

That a paraplegic rehabilitation allowance of \$100 per month be awarded the non-service-connected spinal cord injured veteran when not hospitalized at Government expense.

That the non-service-connected pension be increased and the basis on which annual income is computed be raised so as to assure a minimum income of \$4,800 per year for the spinal cord injured veteran without dependents, with a suitably higher amount for spinal cord injured veterans with dependents.

That full pension benefits be continued in the case of the spinal cord injured veteran until the first day of the 7th calendar month after the date of admission to a Veterans' Administration hospital, and that the reduction will be only that part paid for aid and attendance in accordance with existing regulations.

That on the day of discharge from a hospital, nursing home, or other Veterans' Administration-supported facility, the non-service-connected spinal cord injured veteran shall receive full pension pay for the prior 30 days.

That the several programs of pension benefits now administered by the Veterans' Administration be combined so as to provide one simple pension program. Further, that such a program of benefits be extended equally to all veterans who shall have served at least 90 days of active duty prior to his or her discharge.

That rent supplement payments and food coupons be made available to seriously disabled veterans.

That service in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps prior to September 30, 1943, shall be considered active service for purposes of the Veterans' Administration program.

To better implement veterans' affairs, the Paralyzed Veterans of America favors and recommends establishment of the following:

1. A court of veterans' appeals.
2. Creation of a Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the Senate.
3. Elevation to Cabinet rank of the Office of Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

At this time, the Paralyzed Veterans of America records its strong opposition to any consolidation of Veterans' Administration medical programs with those of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes those of our recommendations concerning the veterans' benefits program which were mandated by our 22d national convention. We will be grateful for the privilege of submitting to your special subcommittees more documented reports on specific fields of interest.

I thank you and the members of your committee for the privilege of appearing before you on behalf of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and for your thoughtful consideration.

Mr. HALEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Capson.

I note that you have covered what I wanted to ask you to do. Inasmuch as we will shortly go into the Subcommittee on Hospitals for extensive hearings on the operation of the VA hospitals in the Nation, we would be deeply grateful to you and your organization if you would submit to us, so that we may be enlightened on the various matters, as detailed an explanation as you can to give us the benefit of your observations and your views.