

Mr. HALEY. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HELSTOSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and commander.

Thank you for this provocative statement. I think it points up the need for legislation in new areas and also modifications in some of the existing legislation. Particularly in the area of disability pensions which are paid, I think a wide disparity is becoming quite evident because of the inflationary spiral in our economy. Some kind of escalation clause is necessary to be built into these pensions so the serious effects are not concerned here.

I think that, as in the past, you have presented an excellent statement and it deserves unqualified support and I assure you it has my continued support.

Mr. SHEIRBON. Thank you very much.

Mr. HALEY. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from New York, Mr. Halpern.

Mr. HALPERN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My colleague to my left, John Saylor, eloquently reflected my own feelings and I want to associate myself with his remarks. I want to congratulate a very distinguished and outstanding national commander on his superb presentation.

You did a marvelous job, sir, and I extend my compliments to you on your outstanding leadership.

Mr. SHEIRBON. Thank you, sir.

Mr. HALPERN. There is not a single recommendation in your program that is unreasonable or not fully justified. It is highly commendable. I think it is a superb program and I endorse it 100 percent.

By reputation your organization has been performing valuable work not only for the disabled veteran, other veterans of our international conflicts, but for all the American people. The Nation is grateful to all of you, and I for one want to say how privileged I am to serve on this committee where we can work firsthand with you.

Thank you very much.

Mr. SHEIRBON. Thank you.

Mr. HALEY. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. Zwach.

Mr. ZWACH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Commander and all of you folks here, it has been my privilege to serve on similar committees of the Minnesota Legislature for many years. I have always been tremendously inspired and thrilled by the fine work you have done through the years, the position that your organization has taken for our great country. I think it has been tremendously enhancing and valuable.

I just want to say, Mr. Commander and folks, that I shall give your recommendations very, very careful consideration.

Thank you.

Mr. SHEIRBON. Thank you, sir.

Mr. HALEY. The Chair now recognizes the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina, a very valuable member of this committee for many years and a great friend of the veterans—Mr. Dorn.

Mr. DORN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I regret, Commander, that I could not be here when you started, but I have been out of town and the plane had to circle a little bit before we could land this morning.