

Thank you.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Denney.

Mr. DENNEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen, members of the VFW, I feel a little bit like I was in the position I was on Guadalcanal a number of years ago. I had just been made a second lieutenant. I was invited to a staff meeting where they had majors, colonels, and generals and I held the flap of the tent open so they could come in.

I am low man on the totem pole on this committee and, while I am in my second term, I feel very proud that I am a member of this committee. I have asked for it. I wanted to. I have another committee, but I would rather be on the Veterans' Affairs Committee than any committee in Congress. I think it is the finest in the world.

I have been reading through your priorities. I have two boys in the service. I am concerned about VA hospitals being transferred to HEW. Go out in the hinterlands and talk to the people. Have them write to their Congressman, not form letters, but write to them and ask them to keep these hospitals under the Veterans' Administration. That is where VA hospitals belong.

One more point, Mr. Commander, and I certainly did like your statement. I think it is criminal that Job Corps enrollees get transportation, leave, emergency leave, for air travel and when it comes to a serviceman, his Government brings him back to the shores of the United States and he pays his own way. I think that is wrong. There are bills in Congress. Let's get that enacted into law as soon as possible.

I appreciate your statement. I think you are doing a fine job. I am all for you 100 percent.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Halpern.

Mr. HALPERN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to express my apology for being late. We had an executive session of our Banking and Currency Committee after a hearing at which Secretary of the Treasury Kennedy appeared and it was essential that the members be there, I came here as quickly as I could depart that important hearing.

I want to compliment, if I may, the national commander in chief on his outstanding presentation here this morning. I may not have heard it, but I have read it. I have seen your program and I am in full accord with every word of it and I am glad to be able to be here, Mr. Chairman, just in time to compliment, to congratulate, Commander Homan and the members of the VFW and its ladies auxiliary and to tell them how highly I think of them.

In my book the VFW is more, much more, than an organization of men who have fought overseas. It is the voice of the veteran who fought on foreign shores. It is a patriotic organization, a community betterment organization, made up of 10,000 posts and 1½ million members; 1½ million men who, with their ladies, are dedicated to making our communities, our cities, our states, and our Nation a better place in which to live.

Just as you have fought for the principles of freedom, and truth and justice in our wars against aggression, so you are fighting now to preserve and to strengthen these principles in this Nation of ours. And you are fighting for justice for the veteran, for the proper fulfillment of the rights you have earned from a grateful nation.