

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Chairman, I have no questions. As a member of the committee from California, I should note that Mr. Capson is from California and has done a very distinguished job in leading the Paralyzed Veterans of America. I know of his fine work out in California and I am personally very grateful to him for continuing to demonstrate this concern with the very excellent statement he has given us this morning.

I should also mention, Mr. Chairman, that the new executive director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America is Mr. Peter Lassen, who also comes from the State of California and I am happy to be able to welcome another Californian to this committee and to wish him every success in his new position.

Mr. HALEY. The gentleman from New York.

Mr. HALPERN. Mr. Chairman and Mr. Capson, everything that has been said this morning about the Disabled American Veterans certainly applies to your fine organization. I only wish we all had the time to be able to express our feelings of admiration and esteem for your organization.

I personally wish that I had the words to adequately express my admiration for the Paralyzed Veterans and our respect for your leadership and my esteem for your membership. Your program is a truly outstanding one and highly commendable. I support it wholeheartedly.

Coming from New York, I am particularly concerned about the facilities there. Is it true, Mr. Capson that there is only one hospital in the entire Metropolitan New York area where the paralyzed veteran may go for treatment; that is, the Bronx VA Hospital?

Mr. CAPSON. That is correct.

Mr. HALPERN. From what I understand, the situation there is far short of what it should be.

Mr. CAPSON. That is true. That is correct. There is only one hospital in the New York metropolitan area. I think the next nearest one is a facility at Castle Point. It does not have nearly the facilities that the one in New York has. You are right. The conditions are not quite up to snuff.

Mr. HALPERN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HALEY. Any other member?

The gentlelady from Massachusetts.

Mrs. HECKLER. I should like to compliment you as well, Mr. President. I feel that you have presented a very thoughtful statement. I would say because of our snowstorm in Boston, I am sure that people who would be here normally are not here.

People have complained of the spinal cord injury treatment, not on the part of the doctors but on the part of the assistants in terms of staff needs, nursing care, and so forth. As a result of this I did go to the Veterans' Administration hospital to investigate a complaint where the level of care in terms of spinal cord knowledge is quite unique in the world, but at the same time they were experiencing staff shortages which certainly caused a problem for the doctors, nurses, and for the patients. I understand that this situation has been corrected, since at that time the doctors told me it had been. Their previous complaints had been reduced. I wonder if this is your information as well.