To assure that every veteran who wants the honor should have the right to burial in a national cemetery situated reasonably close to his home, the American Legion vigorously supports the enactment of legislation which would:

(1) Transfer jurisdiction over, and responsibility, for all national cemeteries to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs;

(2) Assign responsibility and grant authority to the Administrator to develop a national cemetery system adequate for the burial of those potentially eligible;

(3) Establish a Commission on National Cemeteries to advise and recommend to the President, the Congress, and the Administrator with respect to its administration, and the selection of cemetery sites;

(4) Assign jurisdiction over national cemeteries to those committees of Congress which have legislative responsibility for veterans' affairs. In this respect, Mr. Chairman, we commend the action of the House of Representatives in amending its rules to assign national cemetery legislation, other than that relating to those under the Department of Interior, to your jurisdiction (Res. 241, October 20, 1967). We appreciate the fact that your Special Subcommittee on Cemeteries and Burial Benefits held hearings, and that H.R. 12801 was reported by it and by the full committee. We anticipate, Mr. Chairman, that your committee will act quickly on the National Cemetery Act of 1969.

In considering the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals in *Thompson* v. *Secretary of Defense*, we suggest the eligibility criteria be amended by your committee to provide that those found guilty of mutiny or treason or of offenses against the security of the United States, or of advocating forceful overthrow of our Government, would be denied the privilige of burial in a national cemetery.

In addition, we suggest that the legislative history or construction of law would bar those having jurisdiction of national cemeteries from issuing orders limiting burial of eligible veterans, such as is now the case in Arlington National Cemetery (order of Secretary of the Army of February 10, 1967) so long as burial sites are available.

INCREASE THE MAXIMUM SERVICEMEN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FROM $10,000 TO $30,000

Without exception, programs of Government life insurance, from the War Risk Insurance Act to the act which established the servicemen's group life insurance, have limited the maximum coverage to $10,000 per individual (although a holder of $10,000 under the service's group life insurance program after discharge may now also carry $10,000 service disabled insurance (RH) with the Veterans' Administration.

However, coverage during service is limited to $10,000. At the beginning, under the War Risk Insurance Act, the $10,000 represented considerable purchasing power to the survivors. But, with the erosion of the purchasing power of the dollar from 1917 through August 1967, it now takes about $2.75 to purchase what $1 purchased in 1917.

In view of this, we recommend that the maximum coverage be increased to $30,000, and that each member of the Armed Forces be permitted to select a program of insurance, within the maximum authorized, that is compatible with his needs and ability to purchase, without regard to rank and years of service.