

Finally, I call your attention to the enclosed platform of "Veterans and Armed Forces Affairs" adopted at our convention, June 1968, which is attached to this testimony, and we ask that it be made a part of the testimony and included in the record.

Mr. HALEY. Without objection the portions which relate to this committee's jurisdiction will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The material referred to follows with portions of submitted material deleted where unrelated to the jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:)

[From the AVC Bulletin, August 1968]

PLATFORM OF THE AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE, ADOPTED JUNE 28-30, 1968,
SOUTH FALLSBURG, N.Y.

VETERANS AND ARMED FORCES AFFAIRS

The American Veterans Committee has constantly reiterated, since its founding, its fundamental belief that rehabilitation and integration of veterans into the community is the proper scope and purpose of a veterans program. The achievement of economic security for veterans through sound economic planning for all citizens rather than through special grants or favors to veterans is basic AVC policy.

(1) *Compensation*

For many years, AVC has pointed out the need for a thorough review and reappraisal of this Nation's policies on veterans as follows:

1. We oppose bonuses and general pensions as being class legislation and unrelated to the real needs of individual veterans and tending to set veterans apart from their fellow citizens.

In the matter of benefits, two basic standards should be applied.

a) For death or disability incurred in military service: Are the benefits sufficient to provide a decent standard of living for the veteran, his family or survivors?

b) For all veterans. Are the benefits so designed as to enable a readjustment from military service to civilian life with a minimum economic loss?

Since benefits are a Federal responsibility, uniform standards of administration and compensation should be applied nationally without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

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4) *Benefit dollar*

AVC believes that provision should be made to maintain automatically the purchasing power of the benefit dollar and upward adjustments be made annually in accordance with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index.

5) *Civil service*

AVC believes that veterans point preference in the civil service be limited to the initial appointment only, and that no person should receive a position unless fully qualified to perform the duties involved.

We oppose the principle of granting absolute preference to veterans in state and local civil service.

6) *G.I. bill*

AVC applauds the passage of a permanent G.I. Bill of Rights as a responsible means of enabling servicemen and women to return to civilian life with facility and ease at the end of their service and become useful and productive members of their communities.

However, we urge the Congress to adjust the benefits more in line with the World War II and Korean G.I. Bills and the current cost of living so that the programs may be used by veterans without the financial stress they now entail. The G.I. Bill of Rights should be administered in such manner as to guarantee the absence of discrimination.

7) *VA hospitalization*

AVC urges that treatment of non-service-connected disabilities in VA hospitals be continued on a space-available basis, but that such treatment be charged at