

We have no patience with those who would change these values and force upon others their own misguided and destructive dogma.

We of the DAV believe deeply in the ultimate purposes of this democracy; and whatever one's feelings about the wrongness or the rightness of the war in Vietnam, no one has the right to destroy our democratic virtues and ideals and engage in savage destruction of our country.

It is really astounding to find that small, hard-core campus elements are outrageously disrupting the education of thousands of our young people, many of them Vietnam veterans who are trying eagerly to get on with an education delayed by service to their country. These disruptions are especially harmful to those veterans who are in school for the purpose of regaining employability lost as a result of a service incurred handicap.

We think the time has come to crack down on the nihilist destroyers of our institutions and restore peace and tranquility to our academic society. I might mention in this regard that the DAV was pleased, indeed, with the action taken by the Congress last year which brought about the passage of legislation permitting the discontinuance of financial and other assistance to students who engage in on-campus activities of a destructive nature. Moreover, the Congress has the matter under further study at the present time.

Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier, disability and death compensation are matters of fundamental interest to the Disabled American Veterans. It is only natural then that a number of resolutions touching on these programs were considered and approved by the national convention.

In this connection, Mr. Chairman, I wish to express to you and the committee members, our special thanks and deep appreciation for initiating the action which led to passage of the bill to increase the basic rates of disability compensation. This measure, approved last August, increased, commencing January 1, 1969, the monthly rates of service-connected disability compensation payable for total disability by \$100, and increased by 8 percent, the monthly amounts payable for disabilities rated from 10 to 90 percent.

We are confident that the committee will, as it has steadfastly done in the past, keep the disability compensation program under close and continuing study. We think there is a very real and compelling reason for the committee to do this, especially during the term of the present 91st Congress.

The 8-percent cost-of-living adjustment for veterans rated less than 100-percent disabled was meant to offset a 7.66-percent increase in the Consumer Price Index which had occurred since December 1, 1965, the effective date of the previous increases in compensation rates.

Last November the CPI had climbed to 123.4, establishing an increase of 11.2 percent since 1965. Thus the 8-percent increase provided by the new law left a deficit of more than 3 percent in the purchasing power of the disabled veteran's compensation dollar, some 3 months before he was to receive his first check at the new rate.

Two months ago, the Federal Government reported that living costs during November 1968, rose another 0.4 percent, continuing the sharpest price spiral since 1951. Moreover, indications are that the Consumer Price Index will rise at an approximate rate of 5 percent this year.