

permanently and totally disabled from service-connected causes and their survivors will be corrected.

Mr. DORN. Thank you, Mr. Schloss. That is a very fine statement and I am sorry that we must be so brief.

Is Mr. Mike Dwyer here?

STATEMENT OF MIKE DWYER, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES OF 1917-19, ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN L. HOFFMAN, SENIOR COMMANDER, AEF, COWANVILLE, PA.

Mr. DWYER. Mr. Chairman, I am accompanied this morning by Mr. John L. Hoffman, senior commander of the AEF from Cowanville, Pa. We both have prepared statements and would be glad to have them included in the record.

Mr. DORN. Thank you. The statements will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The statements follow:)

STATEMENT BY MIKE DWYER, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES OF 1917-19

We want to thank the Chairman and the Members of this Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for this opportunity to appear before them to present this statement in an appeal for this Honorable Committee to report to the House Floor, a suitable bill for the traditional pension that this Government has granted to all veterans of previous Wars that this Congress has declared since the Revolutionary War, at the start of this Nation in its initial veterans pensions awards, for the service rendered. Our War started with the Declaration of War, by Congress on April 6, 1917 and ended when hostilities ceased with the signing of an Armistice on November 11, 1918. The vote was for a Declaration of War on April 4, 1917, the Senate passed it by 82 to 6. The House passed it on April 6, 1917 by a vote of 373 to 50. President Woodrow Wilson signed the Document at once, and was transmitted to the World.

President Wilson in his address to Congress in joint session on April 2, 1917, said, "Property, can be paid for, the lives of peaceful and innocent people can not;" "The World must be made safe for democracy;" "To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God, helping her, she can do no other."

In June 1918 Marshal Foch requested General Pershing to ask President Wilson, for a total of 100 American Divisions, all to be in France by April 1919. Realizing that French morale was dangerously low, General Pershing, reluctantly signed a joint Cable with Marshal Foch, asking for 100 Divisions, telling Sec. Newton Baker he wanted 80 in France by April 1919; 3,200,000 Americans in Combat lines, with about half that many more; 1,600,000 more in France to keep them supplied with food and ammunition. The Secretary could have until July 1919 to supply the other 20 Divisions. The conference was unusual in that there were no quarrels, but these were perilous hours.

We members of the American Expeditionary Force in the first World War, moved forward, were aggressive and being an untrained group in military action, drove the enemy back so fast that to save the destruction of their country cried out for an Armistice, which was granted on November 11, 1918. This action saved the United States billions of dollars and the 100 Divisions requested for April 1919, were saved from the trip to the battle-scarred French land of battle. A brilliant victory was won within seven months of fighting on land and the Navy had cleared the Atlantic Ocean of the submarines in like fashion.

We are asking this Honorable Committee to grant our request for a service rendered pension, as veterans pensions in old age is considered delayed pay for