, transfer the benefits that he has not used on to his children? For instance, to be used in a college education?

Mr. FERRINO. I believe the general public, and more especially, the Congress of the United States, is becoming more aware of this concept in view of some of the legislation that was passed by the 90th Congress, where the extension of the GI and Korean GI bill, the privileges of an education were extended to a widow and, in certain instances, this is an extension of that.

Now, in my testimony today I have asked that this extension of the benefits be accorded a widow of a deceased veteran, or a 100-percent disabled veteran, in the field of hospital service. So the concept that you envision and project is not so visionary, so much a "pie in the sky" proposition as some might imagine. It is a worthwhile endeavor and our experiences across the Nation have been that at one time the GI bill for education for the veteran was looked upon as a tremendous give-away program.

Time has proven that it was one of the greatest investments that the Nation could put into the hands of the public, with suitable supervision through the VA.

I concur with some of your observations. Definitely it was one of the best investments our country could really put into effect, and that was the GI bill, which included the home loan program and the education benefits. I agree.

Mr. PUCINSKI. My final question, Mr. Chairman: What is your feeling and what are your views on the proposal or the effort to transfer paraplegics out of our veterans' hospitals into the so-called rest homes, or halfway houses or whatever you want to call them?

You will remember we had the situation in Chicago which I am happy to see they have reversed and they are not going to move those paraplegics out and I hope they are going to move those that they have already moved out back in.

What has been your position on this?

Mr. FERRINO. Our contention has been, and our legislative committee and the various people who have made studies of the various proposals and the information available to us as far as the VA installations are concerned, we feel that the facility best suited to be able to care for the needs of the veteran, be he a paraplegic or a disabled