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MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

TO : Dr. Peter E. M. Beach, Director
Veterans Affairs, HHS

FROM : Janice L. Warden
Acting Associate Commissioner for
Governmental Affairs, SSA

DATE: MAR 16 1981

REFER TO: SEC-3

SUBJECT: Report on Veteran Affairs--INFORMATION

Programs administered by the Social Security Administration are designed primarily to meet the income maintenance needs of particular segments of the public. These programs provide payments to replace loss of income due to retirement, disability, or death; or to supplement for basic needs where family income is sub-standard; and would include such payments to veterans as members of this broadly defined population. In administering these programs, SSA interacts with other government entities, representative veteran organizations, and individual veterans to provide service which considers the special status and characteristics of the veteran population.

o Intergovernmental Interaction

SSA representatives interact with HHS, VA, and other federal agencies, as well as congressional and White House Committees on a continuing basis to review SSA program policies and practices where there is an impact on veterans. Proper and equitable treatment for veterans, within the law, is the goal and intent of these interactions.

Example:

On the equity of Public Law 84-882, which requires removal of military wage credits from civil service annuity computations where a veteran reaches age 62 and is eligible for social security benefits, SSA with OPM, has reviewed the issue and responded to many inquiries and comments from veterans organizations and individuals. However, since the income reduction occurs in civil service annuities and not social security payments, SSA defers to OPM for evaluation of proposed changes.

o Veterans Organizations Interaction

The External Liaison Staff, Office of Governmental Affairs, maintains contact with national offices of major veterans organizations to elicit veterans' comments on social security program issues.

Example:

Veterans organizations requested SSA to issue a tamper-proof social security card, to reduce fraud and abuse of employment opportunities. After detailed study SSA requested GAO to further evaluate the feasibility of replacing the currently issued card. On December 23, 1980, GAO stated its findings that tamper-resistant cards will not eliminate misuse of social security numbers.

o Individuals Emergencies

Special consideration is given to resolving emergencies which relate to SSA responsibilities for veterans who request assistance from the President or the White House Veterans Coordinating Committee. Although this approach is not a recommended complaint route, SSA has quickly responded to alleviate distressful situations for veterans where possible.

Example:

A recent telephone call concerned the immediate need for the payment amounts of a social security benefit to be received in the future by a disabled veteran. The veteran faced losing his home in 2 days without some evidence of future income to secure a bank loan. Within two hours the information was being prepared for him by the social security office servicing his area.

o Counseling Services for SSA Veterans

In the SSA Baltimore Headquarters 3,575 of a total 18,579 employees are veterans. For all employees, including veterans, there is a drug and alcohol counseling service for those in need of this service.

The SSA Committee for Veterans is exploring the possibility of providing monthly or bi-monthly counseling by VA counselors at SSA sites for SSA veterans and dependents of veterans. Counselors would provide information on veterans benefits, rights, and opportunities to file claims.

To date there is no recorded data on inquiries about Agent Orange or psychosocial readjustment. The counseling service will provide the opportunity to address these concerns.

o SSA Employment of Veterans

Current statistics on employment of veterans are as follows:

	<u>Total Employed</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>	<u>Field Offices</u>
Currently on Board	14042	3575*	10467
FY 80 Appointments	1438	249	1234
VRA	245	29	216
Other	1238	220	1018

*Approximately 314 are 10% disabled veterans.

The recent nationwide Claims Representative Examination for Social Security (CRESS) favored veterans to a very high degree. The percentage of veterans making the applicant pool eligibility list was -

	<u>% of Total Applicants</u>
5 pt. veterans	39.6%
10 pt. non-compensatory veterans	9.1%
10 pt. compensatory veterans	34.1%

Job appointments from the list were in comparable ratios.

cc: 960 (6 copies)
 Carol Butler
 Bob Butler
 OPC
 Charles Fosler
 Bernice White
 FC & GP

SEC-3JJACKSON:my 3/12/81

MARCH 26, 1981

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

America's Most Deserving Veterans

WHEN WE SUGGESTED that the administration might round up some of its sacred cows for a more rigorous program of diet and exercise, we singled out the budget for veterans' programs. Only a fraction of these funds goes to the especially deserving—the victims of combat. Worse yet, while billions are still to be spent on ailments and benefits that have no connection with active military service, the administration plans to kill the one small program that is reaching out to help America's most desperate combat veterans—the mentally shocked men and women still haunted by the horrors of Vietnam.

As described in an Outlook report by staff writer Myra MacPherson, these troubled veterans have found personal relief in a basic program of storefront vet centers. There, in the company of each other, a chemistry similar to that of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings has worked to soothe stresses that have resisted other rehabilitation efforts. There are 91 of these modest little meeting rooms, most of them manned by fellow Vietnam veterans who have known firsthand the trauma of coping, during and after, with an unpopular war.

They have known all along what was pointed out just this week in a \$2-million, eight-year study: that the veterans of combat in Vietnam are plagued by sig-

nificantly more emotional, social, educational and job-related problems than those who were not in battle. They have known, too, that the women in this war have been suffering from the same delayed stress syndrome: flashbacks, depression, alienation, guilt.

The penny wisdom of closing these counseling centers is obvious: You are talking here about \$30 million at most, when nearly \$8 billion will be spent next year on a veterans' hospital system that provides free care for any ailment, service-connected or not; and when another \$4 billion will be spent on pensions for veterans with no service-connected disabilities. With all this federal fat around for the trimming, why kill a program so financially insignificant that it doesn't even show up in the main federal budget book but means so much to so many genuinely deserving combat veterans?

There are bipartisan efforts under way in Congress to rescue the counseling centers. Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and Rep. Margaret M. Heckler (R-Mass.) have been pressing for inclusion of the money and so far, so good: The Senate Budget Committee has approved funds for the program, and the full Senate should uphold that action; the House Budget Committee is scheduled to take up the matter today, and here, too, this proposal deserves solid support.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1981

WASHINGTON POST

Killing Vietnam Vets' Centers



By Harry Nalchayan — The Washington Post

An evening rap session at the Vet Center on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Pulling the Rug From Under Vietnam Vets Again

By Myra MacPherson

BRUCE IS 33 but he looks ancient. Deep circles; a thin, gaunt face. As of course, the mouth. It is wired together. Bruce, drunk, carefully pick up a gun one night, sat on the john and tried to blow his brains out. The bullet went through his neck and twisted and came out, shattering his jaw.

The Vietnam veteran grew up in Los Angeles, mostly alone, from a broken family. His one interest was art. "I had taken the entrance exams to art school but I decided to go in the service. It was just something you had to do."

After he returned home, Bruce developed cancer, Hodgkin's disease. Today he wonders about Agent Orange: "Hill 327 was stripped while I was there. I watched them spray every morning."

The cancer has been in remission for several years but Bruce, who went back to art school and got a good graphics job with a top advertising agency, eventually slid into alcohol and lost his job. One night he decided that all was pointless.



Today, eight months after his suicide attempt, Bruce has moved into a steady Thursday night rap group at a Vet Center in Los Angeles. Doctors are reshaping his jaw. One recent night speaking through the bizarre-looking face guard doctors have fashioned for his jaw, Bruce told a group of wide-eyed college students about a war that is ancient history to them.

For years Bruce resisted blaming Vietnam for any of his problems. "I thought it was a cop-out." Only recently did he realize he had to talk out the past so that he could get on with the future.

Shad Meshad pioneered the Vet Center concept.

"I had a lot of pent-up feelings against the government; how they're doing nothing on Agent Orange. It's very hard for me to become some rah-rah member of a group. I'm essentially a loner. But I have this drive to go to those Thursday night sessions. If those centers go, I would survive but I could name at least five guys who might not. They are the one place vets can let it all out with other vets."

Bruce has stopped drinking; smokes only a little pot. "I now feel I want to live." He pauses. "I don't want to 'X' it."

The men who come to the storefront Vet Centers across the country are in their thirties: average age, 33. Some still have the look of easy youth; others stare from haunted, old men's eyes. They are survivors of Vietnam — our nation's most unpopular, troubled and divisive war — and, most crucially, survivors of their hassled and hapless homecoming.

Last week, outrage raced coast to coast in the 91 counseling centers. For 10 years veteran activists had fought for psychological readjustment help. Finally, in 1979, Congress came through. Most of the centers are barely a year old.

VETERANS, From Page D1

Skeptical Republicans on Ronald Reagan's transition team toured several centers and ended up recommending that they be given a chance. But now Reagan is axing them — his Office of Management and Budget called for obliterating them by September — even as the president pins medals on Vietnam veterans, an act many of them see as a flag-waving attempt to prime another generation of youths for new, massively funded military adventures.

Just as the lavish homecoming for the hostages returning from Iran surfaced smoldering anger among Vietnam veterans, two crucial and intertwined resentments are reflected in the outrage of many veterans at the gutting of their centers. One is a deep distrust of the government. "If they close in September, this will be viewed as another instance of the government lying to them," says William Mahedy, a former Army chaplain in Vietnam who now runs the Vet Center in San Diego.

The veterans' second, equally deep-seated resentment is aimed at their antiwar collegiate peers who evaded the war and now turn their backs on them. David Stockman, OMB's program-cutting *wunderkind*, is just their age, 34. He spent the war in Harvard's divinity school — which conveniently carried a 4-D deferment — but never entered the clergy. "That son of a bitch," muttered a highly decorated former paratrooper, now an attorney. "There he was yelling, 'Hell no, we won't go,' but making no sacrifices for his beliefs, and now he's gutting our programs."

As federal funding goes, the \$12 million annual readjustment counseling program — operated through the Veterans Administration but away from its facilities — is barely enough to stock the centers with styrofoam coffee cups. But the veterans were hardly in a position to quibble when Congress appropriated funds for "Operation Outreach" in 1979. After all, Congress had rejected the proposal four times previously.

The overall cuts in the VA's budget are modest compared to other agencies'. The White House fact sheet stresses there will be no reduction in medical personnel serving patients directly and no reduction in compensation payments for the service-connected disabled. However, the Vietnam veteran stands to lose not only the psychological readjustment counseling programs but also job development programs and Legal Services aid. "All these cuts leave the Vietnam veterans without any government-supported advocacy programs," contends David Addlestone, director of the National Veterans Law Center.

The VA itself feels the Vet Centers are expendable and argues that it is not cutting anything, merely withdrawing its pre-Reagan request to extend them. Although the pilot programs were originally funded for two years, the intent of the legislation was to review them in September for one year's further funding. The Reagan budget would kill them off without any review. The centers have seen 40,000 veterans and, as one center leader said, "More are coming out of the woodwork all the time."

There are 9 million Vietnam-era veterans. Of these, 2 million served in Vietnam. Even the VA, for years insensitive to their psychological problems, estimates that half million of those veterans suffer emotional problems in varying degrees.

There is a fancy name for what troubles so many veterans — Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the bible for psychiatrists, now recognizes it as a legitimate disorder.

The stress was caused in large part by coming home to hostile and indifferent society. Antiwar sentiment at home made this war unique in American history. The veterans faced "the antagonism and hostility of an entire people who, almost without knowing it, confused the warrior with the war," says Charles Figley, a social psychologist, Vietnam vet and leading expert on the delayed stress of veterans.

The problem was acute for those who returned from Vietnam to college campuses at the height of the antiwar demonstrations. Even the most successful today tell of being ridiculed by professors and peers.

Fred Downs, who wrote a critically praised book, "The Killing Zone," and works for the VA, lost an arm in Vietnam. One day as riots swirled around campus, he was walking to class when an antiwar demonstrator noticed his hook. "Did you lose your hand in Vietnam?" Downs replied yes.

"Serves you right," said the student.

Many became closet veterans. "We were the fascist pig-scorched by the girls," said one. The major sexual-favor slogan of the time said it all: "Girls only say 'yes' to boys who say 'no.'"

There is a pervasive myth that Vietnam veterans are crybabies, asking for special programs not afforded past GIs. But in fact, there was extensive and prolonged treatment for the millions of World War II GIs who returned with war neuroses. A 1955 National Academy of Science study stated that one in three World War II veterans suffered some neurotic problems (as compared to one in four Vietnam vets). Congress passed laws providing large-scale psychiatric counseling, both federally administered and community-based. And according to the VA's official history, the program was successful "because it met with the wholehearted cooperation of local, county and state medical services throughout the nation."

Today many of the minorities and unskilled, promised a trade by the Army, face chronic unemployment. They returned when times were hard and jobs scarce. For several years after Vietnam, the GI bill was greatly inferior to that for World War II and Korean vets.

Congress, mirroring the public's attitude, treated the veterans' special needs with yawning indifference. Unlike the returned heroes of World War II who won elective office, only a handful of their generation now in Congress (the 82 members born since 1942) had any service. Just five saw combat.

One of them, Don Bailey (D-Pa.), fiercely hawkish, says, "There are Vietnam veterans who have not succumbed to

humiliation as a price for acceptance in society; who do not feel that in order to be accepted by this nation they must criticize what they did in Southeast Asia."

Others came home doves, feeling the war was a total waste, but still doing a burn at the way society treated them. The centers are often filled with young men who couldn't wait to sign up at 18, hell bent to "kill a Commie for Christ." Death and destruction in a war that quickly held no meaning for them turned many into cynics. They returned saying, "It don't mean nothin."

"I call Vietnam an undigested lump of life," says William Mahedy, the San Diego Vet Center leader. "It just does not digest in the system. And that is what we at the centers are attempting to do."

Tim is a handsome, younger Robert Redford, a successful builder and struggling Hollywood actor with several national commercials to his credit.

A year ago he came to the center. He could not understand his depressions, his inability to stick to anything. Through the center, Tim began to realize his resentment at society.

"Hey, I was good at what I did. In any other war I would have been a hero." He felt no guilt. "Wait a minute. Well, maybe . . ." There was that one Sunday morning. A group of monks were threading through the jungle in saffron robes. Tom radioed permission to shoot. The response was that he could do what he wanted. After all, there had been stories that the Viet Cong sometimes dressed as monks. Tim turned his helicopter and shot. "I looked down — and I saw one of them crawling away from his leg. I said, 'That's enough.'" Only 10 years later did he confront that episode. "It was wrong. I can finally say it now."

Soul music fills the D.C. center on Pennsylvania Avenue SE, just a few blocks from the Congress which long ignored special bills for Vietnam veterans.

Dennis, red-haired, in his Amoco windbreaker, races in on a work break from the gas station. "I was disabled and I haven't collected on my money. I tried for six years to get it straightened out. I come here and in two hours they did more for me than any of those people at the VA did in six years."

Leon, a black from Pittsburgh, has a deep voice and has worked in broadcasting. "If they didn't have the Vet Center experience I'd probably be in jail." Out of work, he smolders with hatred at the "white system." Talking about it at the center was instant therapy. He remained on as a volunteer counselor. The other day he got a job offer from a local radio station.

One CETA worker, about to lose his job in the budget cuts, sits with a group across the street at Johnny's Cool Breeze Restaurant. "I was shunned by the friends I grew up with because I came out of the service with \$1,000 to show for three years. They're all buying homes, finished grad school and now I don't even have a job. I'm three years behind and I'm not ever going to catch up."

During the war, the government proudly reported that combat stress was down this time around. Any grunt will quickly give you one reason: "We were stoned."

James, at the Cool Breeze, said, "I wasn't on nothin' when I went there but in Vietnam you had a choice: getting high on hard drugs or hard liquor. Heroin was plentiful, falling out of trees. You see someone get blown away and, hey, you smoke some OJs [marijuana, of very strong quality in Vietnam] and hey, man, that's cool."

Leon: "We used to make pillows out of it. Fill up our back packs with reefer in its natural form. Them weeds was all over."

Unlike their collegiate counterparts, who also routinely got high, many came back addicted. The Army and, for a long time, the VA did little to recognize the problem or to help.

Jack McCloskey, a wounded and decorated veteran leader of the San Francisco Vet Center, says body counts are a recurring subject in his rap sessions. "They would set up competition. The company that came in with the biggest body count would be given in-country R & R [rest and recreation] or an extra case of beer. Now if you're telling a 19-year-old kid it's okay to waste people and he will be rewarded for it, what do you think that does to his psyche? Over there it was orders. Now, years later, they are reflecting on it."

Larry hides behind his sunglasses, never taking them off. ("I'm better now; I used to wear hats all the time.") He has a master's degree, two laboring jobs and is trying to sort out his life.

"I never talked about the war before," he says in a San Diego center, "because there was no solution. The dynamics of the war were such that we never came out of it well."

"We created a sick child."

They are mavericks, the men who run the centers. Most have some psychological training. All centers have at least one veteran. They do not fit easily into clinicians' white coats or bureaucratic pigeonholes. This is both their strength and weakness. They have the vital rapport with veterans but often lack the ability to administer in a way that pleases the VA's bureaucrats.

"Body counts," sighs Angel Almedina, in New York. "They're back to body counts." He rebels at having to make out reports. What they lack in expertise, the center men make up in irreverence and a fervent commitment that rivals "MASH's" Hawkeye.

Almedina grew up in a Harlem *barrio* ("I'm just a spic

from Harlem, honey."). He is barely 5 feet 3, with long, curly hair. In Vietnam he developed a drug habit. Almedina rolls up his sleeve and displays an arm the color and texture of a Madame Toussoud wax figure. "Look, baby, no marks. Been clean since '72."

Almedina talks street talk to guys who know no other language. "A dude comes in the other day. The VA sent him to us. Said he was hopeless. Never talked. We gave him space, let him go. He was with blacks and Latinos and he felt at home. Now you can't shut him up."

Across the country, in Los Angeles, is Shad Meshad, who pioneered the Vet Center concept a decade ago. He turned down the job of directing the VA program, but runs the West Coast region.

A medical service officer in Vietnam, Meshad was shot down in a helicopter. "I split my head. I was scalped." Meshad pulls back the bangs he wears to hide the scars. "I could feel my whole face slipping. Like an old bassett hound, my face just kind of fell down. I tied a bandana around it to hold it up."

Years of painful operations on his head and back, six months of "terrible readjustment problems," turned Meshad into a zealot for the veterans. "You know the \$12 million for the centers? I figured it out: That was about what it cost for 12 minutes of firepower back in Vietnam in 1969," he says caustically.

There is some inevitable ego tripping and hyperbole in Vet Center leaders, but for the most part they have functioned well in one very crucial, neglected area. It is that amorphous ability to make "contact," to reach people when others cannot. It is the same mysterious value that Alcoholics Anonymous has for people who went through years of psychiatry to no avail and then became faithful AA converts.

It is a quality that seems lost on the present VA administration. Reagan has not even appointed a head of that lumbering institution to date.

One VA spokesman, Stratton Appleman, says, "We figure the centers aren't that productive." Appleman, career Air Force for 23 years, shows no enthusiasm for the centers. "When people need psychological help they can certainly get it from the VA."

Center supporters argue that the VA dumps a lot of their patients on the centers and that the reason the centers were needed in the first place is that the VA makes no attempt at outreach. They claim that one-third of VA physicians are foreign-trained, that much of the personnel are not Vietnam veterans and that in many cases there is resistance to the concept of delayed stress.

Some Vietnam veterans feel the centers call attention to only the troubled. "Most veterans are functioning, productive members of society," says William Jayne, a former Marine rifleman. "Operation Outreach — which I see as a 'too little, too late' program — may be very helpful in some cases, but what bothers me most is that the program seems flawed by its predisposition to view the veterans as helpless, hapless victims."

The Vet Centers will not go away without a fight. For the first time, both public sentiment and lobbying clout is turning toward the Vietnam veteran. The American Legion — once anathema to turned-off Vietnam vets — is now on their side as Vietnam veterans sign up as members.

Bills were, in fact, voted out of the House Veterans Affairs Committee last week for a two-year extension of the Vet Centers.

James Webb, a Vietnam combat veteran and author of the Vietnam novel "Fields of Fire," is minority counsel for the House committee. "My hope," he says, "is that all the members who called at the time of the hostages and said, 'Is there something we can do for the Vietnam veteran?' will realize this is at least one small place where they can put their money where their mouth is."

In the '60s, 16 million young Americans beat the draft through student deferments, exemptions, legal technicalities and systematic evasion. Vietnam was a class war and the blue collar and ghetto soldiers of yesterday do not forget.

The talk in many centers is of another draft. Veterans are divided. Some are for it as the only fair way out of the grossly inequitable volunteer Army. Others — including blacks and Latinos who were drafted the last time — are sending another message.

Angel Almedina sits with a group of Vietnam veterans in Manhattan's West End bar, near Columbia University. Twelve years ago, all was unrest there — sit-ins, occupying dean's offices, marches, demonstrations. Now all is quiet. Two young men, with bookbags and peach fuzz, drink beer. The Vietnam veterans suddenly look very, very old.

"For the next war," says Almedina, nodding to the college students, "he don't go and he don't go." Then he looks across the counter. "The guy making the pizza, he go; the guy in the kitchen washing dishes, he go."

The argument for the draft is a good one: If everyone has to go, senators' sons and bank presidents' sons, maybe that will slow down the next involvement.

"But hey, man," says one black vet, "it just ain't gonna happen. The ones with pull ain't gonna go."

America lost the upper middle class in the Vietnam War. They may have lost the working class today. The legacy of Vietnam veterans — unemployment, psychological problems — is a far greater deterrent, some believe, than a new souped-up GI bill is an incentive for joining.

Spending billions for hardware while cutting programs for Vietnam veterans is hardly the way to sell a whole new generation on signing up for the next Big One.

MARY McGRORY

Lost Hopes of "Noble" Survivors

The one decent thing that happened to Vietnam veterans since they came home may be taken away from them.

"Operation Outreach," a storefront counseling service that they got in 1979, after ten years of trying, is said to be on the Reagan hit list.

Bobby Muller, the combative paraplegic who is director of Vietnam Veterans of America, is particularly bitter that David Stockman, chief of the Office of Management and Budget, is waving the knife over his luckless contemporaries. Muller calls Stockman "a 34-year-old draft-dodger."

"When I was doing what my country asked me to do, he was safe in Harvard Divinity School," says Muller. "He was against the war, but we were getting shot at. He thinks we're the suckers of the 60s."

The Readjustment Counseling Service, as "Outreach" is formally called, costs \$10 million and serves 50,000 veterans in 91 storefronts nationwide.

Delayed Stress

It has proven the most effective approach to dealing with the special misery which our most unpopular war visited on those who fought it. It is "Post-Traumatic-Stress Disorder" or delayed stress, which produces suicidal urges, nightmares, self-destructive rages and disorientation. The suicide rate is 33 per cent higher than the national average.

One of its most celebrated victims is Stephen Gregory, who is now in a Marion, Ohio jail. Gregory, a decorated former Marine, in what he called "a cry for help," took 8 hostages in a Silver Spring bank in 1977.

A compassionate judge paroled him on condition he receive psychiatric counseling, which, unfortunately, was not then available. From a locked ward in a VA hospital, he

"He thinks we're the suckers of the 60s."

broke out, made several suicide attempts, got drunk, and ended up, after a car accident, being charged with "vehicular homicide," for which he is serving from four to 15 years.

Had Outreach been in existence, his champions claim, Gregory, who knew what he needed, might have been saved.

As a matter of fact, while he was at war with the VA in Cleveland, he organized a veterans' rap group which was a kind of pilot model of the program.

John Wilson, a psychology professor at Cleveland State University, who made a study of Vietnam veterans under the auspices of the DAV, says that 700,000 of the 1.2 million Vietnam veterans suffer from PTSD, and that to deprive them of help is "immofal."

"Here's Reagan calling Vietnam a 'noble cause' and giving the Congressional Medal of Honor to a veteran, and then turning around and literally cutting off the last hope for a lot of them."

Neither Crazy Nor Alone

What the rap centers can do that the Veterans Hospitals, staffed by uncomprehending World War II veterans, can't, is to provide an informal, non-antiseptic setting, where haunted veterans, with the help of professional counselors, exchange experiences which convince them that they are neither crazy nor alone.

"We walk them through Vietnam," explains Shad Meshad, a social worker who designed the program and serves as western regional coordinator, "and we bring them out the other side."

Fury has swept through the rap groups in the past months, Meshad says.

The vets have been outraged by the ticker-tape welcome for the hostages, by reports of billion-dollar defense expenditures while their paltry budget faces extinction. They suffer from permanent anxiety about Agent Orange.

"Where were they when we come home?" they asked. "Why can't we have a \$10 million program that came ten years too late? When do we stop being losers?"

Bobby Muller made a trip to Washington in his wheelchair recently to plead for his buddies. He visited Rep. Tom Daschle, Chairman of the Congressional Caucus of Vietnam-era Veterans.

Daschle told Muller that he was the last of 17 budget protesters that day.

"It's hard to think of a way you don't seem like just another disgruntled special interest group," says Muller glumly.

Especially hard when you have a president who insists that the Vietnam War was no different from any other. Programs for older veterans, whose organizations number millions, are being spared. The Vietnam War Veterans can claim only 5,000. Muller says he has no idea how to "raise a big enough stink" to save the one victory that the "forgotten warriors" of Vietnam have won in the last ten years.

The Stars and Stripes

The Weekly Voice
Of Veterans & Dependents
Of All Wars Of
The United States

The National Tribune

"To Care For Him Who Shall
Have Borne The Battle And
For His Widow And His Orphan"
Abraham Lincoln

THE ONLY NATIONAL VETERANS' NEWSPAPER

Our 104th Year

Number 9

WASHINGTON, DC, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1981

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Veterans' Entitlements To Be Axed By Reagan Administration

Hospitals, DM&S/DVB Staff, Vietnam Vets, Head List VFW Denounces Betrayal To Welfare System; Vets Committee Members Shocked

In a tyrannical approach unmatched since the attempted slaughter by the British of Colonial America's economy, the Reagan Administration intends to systematically assimilate veterans' programs into a restructured welfare system and obliterate others from the Veterans Administration and the Department of Labor, while touting the requirements of an increase in the Defense Department budget which will create future veterans.

The confidential disclosures at a meeting of the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Tuesday of this week, brought bursts of angry objections from both Democratic and Republican Committee Members and hundreds of VFW members who had jammed the House Caucus Room. VFW members had strongly endorsed Reagan for President last year.

Many of the legislators were visibly shocked when Rep. Robert Edgar (D-PA), confirmed to the House Committee a confidential report that had been received by *The Stars and Stripes* that the proposed trampling of veterans' entitlements and programs previously mandated by the Congress, would delineate nearly \$800 million cuts in the VA budget alone.

Rep. Margaret Heckler (R-MA) was noticeably stunned and said, "I am quite shocked, to be honest," of the report.

Twenty thousand individuals from the VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery will be cut by 1986, despite the overwhelming unanimous House and Senate support of a bill last year to increase their salaries and beef up the medical staff of the VA Hospital system.

Construction projects in

Camden, NJ, and Baltimore, MD, will be stopped and other construction projects will be deferred.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program which was made permanent last year will receive no additional staffing.

The Readjustment Counseling Program will be eliminated and three other vital programs for Vietnam veterans are headed for extinction. (see VCIP, DVOP, TTA and Operation Outreach, this page). The total cost of these programs is less than \$70 million.

Thirty two hundred individuals will be fired from the VA's Dept. of Veterans Benefits by 1983.

"How can we hold our heads high as a proud nation and so betray our veterans?", VFW Commander Arthur Fellwock testified. "It is very, very, bad news."

"This is a clear signal the anti-

See Axed, Pg. 8

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

Formulated in May 1977, and funded through Title III CETA monies, DVOP has been widely acclaimed as the Carter Administration's most successful veterans employment program.

Under DVOP, 2,000 disabled veterans were hired by the various state employment services across the United States. Their job was to actively seek out other disabled veterans and provide them intensive employment assistance such as job placement or job development. Under DVOP, the veteran job placement rate increased dramatically.

Despite the undisputed success of the DVOP program, the Carter Administration reduced the staffing level from 2,000 to 1,500. In May 1980, the Administration took action to further reduce the DVOP staffing level to 1,200. At that point, former DOL Secretary Marshall intervened to insure that DVOP remained at the 1,500 level.

See DVOP, Pg. 8

Targeted Technical Assistance

The Department of Labor's Targeted Technical Assistance (TTA) Program was created on August 4, 1980, to provide assistance to prime sponsors under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) in developing specific programs to suit the employment and training needs of veterans.

See TTA, Pg. 7

Operation Outreach Vet Centers

The Veterans Health Care Amendments Act of 1979, Public Law 96-22, created the Readjustment Counseling Program for Vietnam era Veterans.

Under the Readjustment Counseling Program the VA is authorized to furnish counseling to veterans who served on active duty during the Vietnam era to assist them in readjusting to civilian life.

Operation Outreach was established as a community based

See Vets Outreach, Pg. 8

Veterans Cost Of Instruction Payments Program

The Veterans Cost of Instruction Payments Program's (VCIP) chief architect, Sen. Alan Cranston, (D-CA) designed this initiative in 1972 to correct a disturbing trend—those veterans who could most benefit from a college education were found to be the least likely to utilize the G.I. Bill.

Of those Vietnam Veterans with less than a high school degree, only about one of eight were going on to college.

On the other hand, of those Vietnam Veterans with some prior college attendance, about one of two were going on to college under the G.I. Bill. In addition; colleges did not have a veterans affairs office, nor was there an effective outreach program designed to attract those veterans that were educationally disadvantaged.

Accordingly, Sen. Cranston drafted and pushed through Congress the VCIP program. Under VCIP, eligible colleges and univer-

See VICP, Pg. 3



Proxmire Says Women In Army A Ruse

The Army's decision to hold down the number of women in enlisted ranks is "a step backward in efficiency and justice" and may be a ruse to justify a draft, Sen. William Proxmire (D-WI) said Wednesday.

Proxmire was commenting on testimony given to an armed forces subcommittee last week by William D. Clark, acting assistant secretary of the Army for manpower. Clark said the Army was "trying to hold the line on the number of women" pending the outcome of a study to determine how combat readiness would be affected by signing up female soldiers in the numbers the Defense Department has proposed. *

Senate Cuts Some Budgets

The Senate, in the first budget cuts of the 97th Congress, slashed funding for its committees overall by 10 percent for a saving of \$4.6 million.

The Senate voted, 93-0, to provide the committees with \$41.7 million for the year beginning March 1, compared with \$46.3 million last year—and Sens. Charles Mathias, (R-MD), William Roth, (R-DE), and Strom Thurmond, (R-SC), challenged the House to do the same.

Mathias, Chairman of the Rules Committee, said the vote set "an important precedent for Senate action on spending matters the rest of the year."

It marked "a very important step

See Senate, Pg. 11

Welcome To The Battle For WWI Rights:

Rep. Beverly B. Byron (D-MD)
Rep. Bill Chappell, Jr. (D-FL)
Rep. Byron L. Dorgan (D-ND)
Rep. Michey Edwards (R-OK)
Rep. Marc L. Marks (R-PA)
Rep. Robert T. Matsui (D-CA)
Rep. Ronald M. Mottl (D-OH)

See Page 9 For List Of Additional Sponsors

"Americanism is an unflinching love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity."



American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.

Emotional Problems Severe, Govt Help Minimal

A recent Harris poll found that, regardless of the stance individuals took during the Vietnam War, they felt that ex-POWs were among the Americans that they most admired. Yet, many of the 98,000 ex-POWs living today are not receiving treatment for their present mental and physical problems, says Dr. Charles A. Stenger, psychologist, Director of Services, of our Ex-POW Association.

The problem arises from the Veterans Administration protocol which stipulates that a service veteran must be able to prove that a disability is service-connected. Many of the POWs of WWII, for example, have had no such medical verification, Stenger told *Behavior Today* (BT). "They never really were examined when they were released from the POW camps. This was partly because medical personnel were more concerned with the wounded or dying; partly because the men themselves were so used to a lack of attention, so accustomed to the uselessness of complaint, that they didn't demand medical attention."

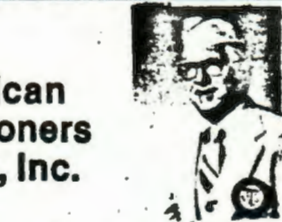


June A. Wilenz
Executive Director

With over three million disabled veterans in this country, IYDP is an important event for the veterans population. IYDP-1981, the *International Year of Disabled Persons*, was so proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. The UN has set "full participation" as the theme of the Year, and encourages each nation to observe it in a way "suitable to its social structure" and its particular stage of development. It is estimated that there are at least 450 million disabled persons in the world. Thirty five million are in this country.

To properly commemorate IYDP and to carry out the UN mandate, a U.S. Council for IYDP has been established by the White House. Alan A. Reich, disabled himself for 18 years and a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, has been named Chairman of the U.S. Council. With a staff of thirty five persons, Mr. Reich is attempting to galvanize this nation to recognize the plight and second-class status of its handicapped citizens.

For some years, the UN has been calling attention to the problems of different populations by declaring an international year—there was the International Year of the Child, and the International Year of the Woman. Some years earlier, there was International Human Rights Year. Now, we have IYDP.



Commander Stan Sommers
1400 Adler Road, Marshfield, WI 54449

The added difficulty is that many ex-POWs only show severe symptoms ten or twenty years after their release, although most have continual psychological problems— anxiety attacks, restlessness, sleeplessness, inability to hold jobs, hair-trigger tempers. All of which mean that the POWs are unlikely to hold the types of jobs that would enable them to pay for adequate medical and psychological services.

Then there is ex-POWs' anger, says Stenger: "They know that the causes of their problems are service-related, and they believe that, because they sacrificed their well-being for their country, they should be helped by government programs."

Even if an ex-POW has a physical ailment, probably he will not gain admittance to a VA hospital. Priority is given only to those who have service-related physical disabilities. The result is that the ex-POW who does not have adequate funds may never receive needed treatment.

I was incarcerated by the See Ex-POWs, Pg. 8

IYDP: The International Year Of Disabled Persons Touching Each One Of Us



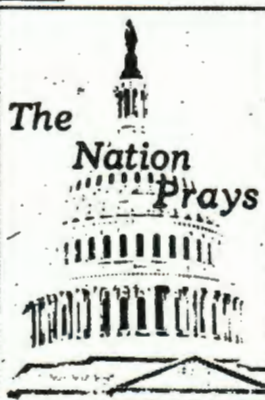
American Veterans Committee
1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

reason, the UN has not been giving, its creation the kind of support it has given to previous international years. A very small staff of seven persons situated in Geneva has been coordinating the UN effort. So far, world-wide response to IYDP has been poor, according to the perception of those who are knowledgeable. Part of the problem, they suggest, is the lack of emphasis being given it by the UN itself.

The U.S. Council has moved into full gear to make IYDP meaningful here. Over 1500 communities have already established liaison with the Council and are developing plans. Three hundred plus national organizations have joined the Council, with many others in the process of doing so. Alan Reich's team would like to touch every community in the nation.

"The Council, with the cooperation of 'Partners' who have joined in support—mayors, governors, organizations, business and labor, in addition to many concerned citizens with and without disabilities—is carrying out a grassroots effort to offer every community in the nation an opportunity to improve the lives of their citizens with disabilities and help our country meet the UN challenge successfully," Reich says.

The "Partnerships" that the Council for the IYDP is trying to create would unite disabled and nondisabled Americans in order to



This prayer was offered by the former Chaplain of the Senate, Reverend Edward L. R. Elson.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.—Psalms 103:13.

"Our Father, we are all as little children. Sometimes we cannot hear Thee for our own noise, and because we hear Thee not, we would like to think Thou art not there. Like children we rush upon new problems only to find ourselves inadequate; we lift great weights only to drop them again; we come to Thee only as a last resort, who might have learned to seek first the kingdom of God." Teach us afresh our dependence on Thee. In all our perplexities let the steady tones of Thy voice come through. We are only children, but we are Thy children. There is much in this great world to disturb us and confound us. But Thou, our Father, made it all, and we would not go blundering about without Thee. Anew we look to Thee for the benediction of Thy presence, Thy guidance, Thy sympathy, and Thine aid."

—Robert Freeman, 1926
Amen.

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and full participation. Many advances have been made in the last decade. Ramps are replacing stairs; doors are widening; sign language is more apparent. New public buildings are being built to be accessible; some in the private sector. The needs of the disabled are being taken into account as transportation conveyances are built or remodeled. Employers, under the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, are hiring more handicapped individuals. But there are many more things that need to be done; many more individuals who need to be sensitized. As the Council points out "We begin with being



AMVETS Nat'l Headquarters
4647 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, MD 20801

We hear much about terrorism. Alexander Haig, in one of his first acts as Secretary of State, declared war on international terrorism. The United States Supreme Court Chief Justice, Warren E. Burger, recently attacked what he considered to be our tolerance of terrorism in the large cities.

Haig, of course, was referring to the geopolitical concept and placed the principal blame on the Soviets. The chief Justice was consumed by his favored preoccupation, namely, the high crime rate in the United States.

Although both forms have much in common, their philosophical roots and conceptual applications are different.

Regarding the domestic front which touches us more directly, Burger complained that too much protection is provided for the accused and too little for the victim of the crime. He lamented the fact that slogans preach that poverty causes crime. A more effective way to deter crime, he suggested, is by swift and complete justice.

Many agree. They point to the fact that it has not always been thus, as the true role and intent of criminal jurisprudence under the early English common law, the system we adopted, was to protect the affluent from rogues and bandits.

Through an insidious evolutionary process, the emphasis gradually shifted from providing a protective role for the victim to championing the rights of the accused. We became obsessed with values which have become known as civil rights. We found that suddenly, the purpose of the law was not to pursue justice, as we intended, as much as it was to defend the malefactor. The victim's rights became forfeit as they were gradually weaned away and mysteriously bequeathed to the offender.

These changes, more philosophical than legalistic, substituted compassion as a corollary for vengeance. An illustrative case is that of the

As We See It The Law Of Moses



GABRIËL P. BRINSKY
National Service & Legislative
Director of AMVETS

Soviet spies, Alfred and Martha Stern.

According to the indictments handed down in 1957, the Sterns were in control of a sophisticated Soviet spy ring in the United States. Alfred, a wealthy businessman and his wife, the daughter of a former American Ambassador to Germany, fled the country prior to their indictments. They eventually settled in Czechoslovakia after a sojourn in Cuba.

In 1971, they filed applications for passports to return to the United States. It was agreed to permit their entry if they consented to be interrogated abroad by the FBI concerning their involvement in Soviet espionage. They refused.

Pressures were exerted to permit their return to the States. Compassion was urged. Arguments were advanced that they should be allowed to spend their last few remaining years at "home." After all, justice should be kind and generous, was the plea.

So it came to pass that in March 1979, the indictments were dismissed. The Sterns were free to return to the country they betrayed. Yet, indisputably, their crime was amongst the most despicable known to mankind. It mattered not that they established their "home" in a communist country. It mattered not that they would not cooperate with the United States, even as they relentlessly sought its boundaries.

The time for reflection is gone when we arrive at the stage where we are willing to embrace indicted spies to our bosom. The law has drifted a long way from the precepts of ancient Hebrew justice of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

In our attempt to combat crime, maybe we should return to an unpurged version of the early common law. We might even benefit by leaning just a mite in the direction of the rationalization of the Talmud and civil law as proclaimed by the law of Moses. *

SPEAKING OUT!

"Why don't somebody print the truth about our present economic condition? We spent years of wild buying on credit, everything under the sun, whether we needed it or not, and now we are having to pay for it, and we are howling like a pet coon. This would be a great world to dance in if we didn't have to pay the fiddler."

—Will Rogers

OUR STUDENT PRESIDENT: It appears to me, President Reagan is a student of Will Rogers philosophy. Since I am an avid fan of Will Rogers and after listening to President Reagan for the past

A Veteran's Viewpoint....

By E. Grant Taylor

always supported his political views.

Nobody printed the truth of our present economic condition. On the other hand, Reagan has been telling us all about it and, I might add, forcefully. So much so that the American people swept him into the highest office in our land. Anyone who wants to know where Reagan is coming from, I suggest they get a copy of *The Best of Will Rogers*, by Crown Publishers, Inc.

It is my view the members of the United States Congress of both Houses are fortunate Will Rogers is not with us today. Why? Because oh what a job Rogers would do on all of them. Especially Kennedy,

VCIP

From Pg. 1

sities would receive Office of Education (OE) monies with which to establish a full time visible veterans affairs office designed to recruit and retain veteran students to their respective institutions. The law provided that eligible schools would receive \$300 per student veteran and an additional \$150 per educationally disadvantaged veteran.

President Nixon signed VCIP into law prior to his 1972 reelection but then had second thoughts in 1973 and illegally impounded the minimum funding for the program. A fledgling Vietnam Veteran Group, then known as the National Association of Collegiate Veterans, successfully sued and the VCIP funds were finally released later that year. During FY 1973, 1,052 eligible colleges and universities shared the \$25 million appropriated for VCIP. However the program was funded at only 17.75 percent of the \$300 per veteran provided for in the statute, a consistent problem in securing dollars lawfully allocated to veterans programs.

By late 1973, most of the more than 1,000 eligible schools had ac-

tive veterans affairs offices in place where heretofore there had been nothing. Many of the schools were attended by student veterans who worked during the day and went to class at night. For that reason, office hours at some VCIP offices were extended from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. At some community colleges, as many as 50 percent of the student veterans attended night classes.

In 1974, the VA established the "VA Vet Rep on Campus" program which supplemented the VCIP program on many campuses. Under the "Vet Rep" program, 1,300 Vietnam Era Veterans were stationed by the VA on various campuses—often within the VCIP office itself—with the mission of clearing up VA paperwork problems and advising veterans of their benefits. On most campuses, VCIP and Vet Rep people worked harmoniously to meet the needs of their fellow veterans. Under federal statute, one VA Vet Rep was allocated for every 500 student veterans, but this ratio was never met.

See VCIP, Pg. 8

VA And Army Medics Use Teamwork VAMC Transfer Of Patients "Fantastic"

It was moving day at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in the Bronx, New York City. About 350 patients had to be moved from the old facility to the new \$150 million hospital complex, some 200 yards away.

Some 60 spinal cord cases and 12 individuals who were under intensive care posed a serious problem until the VA called in the Army Reserve's 8th Medical Brigade, headquartered at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn.

Twenty-three Army nurses and 150 medical corpsmen and hospital personnel made the move a smooth one for the patients, one of the largest single transfers in metropolitan New York's history. The transfer took just less than seven hours and was completed without incident.

"It's fantastic. We've finally done it," said Roy C. McCracken, Director of the Medical Center. *

VFW Leader Hails Stand On El Salvador

Arthur Fellwock, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars has hailed as "timely, gutsy, and long over-due" the stand that the Reagan Administration has taken aimed at halting and reversing in El Salvador what has been described by State Department Secretary Haig as "a text book case of indirect aggression by Communist powers through Cuba."

The VFW leader said that, "If we can't win here in our own backyard, no longer can we be viewed as an effective, great power."

He continued, "Secretary Haig is using his 'first team' on this bloody and unambiguous challenge, by sending Ambassador Larry Eagleburger to advise our NATO allies of our concern over El Salvador and by the replacement in San Salvador of Ambassador

Robert White by Deane Hinton." Fellwock agreed with the conclusions of a State Department report on Communist support for the insurgency in El Salvador.

The State Department report concluded that the record leaves little doubt that the Salvadoran insurgency has become the object of a large-scale commitment by Communist states outside Latin America.

"Not only do I agree with the conclusions of this report—and the hard facts upon which they are based—but I would make one final observation," said the VFW Commander.

"The political direction, organization and arming of the insurgency is coordinated and heavily influenced by Cuba—with active support of the Soviet Union, East

See El Salvador, Pg. 10

Armstrong To Receive NCOA Award

Sen. William L. Armstrong (D-CO) was selected by the Non Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S.A. (NCOA) to be the 1981 recipient of its "L. Mendel Rivers Award for Legislative Action."

A spokesman for NCOA said Sen. Armstrong won the unanimous approval of the Association's selection committee in recognition of his determination and dedication to assist the men and women of the U.S. armed forces. According to the panel spokesman, Armstrong was the legislator who last year awakened Congress to the inadequate wages and allowances received by service personnel. His persistence and tenacity in pushing for a military pay hike brought about needed improvements in military compensation necessary to recruit and retain qualified and experienced personnel.

The award was first introduced to Congress in May 1971. The initial recipient was Sen Strom Thurmond (D-SC).

The award will be presented to Armstrong at the 21st Annual NCOA International Convention, June 10-14, 1981, at the Radisson Muehleback Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri.

"Hundreds of noncommissioned and petty officers will be on hand at the convention to herald the latest champion of the Armed Forces," said the NCOA spokesman. "They think of Armstrong as a new L. Mendel Rivers who was the service members' greatest congressional supporter in the 1960s."

NCOA, with its main headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, has a worldwide membership in excess of 200,000 noncommissioned and petty officers who are members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard; on active duty, retired, in the reserve or guard, or in a veteran's status. *

AA Research Team Probes Arthritis

Ann Arbor, MI, Researchers at the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Medical Center are engaged in studies of two forms of crippling arthritis that strike young men.

Armin Good, M.D., Chief of the VA Rheumatology Section and an expert in Reiter's syndrome and ankylosing spondylitis, has teamed up with Jane Schultz, Ph.D., a research geneticist, to probe the role of a certain inherited tissue type found in victims of the two diseases.

Both researchers are headquartered at the VA. Good also is professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School. Schultz is assistant dean for curriculum at the university and assistant professor of human genetics at the medical school.

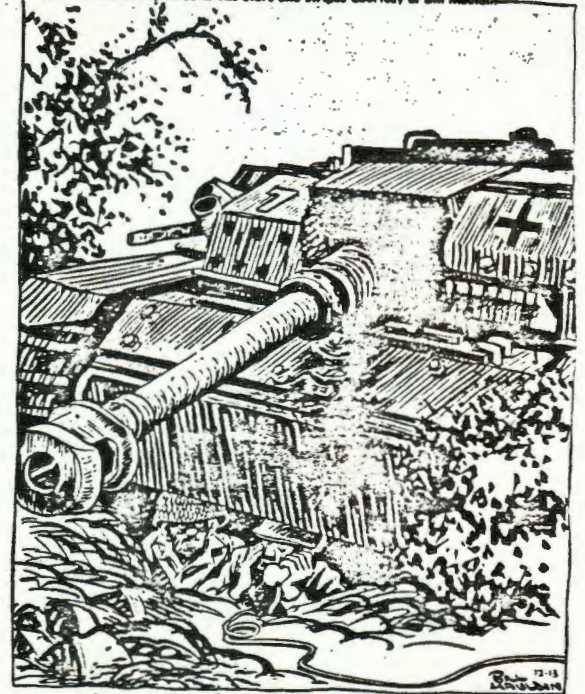
Ankylosing spondylitis, a condition in which the ligaments of the spine harden into bone, may afflict as many as one out of 100 people, Good said. Reiter's syndrome, which may start as a bowel or genital infection and lead to a painful build-up of fluid in the knees and other joints, is more rare.

Interest in the familial nature of the two diseases was rekindled a

See AA Research, Pg. 10

Up Front with Willie & Joe

© by Bill Meekins. Reprinted in The Stars and Stripes Courtesy of Bill Meekins



"Able Fox Five to Able Fox. I got a target but ya gotta be patient."

DAV's Concern: Vets Decline In Congress

DAV National Commander Stan Pealer, a Vietnam veteran, is concerned about the declining number of wartime veterans being elected to serve in the United States Congress.

"Ten years after the end of World War II," the commander said, "the vast majority of members of Congress were Second World War veterans. Many of them were combat veterans, and a goodly number were combat disabled."

"These veterans were very conscious of the price tag of war. They understood the need to maintain and improve a separate system of veterans' benefits and services. They fully appreciated the sacrifices through which disabled veterans have earned the rights and benefits they and their families enjoy. They simply knew that disabled veterans were not to be treated as welfare recipients."

Today, these veterans, who guarded veterans' programs for more than a quarter of a century, are retiring from Congress in increasing numbers. And Pealer said they're not being replaced by Vietnam era veterans in numbers adequate to ensure a solid base of understanding in the Congress of the need for veterans' programs.

However, Pealer was encouraged that all of the Vietnam era veterans who served in the 96th Congress and ran for re-election to the 97th Congress won the seats for which they ran.

A list of Vietnam era veterans who won re-election to the Congress, compiled by the Vietnam Veterans in Congress caucus, is provided below. Though this list may seem substantial, Pealer noted that many of these congressmen and senators served for training purposes only in the Reserves or National Guard and that only a few saw combat in Vietnam.

In addition to the re-election victories listed retired Navy Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton, who was a

POW in North Vietnam for seven years, was elected as a Senator from Alabama.

"In stating my concern over the declining number of veterans in Congress," said Commander Pealer, "I don't want to imply that nonveterans cannot be friends of veterans. Many nonveteran politicians have lined up on our side time and time again."

"I do mean to say, however, that we're going to have to work very hard in the future to make sure that our representatives in Congress understand why veterans' programs are needed. We'll have to build an awareness among nonveteran politicians that veterans' benefits were earned through sacrifice for our country."

Vietnam Era Veterans Re-elected to House Seats
 Les Aspin (D-Wis.)
 U.S. Army, 1966-68
 Don Bailey (D-Pa.)
 U.S. Army, 1967-70
 Michael D. Barnes (D-Md.)

See Concern, Pg. 8

87 Percent Registered For Draft

The Selective Service reported that 87 percent of eligible young men registered for the draft in January.

Spokeswoman Joan Lamb said 1,717,468 men born in 1962 had signed up, out of 1,987,000 eligibles. Late registrations are continuing.

By comparison, one month after last summer's registration, compliance had reached 93 percent, she said.

The January registration was the last concentrated signup for a specific age group. From now on, men are asked to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. *

The Stars and Stripes

The Only National Veterans' Newspaper
ESTABLISHED 1917

POWER

*"The deaths ye have died, I have watched beside,
And the lives that ye lead, were mine." —Kipling.*

What a stupid mistake. What a staggering distortion of "bold and creditable action" to save the economy: frag the veterans.

Are the Reagan people reading their own script? Where are the Emperor's clothes? While he stands nakedly exposed mouthing the words of the dedicated and the dead of former years, Dave Stockman is busily in the wings stitching a hair shirt which promises to be an incurable itch.

It's like being in a time warp; everything about it is familiar, we've been there before. Years of national failures and frustrations, punctuated by periodic attempts by new administrations to identify the fat, fraud, abuse and waste within government, followed by jingoistic new "Agendas for Progress" which are simplistic pseudonyms for "ante up again, America".

That's the same America that slogged through World War One, and contrary to popular intellectual beliefs, did not get a pension, many of whom still do not get Social Security.

The same America that beat their pennies, pots and tableware into swords and back into ploughshares during World War Two, stepped up again for the Korean conflict, and decimated their progeny during an excursion in Southeast Asia, euphemistically called the Vietnam War. A war the President called a noble cause, probably because the United States' offensive commitment was zero.

But this time gentlemen, you have gone too far. The latest pronouncement to suck in our belts smacks of pathological hypocrisy.

Candidate Reagan received a clear mandate from the American people who were intimately aware of the potential "economic Dunkirk" — that's why they voted him in. They expected to do without, to suffer and endure additional hardships in order to effectively re-establish the economic and political integrity of this Nation. They did not expect to also be subjected to wholesale slaughter of their basic rights as former members of the Armed Services.

During the presidential campaign, they had been re-inspired by a man who strode forth and profoundly and sincerely expressed their sentiments, another patriot who reasserted their American spirit which had nearly smothered under the searing guilt of Saigon's fall.

Is this the same man today who would rise and salute the flag but skewer to the flag pole the dismembered, the sick, the poor, the aged, the jobless, who bled to re-erect that flag all over the earth?

Last September Candidate Reagan said glorious things:

—"unconscionable that veterans in need are denied hospital and medical care...within the VA."

—"a breach of faith...that the administration rammed through Congress a pension program admittedly designed to deny such to World War Two veterans and survivors."

—"the height of hypocrisy for the administration in high sounding words...how much we owe our Vietnam veterans, and then, only in this election year...a stingy ten percent increase in the GI Bill."

—"the cruelest betrayal of all...proposed national health plan which...would have made the VA hospital and medical care system the nucleus of national health insurance."

—"We will maintain the integrity of the Veterans Administration..."

Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, the script read. The American people, thirty million of whom are voting veterans, believed him.

President Reagan summoned forth better memories of another day when he eulogized World War One soldiers during his Inaugural speech, and has since singled out Vietnam veterans for their undeniable heroic contributions, a decade past. And hope, nurtured on renewed promise, sprang higher in the breasts of those who knew what it was to dig in.

Was it mouth-dancing? We believe it was not. We surmise that the redoubtable David Stockman's expertise has hit a professional snag called arrogance, a common stumbling block which

Point of View

Universal Service-Military Training

By Jack Oberle, Past Commander
Sarasota Bay Post #30,
The American Legion

When he was serving his country as Chief-of-Staff, President Dwight D. Eisenhower tried unsuccessfully to persuade the Congress to establish a sound system of Universal Military Training. He felt that it would be desirable, not only from the standpoint of military preparedness, but for reasons of providing fitness and discipline among our youth.

President Eisenhower believed that UMT would provide the fairest approach to the always thorny problem of manpower procurement. Now, more than ever before, the United States should adopt as a cornerstone of its defense establishment, a workable plan of Universal Military Training.

Selective Service has resulted in unfairness to the young men who are called and to their state of mind, which President Eisenhower thought was bad for the service. We can thank God that this country still has a majority of young people who do have a strong sense of patriotism, who understand and believe in the efforts of the United States to contain communism before it engulfs the world.

Their patriotism is not only a noble emotion, but it is necessary for

national survival. It is also an emotion that can be diluted by bitterness engendered by a system that is deemed unfair.

In bringing forth a system of UMT, the following objectives should be kept in mind:

It should be a system that will provide the manpower and womanpower our country needs for its entire worldwide commitments;

It must be flexible to permit the country, in times of emergency, to bring additional personnel into the armed services quickly;

It must eliminate present unfairness;

It must bring to our young people an understanding of their obligation to serve their country and a sense of participation in the nation's aims;

It should be a builder of physical fitness, self-discipline and decent personal habits;

It should include the vast numbers of men and women who would be exempt because of educational deficiencies or moderate disabilities such as "trick" knees, overweight, and other minor correctable infirmities.

President Eisenhower would have

started UMT on a young person's eighteenth birthday and thought eighteen months to two years would be the proper enlistment period.

If it became necessary to bring additional personnel into the armed services, he thought that a lottery would be the fairest way to do so, conducted from among those who had already served in the UMT program.

It must be emphasized that there must be no partiality demonstrated in any part of the program; every young man and young woman must stand on their own feet, on their own merits. All those who complete the UMT program and serve on a wartime status should have their future schooling financed by the Veterans Administration in the same way veterans who served in other wars have been compensated.

To be an American citizen is a privilege and along with that privilege goes the responsibility to assure that this country survives as a democratic nation. If the privileges of citizenship apply to all of its people, then all members of our society must bear the responsibility to embellish and protect those privileges. *

Patriotic Puerto Rico Steps Up Again

It is with great pleasure that I want to inform you that on January 28, 1981, a bill to provide a service pension for veterans of World War I was introduced by me. This bill, H.R. 1367, is similar to H.R. 1918 which was introduced in the 96th Congress.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 1918 during the last Congress, and having among my constituents a large number of veterans, I am willing to help the veterans of this Nation in their most difficult moments; they offered themselves to this Nation when we needed them.

Please be free to contact my office if in anything I can be of help to improve the way of life of our veterans.---Baltasar Corrada, M.C., 1319 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. *

Ed note: The foregoing letter appeared in the February 19, 1981 issue without the name and address of the writer, Resident Commissioner Baltasar Corrada, M.C., of Puerto Rico. We apologize for the oversight.

Mitchell Memo

There's a saying that goes: "Government agencies never die, they just get reorganized." That's been an accurate statement for a long time, but recently one federal agency did die. It was the Council on Wage and Price Stability. Established in 1974, its mission was to reduce inflation. Obviously, it failed.

Recently, President Reagan has tripped other youths, particularly those who have never heard a shot fired in anger, never donned a uniform, nor had their feet held to a fire they built themselves.

What a despicable abuse of his own ability. What a curious empty attempt to enlist support for his extraordinary programs. If the flag should fall again in the dirt of political expediency, who does the resourceful Mr. Stockman and his entourage believe will pick it up?

Letters to the Editor

decided to put this poor creature out of its misery. He abolished the Council, told its 135 employees to look for other work and asked Congress not to spend the \$1.3 million allocated for the Council's operations.

At its inception, the Council was supposed to monitor the economy as a whole and review the effects of federal policies on inflation. President Carter made the Council the centerpiece of his anti-inflation program. He gave it the authority to establish and monitor voluntary wage and price guidelines. Under those guidelines, the inflation rate nearly doubled—from 7.5 percent to 13.5 percent.

Obviously, the Council cannot be blamed for the increase, but it's just as obvious that the Council did nothing to halt inflation. Instead of confronting the root causes of inflation—productivity stifled by high taxes and excessive regulation and large deficits caused by massive federal spending—another government agency was created. The Council was only a symbol to demonstrate that inflation was being fought. Unfortunately, the Council lost that confrontation.

Now, the Council is gone, but the battle against inflation goes on. Hopefully, that fight will be aided by the recognition that more government is not the answer to many of our problems.—Congressman Donald J. Mitchell (R-NY). *

Gold Medal For Hostages?

The legislation regarding Gold Medals for the hostages, is without

a doubt the biggest piece of garbage I've heard to date.

As a Vietnam vet of 3 combat tours during the early and mid 60's, my questions are what about the MIA's and the POW's of Nam? What were they?

What we have here is a total disregard for true heroes. A possible exception is Sgt. Jimmy Lopez, however, he to was only doing his job.

If this jerk, Congressman Frank Annunzio (D-IL) were thinking properly, he would take disciplinary action against the individual who surrendered the complex in the first place.—SSG. Mark W. McCall, U.S. Army. *

First Known Survivor Of Whipples Disease

I am delighted with Feb. 5th issue of *Stars and Stripes* for it carried all veterans news up to date. I love my DAV Veterans Book but *Stars and Stripes* is quicker with the news and I read every word in it. I only wish I could get this paper every Saturday like I once did. I like to study it over the weekend.

I was surprised to read on the front page about Whipple's Disease. I was told at the Veteran's Hospital in Richmond, VA, in 1961 that I was the first known survivor of this terrible disease.

I have not met Dr. William Dobbins, III of the Ann Arbor VAMC, but I have attended many, many conferences on Whipples Disease at Richmond. I have been interviewed by many VA doctors since 1961. I was thirty years old when they diagnosed my case; I am fifty one now and thankful to be alive.

Dr. Dobbins didn't mention one of the symptoms of this disease which is Color. I am a white male, but when Whipples was diagnosed I was as Black as Joe Lewis and this was what prompted the doctors to look for Whipples Disease.

I prayed to die day and night all of 1961 for my suffering was

Point of View

Who, What And Where Are The WWI Veterans

By Mildred A. Ferguson
Rancho Mirage, California

Thank goodness, the whining and griping of the Veterans of WWII, the Korean and Vietnam wars about all the glory and parades given to our hostages, is finally easing off.

If I were they, I would thank God every day of my life that at least they, the Veterans, returned home safely. I lost my one and only son in the Vietnam war, but he gave his life doing what he wanted to do—serve his country.

I was astounded recently when a lady told me that a man in Palm Springs had asked her—"Who are the WWI Veterans?" She did not know that these are the men who fought "the war to end all wars"—a conflict between the Allies and Central Powers which began in 1914 and ended when the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

Thousand upon thousands of our men are lying in graves in Flanders Field in France, their final resting place marked with row upon row of white crosses. Many of the men

who were lucky enough to come home are suffering with a service-connected disability. The rest of them, whose average age is 83 years, are now few and far between.

What are the WWI Veterans and what has been done for them? Only those who have a documented service-connected disability are receiving a pension and that is very small. Up until January 1, 1980, they did not even get medical care in our Veterans Hospitals; only those with service-connected disabilities were allowed to receive health care.

These men were supposed to have been given the same status as the Spanish-American War Veterans, of whom there are very few left alive. However, Congress deleted part of the bill so they do not now get dental care along with the few other services they receive. Those few men that are left are now fighting for a pension of \$150 per month—don't you think it is time

they receive this small pittance?

Where are these WWI Veterans? They are scattered all over the United States and the majority of them live in either Florida or California where the climate is more beneficial to their ailments. Their number decreases by the thousands each year. Of the over four million WWI Veterans, there are now less than 500,000.

Men, and widows of WWI Veterans, if you do not belong to a WWI Barracks or Auxiliary, check your local service organizations and please join for we need all the members we can get to support our efforts to get what you so justly deserve. Had it not been for the WWI veterans who started the American Legion and other service organizations, the veterans of the wars that followed would not be receiving the benefits they are receiving today.

So quit your beefin' men and stand behind the elderly men who got you what you have today. *

Letters

unbearable without demoral which left me addicted for that year. I weighed 90 lbs after dropping from 230 lbs.

I am totally disabled now, but can use a walker some. I have many articles written on me by VA doctors. I just want to say the Stars and Stripes paper is good, real good. Please you can read this some way. I am very shaky trying to write. Keep up the Vets News and this will remain the vets paper.—Daniel T. Boston, Gen. Delivery, Unionville, VA 22567. *

Plain And Simple

Before the President's budget message the other night, a colleague gave me his opinion of economists.

"A scientist," he told me, "is like a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat."

"A philosopher," he continued, "is like a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there."

"But an economist," he raged, "is like a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there, and is always yelling, 'I found it, I found it.'"

My skeptical friend was rather surprised at the end of the President's speech.

"You know what," he said, "maybe 'Reaganomics' really is different."

In fact, the President's economic approach, dubbed "Reganomics," is very different than that of recent administrations. Rather than claiming to have found the solution to our nation's social and economic problems, the President seeks simply to remove government-imposed barriers to economic growth.

The idea that it is within the government's power to fine tune the economy through intervention in the private sector has been discredited by years of double-digit inflation and declining productivity. Past "solutions" have grown into multi-billion dollar programs that then became part of the problem.

Let's take the Trade Adjustment Assistance program as an example.

TTA

From Pg. 1

Historically, the CETA program had a poor record of services to veterans, primarily because most CETA programs are designed for other client groups, particularly youth, and do not appeal to, or meet many of the critical special needs of the veteran population.

TTA was designed to meet the requirement of CETA legislation which provides that the Secretary of Labor "take appropriate steps to increase the participation of disabled and Vietnam era veterans in all CETA programs."

TTA draws upon the experience of successful CETA community programs for veterans, while at the same time streamlining the veterans community services system.

The VA's Vet Center program reports show that nationally, 48 percent of all Center clients need employment services. TTA provides those services through the development of cost effective programs which emphasize placement of veterans into private sector jobs. TTA is targeted to reach 40 prime sponsors during 1981.

Former Secretary of Labor Marshall announced on May 18, 1980

assist workers who had lost their jobs due to foreign competition. In four years the program costs rose to \$2.5 billion as every class of worker even remotely affected by foreign competition was certified for coverage.

The predictable result was a boost to inflation, an increase in the national debt, and discouragement of a necessary redistribution of the American workforce to strong domestic industries.

The President's program for economic recovery will simply cut this and similar programs down to size. After all, we've learned the hard way that an expanding economy isn't built on handouts, overregulation and increased taxes to pay for it all.

Personal initiative and hard work are the foundation of the American economy, and it doesn't take a Ph.D. in economics to figure that out.—Rep. Wayne Grisham

that \$4.8 million would be made available in fiscal year 1981 to provide seed money to local communities in setting up veterans programs.

Under TTA, prime sponsors were required, at a minimum, to match monies provided from Washington, with local CETA funds, thus assuring a community investment in the program and effectively doubling monies invested in veterans employment and training programs.

At the same time, the active involvement of federal, state, and local agencies, including the VA and State Employment Service was sought, thus increasing the resources available to the program and assuring that existing available services are not duplicated.

Marshall had originally intended that the \$4.8 million funding for TTA be drawn from Special National Program Activities under CETA Title III.

Owing to the scarcity of these funds, however, the Labor Department later decided to use discretionary funds generated by CETA Title VI, Public Service Employment. President Reagan's projected cut of \$635 million from the \$3.18 billion public employment service budget would reduce the available discretionary funds by 20 percent.

In light of the forthcoming cuts, and a desire on the part of the Reagan Administration to phase out Title VI early, the Department of Labor froze all Title VI grant activities on February 25, 1981.

While sources close to the TTA program state that the program could continue with a proportional cut in its budget, the indefinite nature of the grant freeze will have an immediate devastating effect on current negotiations with approximately 30 prime sponsors, as well as on the program's overall credibility with local communities.

If the Department of Labor does not grant immediate relief from the freeze for programs funded with the Title VI discretionary funds, the TTA program will become the fourth Vietnam veteran program to

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THE AMERICAN CREED
"I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon these principles: freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes."

"I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."
—William Tyler Page

AMERICANISM

"Americanism is a swelling love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity."—Definition adopted at the joint conference of the Commanders-in-Chief of the five big veterans' organizations in Washington, D.C. on February 18, 1927.

Marines Building Mock POW Camp Will Teach POW Torture Resistance

Marines at Camp Lejeune, NC, where Pfc. Robert Garwood was convicted of collaborating with the enemy while in a Vietnam prison camp, are building a mock prisoner of war camp to train soldiers to withstand psychological torture during captivity.

The camp, complete with barbed wire, interrogators and prison guards, will feature an intensive five-day training program that may also provide practice for Marine interrogators, the *News and Observer* of Raleigh reported.

The program, which will be the only one of its kind in the Marine Corps, will be one of three in the U.S. military, officials said. It will begin next month.

The training course comes as officers, psychiatrists and others debate what should constitute the proper behavior of military captives. The debate surfaced during the trial of Garwood, who was convicted last week of collaborating with the Viet Cong during two of his 14 years as a prisoner of war.

His attorneys contended his treatment in the camp pushed him into insanity.

Marine officials said Garwood's case had nothing to do with the training program. They said the camp is being built at the request of Maj. Gen. David Twomey, 2nd Marine Division Commander.

Col. Carl E. Mundy, Jr., Chief-of-Intelligence for the division, said the camp is an extension of the military's Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape Training, which trains men to live in the wilderness.

The camp will consist of guarded concrete block buildings, originally marked for demolition, on a remote area of the base. It will train about 150 Marines at a time. Mundy said former POWs probably

Freedom Of Information Day

March 16 is the birthday of James Madison, the Founding Father who recognized the need for the Bill of Rights, and the fourth President of the United States. Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-HI) is co-sponsoring Sen. William Proxmire's S. J. Res. 22 resolution to proclaim March 16 as "Freedom of Information Day."

"The annual observance would remind Americans of the Bill of Rights and, in particular, the First Amendment which protects freedom of the press and speech," Matsunaga said.

"Many Americans take our Constitutional guarantees of freedom of information for granted. Because they've never known any other way of life, they do not realize how fundamentally the Bill of Rights affects everyday life in the United States."

"Freedom of Information Day would remind us of our individual rights and freedoms and of the continuing need to protect them," Matsunaga said. *

The camp will focus on ways Marines can resist psychological torture used in connection with interrogation, said Maj. D. H. Ingram, Intelligence Operations officer for the 2nd Division.

The mock captors will teach Marines about various ways to break down a prisoner's will to resist, he said. Those included segregation, isolation, false information and deprivation of food and privileges.

Physical abuse is not in store for the trainees, Mundy adds because experience has shown that anyone can crack under torture.

"The point is, we are not out to try and break a man," he said.

Former POWs who testified at Garwood's court-martial admitted that nearly all the men in their POW camp had cooperated with the enemy to some extent under

In The Congressional Hopper

Rep. William Lehman (D-FL), has re-introduced legislation that will give federal retirees who did not elect survivor benefits at the time of retirement, a second chance to do so.

Under current law, Lehman notes, a federal employee must choose to elect survivor benefits at the time of retirement, or if not married at that time, must decide if he or she wants survivor benefits within one year from the date of marriage.

According to Lehman, H.R. 1398 gives civil service retirees a year from the date of the bill's enactment or date of retirement to take advantage of this opportunity.

Rep. Richard Ottinger (D-NY), wants to eliminate the pension offset that requires each state to deduct retirement benefits from unemployment checks.

Charging that this "cruel and unfair provision is causing great financial hardship for older workers" in his state and elsewhere, Ottinger has reintroduced a bill (H.R. 1429) to correct this inequity.

No individual "who is involuntarily unemployed and looking for work" should be "denied the same unemployment benefits as those received by other job seekers simply because that individual has earned certain retirement benefits," Ottinger said.

Rep. Les Aspin (D-WI), has introduced legislation that will help federal employees and officials on salary even though agency funds have expired. The measure—H.R. 1355—is designed to eliminate the yearly threat of agency shutdowns

VCIP From Pg. 3

By FY 1979, OMB and the House Appropriations Committee seriously reduced the Vet Rep program, despite protests from VA officials and veterans students across the country. VCIP people, the students, were once again on their own without direct professional assistance from the VA on their campus.

By FY 1980, the Vet Rep program was all but dead and the VCIP budget had been slashed to \$14.4 million at 1,070 campuses. It was further reduced another 2 million to \$12 million for 1,017 campuses for FY '81.

The Amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1980 provided authorization for VCIP funding through FY 1984 but in January 1981, Carter - formed new Department of Education formerly at HEW, at the request of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, announced that there would be no funding request for VCIP beyond June 30, 1981.

In a November 1980 letter to the Secretary of Education, the then Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs incorrectly stated that the VA had reduced and would soon terminate the Vet Rep program because "the number of veterans students has declined since the 1976 peak."

In point of fact, VA officials wanted to retain the Vet Rep program intact and with the loss of that program have often increasingly relied on VCIP people instead of

DVOP From Pg. 1 Concern From Pg. 3

In October 1980, Congress enacted P.L. 96-466 which required the Secretary of Labor to provide sufficient monies to re-establish DVOP as a permanent program at the original 2,000 staff level.

However, DOL has to this date, given no indication that it intends to comply with the DVOP provision of P.L. 96-466. Indeed, during the 3 months subsequent to the enactment of 96-466, the DVOP budget as prescribed by Marshall of nearly \$30 million (for 1,500 DVOP employees) was mysteriously reduced (presumably by former DOL Assistant Secretary Ernie Green) to a mere \$19 million.

A review of the Reagan Administration's FY 82 and 83 budget projections leaked to the Stars and Stripes this week, if correct, indicates the DVOP program will be dismantled. These budget projects call for the total elimination of Title III CETA funding for DVOP.

Instead, state agencies will thus be forced to absorb the DVOP program within the confines of an already strained budget and rigid personnel ceilings as for the past 15 years, Congress has imposed a personnel ceiling of 30,000 slots which, of course, has not provided for DVOP.★

when Congress—through lengthy debates over controversial issues—fails to appropriate funds before the end of the fiscal year.

Rep. Melvin Price (D-IL), wants to give civil service retirement credit to federal employees who worked as national guard technicians before January 1, 1969. The bill—H.R. 1435—would also permit that credit to be used in computing length of service, so that leave, health insurance, severance pay, tenure, and status, could be determined when the worker retires.★

Axed From Pg. 1

veterans, and the social-welfare planners to whom everyone is equal and no one is special, have gotten to the Administration," he said. The hundreds of VFW members broke their stunned silence and burst into applause.

Heckler, long a staunch informed fighter on the Hill for veterans entitlements, said "I do not believe we must improve a budget by destroying the medical services of the veterans' hospitals." She said the Federal budget must be cut, "but when we get into the hospital wards, we are going to destroy our commitment to veterans."

See Axed, Pg. 10

the Vet Reps.

The November letter puzzled the Stars and Stripes since two months later (with the Vet Rep program dead and with VCIP dying), the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs sponsored legislation that would provide for a brand new G.I. Bill.

Who would implement the program since there are no Vet Reps and as of June 30, no VCIP people to assist veterans students. The Stars and Stripes has learned that the Reagan Administration has taken no action to retain the VCIP funding.★

- Marines Corps, 1967-69
- Robin L. Beard (R-Tenn.)
- Marine Corps, 1962-65
- Douglas K. Bereuter (R-Neb.)
- U.S. Army 1963-65
- David E. Bonoir (D-Mich.)
- U.S. Air Force, 1968-72
- Tom Corcoran (R-III.)
- U.S. Army 1963-65
- Daniel B. Crane (R-III.)
- U.S. Army, 1967-70
- Norman E. D'Amours (D-N.H.)
- Army Reserve, 1964-67
- Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.)
- U.S. Air Force, 1969-72
- H. Joel Deckard (R-Ind.)
- Indiana National Guard
- Charles F. Dougherty (R-Pa.)
- Marine Reserve, 1957-59, 1962-79
- Allen E. Ertel (D-Pa.)
- U.S. Navy, 1959-62
- Floyd J. Fithian (D-Ind.)
- Naval Reserve, 1955-71
- James J. Florio (D-N.J.)
- Naval Reserve, 1958-74
- Martin Frost (D-Tex.)
- Army Reserve, 1966-72
- Albert Gore, Jr. (D-Tenn.)
- U.S. Army, 1969-71
- Tom Harkin (D-Iowa)
- U.S. Navy, 1962-67
- John Clifton Hinson (R-Miss.)
- Marine Reserve, 1964-70
- Carroll Hubbard, Jr. (D-Ky.)
- Kentucky Army and Air National Guard
- James R. Jones (D-Okla.)
- U.S. Army 1964-65
- Kenneth Bentley Kramer (R-Colo.)
- U.S. Army, 1967-70
- John J. LaFalce (D-N.Y.)
- U.S. Army, 1965-70
- Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.)
- Army Reserve, 1968-73
- Paul N. McClosky, Jr. (R-Calif.)
- Marine Reserve, 1960-67
- W. Henson Moore (R-La.)
- U.S. Army, 1965-67
- John P. Murtha (D-Pa.)
- Marine Reserve
- Bill Nelson (D-Fla.)
- U.S. Army, 1968-70
- Leon E. Panetta (D-Calif.)
- U.S. Army, 1965-70
- Charles Pashayan, Jr. (R-Calif.)
- U.S. Army, 1968-70
- Ronald E. Paul (R-Tex.)
- U.S. Air Force, 1963-65
- William R. Ratchford (D-Conn.)
- Connecticut National Guard, 1961-65
- Toby Roth (R-Wis.)
- Air Forces Reserve, 1963-69
- James Santini (D-Nev.)
- U.S. Army, 1963-66
- Pat Williams (D-Mont.)
- Colorado and Montana National Guard, 1962-69
- Tomothy E. Wirth (D-Colo.)
- Army Reserve, 1961-67

Vietnam Era Veterans Re-elected to the Senate

- Jake Garn (R-Utah)
- Air National Guard (currently)
- John Glenn (D-Ohio)
- Marine Corps, 1942-65
- Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.)
- Army and Air Force Reserve, 1930-67

Vietnam Era House Members Elected to Senate Seats

- Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.)
- U.S. Army, 1969-75
- Dan Quayle (R-Ind.)
- Indiana National Guard, 1969-75

AA Research From Pg. 10

Good and Schultz are two of 32 scientists and 45 supporting staff conducting research at the 368-bed acute care facility. This year, the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center will spend about \$2 million on research projects.

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City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Organization Affiliation _____

Vets Outreach From Pg. 1 Ex-POWs From Pg. 2

effort which provides community outreach, professional and non-professional services, and referral to appropriate resource agencies.

The 91 Vet Centers are operated by four person teams which go out into local communities to assist those veterans who have failed to make adequate adjustment or re-entry into civilian life.

Between April, 1980 and January, 1981, in an 8 month period only, the Vet Centers served 50,000 Vietnam era veterans and 12,000 members of their families. \$9.9 million was appropriated for the Vet Centers in fiscal year 1980; \$11.2 million was appropriated for fiscal year 1981, plus another \$6 million for expansion of the program into an additional 44 areas. Program expansion, however, was halted abruptly because of the Reagan Administration's hiring freeze. The freeze has also brought about the closing of an existing Vet Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and further center closings are not only anticipated, some are scheduled.

Although the VA had testified in Congressional hearings that the readjustment counseling program should be operated for five years, Congress authorized the program for only two years. The two year authorization for Operation Outreach expires on September 30, 1981. Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) and Congressman Don Edwards (D-CA) have introduced legislation proposing 2 and 3 year extensions, respectively based on the remarkable effective response to the program. The VA currently supports a one-year extension because of previous budget constraints. Any extension, however, may be in jeopardy because of anticipated VA budget cuts.

The Reagan retro-active hiring freeze has already cut deeply into the effectiveness of the program—there are increasingly fewer staff to meet the needs of an expanding number of clients.

Stars and Stripes has learned on good authority that although the Reagan Administration's VA transition team has recommended the continuation of the Vet Center program, the soon to be formally announced \$750 million slash in the VA's budget and major cuts in VA personnel, will call for the complete phase out of the program by September 30, 1981.★

Japanese for three-and-one-half years and weighed only 90 pounds when released. I still have violent nightmares from this experience—part of what I call the concentration camp syndrome. (Others have labeled this the POW syndrome.) My research studies show that, for every year of incarceration, an individual loses four years of his life span.

Another common aspect of the syndrome is restlessness. I know of one ex-POW who has had 20 jobs in 18 years. The restlessness is like a time bomb that ex-POWs and ex-hostages carry around their necks and that can explode at any time. They are plagued by high blood pressure, frequent headaches, nightmares. Nor is there ever any end to it. Psychological counseling helps. It helped me. But you really never get cured. It's just something that you learn to live with.

Autopsies conducted on POWs reveal permanent internal damage in those who were incarcerated. For example, the linings of the intestines of ex-POWs are very thin, a physiological change that is not common among others who did not experience the same stresses.

Another complication facing the hostages may be their long-term resentment toward the U.S. government for not getting them released sooner.

"I believe that the wife of an ex-POW faces a particularly difficult time. They have told me 'At times it's as if you're married to a mental freak.' Husbands continually change jobs. They don't want to socialize. They frequently are violent, have very short fuses, are excessive drinkers and excessively nervous.

It has been helpful for families of ex-POWs to get together and share experiences and problems. And I greatly admire our members' wives. We would not be in as good health, regardless of the amount of money spent on treatment, if it wasn't for our wives. This does not hold for all of the ex-POWs, however. The divorce rate for Vietnam ex-POWs is significantly higher than for Americans in general.

I believe that the Iranian hostages will carry mental scars with them for the rest of their lives, despite the love, concern and care they will be offered.★



World War I

The View From Here....

Muriel See Parkhurst
Administrative Assistant
National Headquarters
Veterans of WWI

As we sit in our Headquarters office surrounded by eleven various sized cardboard boxes individually marked for special attention, each containing hundreds of letters, coupons, and postcards, we are stunned at the overwhelming results of the Commanders National Roll Call of World War One Veterans that has caught on nationwide through the cooperation of the American Legion and D.A.V.

Since November 14, 1980, we have processed and categorized 5,003 coupons. From this positive response we have realized 577 new members. The new applicants are handled by Enid Wyckoff, QM Secretary. Continuing daily, replies average between 400-600 + additional coupons PER week.

The following statistics may be of interest

- Of the 5,003 coupons, 58 percent are properly completed and filled out
- 5 percent are incomplete
- 13 percent are already paid-up members
- 10 percent are widows
- 14 percent are letters requiring personal attention

Properly completed coupons are processed by mailing a membership information package including application and Torch to the prospective applicant. The Commander's wife, Elsie Fisher, has been a valuable asset in devoting much of her volunteer spare time in assisting with the envelope stuffing.

Incomplete coupons require time to look up zip codes, decipher names and addresses, handle refused and Post Office returned literature.

It is not possible to check our membership computer lists for every name received. Some responses clearly state the sender is a member of a particular Barracks. Some list "VWVW1" indicating they were in the First World War, but are not members of our organization.

Coupons and letters that specify Widow are sent to the National Auxiliary for action by the National President, Elsie Keating.

Letters attached to coupons ask questions varying from interest in benefits and pensions to requesting service medals, bars, and war ribbons; helping in locating missing relatives sometimes as far back as 50 years ago; getting copies of birth and discharge certificates; assistance in obtaining food stamps, welfare, aid in paying bills, locating a wheel chair; requests to be admitted to hospitals and nursing homes; complaints of poor or inadequate medical treatment; burial reimbursements and special funeral arrangements; and reopening V.A. claims for evaluation.

Each of these letters has to be personalized as the individual dilemmas require answers and various V.A. forms.

To help with the work overload resulting from the National Roll Call and the staggering response and to eliminate a large portion of this letter writing on pensions, benefits, etc., we have listed on this page the Departments of Veterans' Affairs with names, addresses, and telephone numbers where you may

regarding your own special inquiries.

This editorial is not advocating that letters be stopped to National. Only the desire to speed up service to the members and this approach will certainly achieve that end. When a letter is received at National from a member in the field, chances are excellent that one of the 7 office personnel knows the individual or has had previous correspondence with that member. This allows us to be closer to the membership than most National Organizations and to take a personal interest in the welfare and concerns of the members.

3,300 of the requests for information have been disbursed to the Quartermaster of our National Departments for redistribution locally, if possible. The local follow-up is the difficult part of this Round-Up...we at National know and fully realize that this follow-up part of the membership drive really calls on our loyal Buddies' reserve strength and determination to preserve our organization.

Thanks to all Department Quartermasters for going this extra mile in service to our Buddies.

State Department Of Veterans Affairs

AL: Roy B. McGinnis, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 1509, Montgomery, AL 36192, (205) 832-3162.

AK: Don Hofstak, Dir., Div. of Veterans Affairs, Pouch DA, Juneau, AK 99811, (907) 465-2555.

AZ: Frank E. Munoz, Dir., Veterans Affairs Office, Dept. of Economic Security, 222 W Osborne Rd., Suite 110, Phoenix, AZ 85013, (602) 255-4713.

AR: Tom W. Miller, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 1200 W Third, Rm 105, Little Rock, AR 72201, (501) 371-1707.

CA: Virginia Mae Days, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 1559, Sacramento, CA 95807, (916) 445-3111.

CO: Louis Nardini, Dir., Dept. of Social Services, Div. of Veterans Affairs, 1575 Sherman St., Rm 122, Denver, CO 80203, (303) 839-2494.

CT: Robert Houley, Commandant, Veterans Home and Hospital 287 West St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067, (203) 529-2571.

DE: VA Regional Office, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 994-2511.

DC: A. Leo Anderson, Chief, Office of Veterans Affairs, 941 N. Capitol St., N.E., Rm 1211-F, Washington, DC 20421, (202) 737-5050.

FL: Robert E. Erskine, Dr., Div. of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 1437, St. Petersburg, FL 33731 (813) 898-4443.

GA: Pete Wheeler, Commissioner, Dept. of Veterans Service, 246 Sycamore St., Decatur, GA 30030, (404) 656-2300.

HI: Franklin Y. K. Sunn, Dir., Dept. of Social Services, Veterans Affairs Section, P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, HI 96809, (208) 548-6260.

ID: Norman A. Lang, Dir., Div. of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 7765, Boise, ID 83707, (208) 343-6491.

IL: David V. Hardwick, Dir.,

Remembrances

Judge Gerald Boileau

He died at 81 last month, in the VA hospital, Madison.

He was a remarkable man, a veteran's kind of man; not surprising, as he was a trench veteran of World War I.

Judge Gerald Boileau, born in Woodruff, served with the AEF in France in the field artillery.

After that conflict he returned and graduated from Marquette's Law School. He became district attorney of Marathon County in 1926, was elected to Congress in 1930. "Boileau did not forget his comrades," recorded the *Wausau Daily Herald* (1/31/81). "While in Congress he introduced the Veterans of Foreign Wars national pension bill in 1935 and saw it passed. He was active through the years in the local, state and national VFW.

"He served as commander of Burn Post 388 here, as state department judge advocate and as a member of the national legislative committee, the national rehabilitation committee, and the national legal committee."

Hand to Helmet...The Wisconsin VFW News.

Cook St. P.O. Box 5054, Springfield, IL 62705, (217) 782-6641.

IN: John F. Knop, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 707 State Office Bldg., 100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-3923.

IA: Ray J. Kaufman, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, State Capitol, Des Moines, IA 50319, (515) 278-9331.

KS: Wayne E. Garrett, Executive Dir., Kansas Veterans Commission, P.O. Box 1369, Topeka, KS 66601, (913) 296-3976.

KY: Archie O. Taylor, Jr., Mgr., Kentucky Center for Veterans Affairs, 600 Federal Place, Rm. 136-J, Louisville, KY 40202, (502) 588-4447/48.

LA: John L. McGovern, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Old State Capitol, 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (504) 342-5920.

ME: Emilian A. Levesque, Dir., Bureau of Veterans Services, Camp



AMERICANISM PROGRAM

H. C. BRUST
National Americanism Chairman, VWVW
221 Bogert Place
Paramus, NJ (201) 261-4312



There are many facets of patriotic efforts that signify helpful activities and they all make up parts of our Americanism-Patriotism program. High up the ladder of dedication are the 'volunteers' who offer their services; volunteer firemen, civil defense workers, boy scout leaders, veterans' hospital visitors, and so many others, really too plentiful to enumerate them all.

There are many notable projects which emphasize volunteer efforts and there is one among them which we might not have learned about, if it were not for television. This project was brought to the 'tube' by some alert reporter; I refer to the activities of Governor Jim Hunt of North Carolina, and his wife. Governor Hunt takes time out every Friday from his busy schedule to spend the day in the local high school, helping and encouraging the students of the mathematics

Keyes, Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 289-3441.

MD: John H. Eaton, Executive Dir., Maryland Veterans Comm., Federal Building, Rm. 110, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201, (301) 962-4700.

MA: Charles N. Collatos, Commissioner, Dept. of Veterans Service, Saltonstall Bldg., 100 Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02202, (617) 727-3570.

MI: Frank A. Schmidt, Jr., Dir., Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, 300 E. Michigan Ave., P.O. Box 30026, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 373-3133.

MN: Department of Veterans Affairs, State Veterans Service Bldg., Second Floor, St. Paul, MN 55155, (612) 296-2783.

MS: Frank D. Godwin, III, Commissioner, Veterans Affairs Commission, P.O. Box 3018, Jackson, MS 39207, (601) 354-7205.

MO: William Tellman, Dir., Div. of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Drawer 147, Jefferson City, MO 65101, See The View From Here, Pg. 12

class. Apparently, he has great expertise on the subject, and gladly lends his knowledge to assist and inspire the students.

As we think about this, we can realize how helpful and interesting it can be for the students, being thought of and helped and inspired by their Governor, the governor of North Carolina. And while the Governor is volunteering his time, Mrs. Hunt is doing a similar thing in another school, every Friday. Like that well known Italian food commercial, "That's Italian," I would say—"That's American."

Then too, it is gratifying that so many veterans and their Ladies Auxiliaries volunteer their time to visit hospitals all over the country to make certain some veteran feels he has been remembered; we can feel happy that we are Americans. War, and its results are horrible, but we can, and do try to ease the burden. We achieve some satisfaction by helping to dissipate the black gulf of isolation for those hospitalized by trying to change the surroundings of despair to cheerfulness. Our joys can be their joys by changing isolation to companionship.

I always like to think in connection with our volunteer efforts about the Chinese Proverb, "Better to do a kindness near home than to go far away to burn incense."*

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- Robert T. Matsui (D-CA)

Spanish-American War

VA Encourages Elderly Vets



The average age of veterans continues to rise even as the total number of veterans increases. Now past the 30 million mark, the total veteran population averages 48 years compared to 44.4 in 1970.

The largest block of veterans, the 12.4 million World War II vets, are about 60, while the 521,000 remaining World War I group average about 85 years.

The 120 remaining Spanish-American War veterans average exactly 100 years.

Spanish-American War veteran William Ryan, above, recently drew media attention when he celebrated his 99th birthday by bowling at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Lexington, KY.

A resident of the medical center's nursing home care unit, Ryan still plays billiards regularly and bowls about twice a week.

He attributes his longevity to eating an onion a day and drinking buttermilk.

Aware of the changes required in providing health care to an ever-aging veteran population, the VA now spends about 25 per cent of its \$6 billion annual medical budget on veterans aged 65 and older.

The agency operates some 18,000 nursing home or domiciliary beds and supports nearly 14,000 more beds in state and community nursing homes for veterans. Other VA extended care programs, such as "hospital-based home care" and "personal home care," help still more of the older veterans in de-institutionalized settings.

VA's medical plan for the older vet calls for providing the nation with model programs of long-term care, trained personnel in geriatrics and gerontology, and substantial amounts of research in basic and applied gerontology. ★

Centenarian Celebrates At VAMC

Mahaffey Is 106!

James W. Mahaffey, veteran of the Spanish-American War, celebrated his 106th birthday with his family and friends at the VA Hospital in Columbia, SC.

His second wife, Dora, and his family gave him a surprise that included a visit from Rep. Floyd Spence (R-SC) and the state Democratic Party, Chairman W. J. Bryan Dorn.

The father of eight children, four of whom are still alive, Mahaffey is confined to a wheelchair at the hospital's nursing home.

A native of Gooch's Landing, Mahaffey worked in an Army hospital during the 1898 war. A family member said his dream was fulfilled when his son, James, became a doctor. ★



For people with disabilities

Safford Pres Of DUV Tent 19

Principal items of business at the Jan. 28 session of Hannah F. Richardson Tent No. 19, Daughters of Union Veterans, was the installation of officers. All except Junior Vice President Beth Jones were installed by Past Grand Chief Alice Wardwell, assisted by her daughter, Jean Reynolds, as installing chaplain. Both are from Judith Grover Tent No. 17 of Bryant

Pond. Joyce Grover was the installing guide.

The newly installed president Hildred Stafford, presented the installing staff with gifts made by herself and her sister, Estelle Varney. She also presented outgoing President Edith Rolfe with a gift from the Tent. Edith served as president for three years in an able manner.

Stephen Taylor of Joshua Chamberlain Camp, Sons of Union Veterans, was a guest.

All present signed a card for Gladys Kilgore, one of the Tent's 50-year members.

At its annual installation of officers on February 9, preceded by a noon luncheon, past Tent President Elthea Osborne was the installing officer.

Those installed were: Mary Johnston, president; Barbara Rideout, senior vice president; Leople Bickford, junior vice president; Junah Oliver, council member two; Doris Warner, council member three; Ethel Jones, chaplain; Florence Durrell, treasurer; Irene Bush, patriotic instructor; Mary Clement, secretary and press correspondent; Doris Warner, color bearer one; Barbara Rideout, color bearer three; Leople Bickford, color bearer four.

To be installed at a later date are council member one, guide guard, assistant guard, color bearer two, historian, and musician. The charter was draped in memory of Past Tent President Evelyn Bragdon. ★

National Older Worker Week

National Employ the Older Worker Week will be observed March 8 to 14, to help promote the hiring of older workers.

State Employment Security Agencies are planning a variety of activities for the observance, including proclamations by Mayors and Governors, radio and TV programs and newspaper articles. Last year, over 1,200 radio and TV stations and 1,300 newspapers par-

USWV Auxiliary President's Column

History Made In February

February is the History month of the year for all our citizens.

We have left the month behind us, but for the veterans of the Spanish-American War, the 15th of February 1898, now 83 years later, reminds them of the day the country was shocked to learn that in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, the U.S.S. *Maine* was sunk, presumably by a bomb explosion.

But to go back into the month of January, the Comrades in the Camps, and the members of the Auxiliaries, refer to the 29th of January each year, to honor the birthday of the man who was President of the United States in 1898, William McKinley. And it was he, together with the Congress of the United States, who two months later declared war on Spain.

Then, as even today, the organization members are reminded to "Remember the Maine." She was on a peaceful assignment to protect the lives of American citizens then living in Cuba.

But beyond "Remember the Maine," we have not lost track of two of our beloved Presidents of these United States. George Washington, our first President, whose actual birth date was February 22, 1732. He saw us through the war with the Mother country, England, and affectionally was called the "Father of our Country."

President Abraham Lincoln's real birth date was February 12, 1809. He suffered the aches and pains of a divided nation, but lived to see the end of the Civil War. From that division of our States, ultimately through the conflict with Spain, the Spanish-American War, we again became a nation united.



VIRGINIA LEE JOHNSON
National President

Time was when we really did observe the birthdays of these two Presidents. In those days, we had parties, dressing up like George and Martha Washington, and dance the Virginia Reel. And the talk boy in school had the chance to wear a top hat and give Lincoln Gettysburg address. Remember? Today, these two birthdates are lumped together, and have become a three day week-end, commercial holiday. Although some flags are displayed, some citizens even ask "why are the flags out?"

To top off February, remember "Sweethearts" day, which Cupid says is Valentine's Day, February 14th. We have been happy valentines to someone over the years.

So, sharing together—working together—in our organization repeating our Pledge of Allegiance and Americanism, we hope February has been an enjoyable month for all of our members.

RUTH M. ADAMS
Past National President

AA Research From Pg. 3

few years ago by the chance discovery that most patients with the two diseases shared a particular tissue type.

Researchers are just beginning to understand the role of this tissue type, which is thought to be a "diagnostic maker" for the diseases, pointing to the likelihood of either disease when a patient known to have the tissue type complains of swollen joints or a sore back.

The researchers are particularly interested in the hereditary characteristics of the diseases. Good said a number of other studies have verified the "heritable behavior" of ankylosing spondylitis. He and Schultz are concentrating more on Reiter's syndrome.

To collect more data, Good has asked the families of his patients to donate small blood samples, which allow him to determine their tissue type.

The majority of people with the tissue type—about eight percent of population—never develop ankylosing spondylitis or Reiter's syndrome, Good explained, but nearly everyone with the diseases—about one percent—has the tissue type.

The researchers are seeking to find out what, if anything, the tissue type has to do with these diseases; what the difference between healthy family members with the tissue type and those without are, and if the tissue type is linked to a disease gene.

El Salvador From Pg. 3

Germany, Vietnam and other Communist states.

"The massing and delivery of arms to the Salvadoran guerrillas by those states must be judged against the fact that from 1977 until January 1981 the United States provided no weapons or ammunition to the Salvadoran armed forces.

"A major effort has been made to provide "cover" for this operation by supplying arms of Western manufacture and by supporting front organization known as the Democratic Revolutionary Front to seek non-Communist political support through propaganda.

"Although some non-Communist states have also provided material support, the organization and delivery of this assistance like the overwhelming mass of arms, are in the hands of Communist-controlled networks.

"In short, over the past year, the insurgency in El Salvador has been progressively transformed into a textbook case of indirect armed aggression by Communist power through Cuba."

"At the same time that Jane Fonda, Bella Abzug, William Sloan Coffin and their like-minded friends took out a full page ad in the *New York Times* opposing U.S. aid to El Salvador, some 15,000 leftists in Frankfurt, Germany were chanting out the same propaganda line.

"A coincidence? Believe that and you'll believe in the tooth fairy. "Our President deserves our support."

Axed

From Pg. 8

Many of the proposed cuts if enacted could open a monstrous Pandora's box of litigation against the Federal government since most of the programs hold clear mandates and would take an Act of Congress to destroy their existence. Initial reaction from both sides of the Congress was disbelief and shocked dismay. "And we thought we had problems under Carter," said a Committee staffer.

Former President Carter started his administration on the wrong foot four years ago by granting his famous pardon to those who had run from military service. He took care of those who didn't serve before beginning to address the problems of those who willingly went to war.

He then insulted the veterans of the United States by attempting to convince Congress to break a contract it had made with this nation's war veterans before it sent them to war—a promise of veterans' preference in Civil Service jobs. The Carter proposal as announced March 2, 1978, would have killed veterans' preference for all non-disabled veterans who had been released from active duty ten years ago or longer.

Carter people dubbed this plan as "favorable" to Vietnam veterans. However, since most combat veterans were in Vietnam 1965-1970, the plan would have made 70 to 80 percent of Vietnam combat veterans ineligible for veterans' preference. The Congress and the veterans were not deluded and the plan failed.

The next year, Congress embar-

by creating Vietnam Veterans Day. Carter acquiesced and invited some 200 Vietnam veterans and their spouses to the White House where, according to those who were on the visitor's list, he offered them assurances that he "loved them", suggested nothing substantive to resolve their problems, and sent them on their way.

President Reagan, whose service during WWII was limited to making training films, campaigned in 1980 on a conservative platform and proclaimed to the VFW et al that Vietnam was a "noble cause" and that all veterans deserved far better than they had received.

His recent selection of David Stockman as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may have been his gravest mistake since it is analogous to Carter's arrogant appraisal of the veterans sector of the nation and their problems. Stockman, a former anti-Vietnam War activist, admittedly evaded service in the military by attending Divinity School.

The Stars and Stripes has learned that Stockman has convinced Reagan of the efficacy of the proposed cuts—as many as 1,500 in the VA's DVB and 5,000 in DM&S immediately—staff slots that will be almost impossible to replace, once they relocate at higher pay and benefits in the private sector.

Once the Administration goes public with their proposal on March 10th, veterans groups will undoubtedly decide that Reagan has replaced Carter as the "most anti-veteran President in

The View From Here

(314) 751-3343.
 MT: David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator, Veterans Affairs Division, P.O. Box 4210, Helena, MT 59601, (406) 449-3014.

NE: W. H. Wagner, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 301 Centennial Mall, State Office Bldg., 5th Floor, Lincoln, NE 68509, (402) 471-2458.

NV: Stein E. Moen, Commissioner, Commission for Veterans Affairs, 245 E Liberty St., Reno, NV 89520, (702) 784-6237.

NH: Adrien J. Dery, Dir., State Veterans Council, 18 N. Main St., Concord, NH 03301, (603) 271-2181.

NJ: William C. Doyle, Dir., Div. of Veterans Programs and Special Services, Dept. of Human Services, 143 E. State St. Trenton, NJ 08608, (609) 292-6663.

NM: G. Y. Fails, Dir. Veterans Service Commission, P.O. Box 2324, Santa Fe, NM 87503, (505) 827-2292.

NY: Joseph C. Anderson, Dir., N.Y. State Div. of Veterans Affairs, 2 World Trade Center, 34th Floor, New York, NY 10047, (212) 488-3787.

NC: Charles A. Beddingfield, Jr., Secy. for Veterans Affairs, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 227 E. Edenton St., Raleigh, NC 27601, (919) 733-3851.

ND: Lloyd F. Zander, Commissioner, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 1287, Fargo, ND 58107, (701) 237-8383.

OH: John P. Siemer, Chief, Div. of Soldiers Claims & Veterans Affairs, State House Annex, Rm. 11, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 466-5453.

OK: Eugene L. Copenhaver, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 53067, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, (405) 521-3684.

OR: Elmo M. Mills, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, General Services Bldg., 1225 Ferry St., S.E., Salem, OR 97310, (503) 378-6056.

PA: John J. Balitis, Dir., Dept. of Military Affairs, Bureau of Veterans Affairs & Assistance, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003, (717) 783-3401.

RI: Louis P. Alfano, Jr., Chief, Veterans Affairs Office, 46 Aborn St., Providence, RI 02903, (401) 277-2488.

SC: Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 1205 Pendleton St., Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 758-2607.

SD: Glenn R. Green, Dir., Div. of Veterans Affairs, State Capitol Bldg., Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 773-3269.

TN: Wm. H. Roden, Commissioner, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 215 Eighth Ave. No., Nashville, TN 37203, (615) 741-2345.

TX: Aubrey L. Bullard, Dir., Veterans Affairs Commission, P.O. Box 12277, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711, (512) 475-4185.

UT: Adleri Robinson, Sr., Dir., State Office of Veterans Affairs, 150 W North temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84103.

VT: Elwin W. Dean, Dir., Veterans Affairs Office, 8 E. State St., Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-3379/81.

VA: Harry F. Carper, Jr., Dir., Div. of War Veterans Claims, 210 Franklin Rd., S.W., Roanoke, VA 24011, (703) 982-7104.

WA: Lewis Belcher, Jr., Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 9778, Mail Stop ED-11, Olympia, WA 98504, (206) 753-5586.

WV: Roland Savilla, Dir., Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 605 Atlas Bldg., Charleston, WV 25301, (304) 348-3661.

From Pg. 9

WI: John R. Moses, Secretary, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Washington Sq. Bldg., 77 N Dickinson St., Madison, WI 53702, (608) 266-1311.
 WY: Veterans Administration,



Regional Office Center, 2630 East Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82001, (800) 442-2761.★

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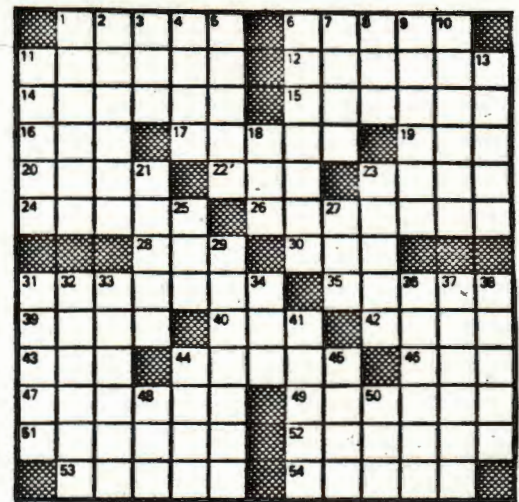
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Sails near the wind
6. Snares
11. Spanish lady
12. Former film sex symbol
14. Pertaining to an ethnic group
15. Ruined
16. Retarding (Music)
17. Long-legged bird
19. French ski resort:—d'Isere
20. thought
22. Beneath: a prefix
23. Latvian
24. City west of Venice
26. Sucking fishes
28. Free
30. Ethiopian prince
31. Tells
35. Broom
39. Hebrew month
40. Obese
42. Learning
43. Proscribe
44. Type sizes
46. Cover
47. Moorish kettledrum
49. Mammal's coat
51. Retreat
52. Locust tree
53. Saint—
54. Dutch painter

7. Grade

8. Noun suffix
9. Shore bird
10. "The Moon-light—"
11. Unclothe
13. Shoemaking strips
18. Pronoun
21. Pertaining to the ear
23. Worthless fellow
25. River islet
27. Fairy queen
29. Pollutes
31. Fasten again
32. Click beetle
33. Crescent-shaped
34. Pouch
36. Comfort
37. Beginning
38. Legendary sorceress
41. Polynesian cloths
44. Equal: comb. form
45. Religious group
48. Huge
50. New Guinea port

Answers



DOWN

1. Spanish province
2. Joined
3. Watch pocket
4. Friars
5. Seasons
6. American humorist

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NEWS

FOR LEGIONNAIRES

The Wounds That Would

"He jests at scars, that never felt a wound."

—Shakespeare

By Arthur S. Blank Jr., M.D.
Associate Clinical Professor of
Psychiatry, Yale University

Military psychiatrists in Vietnam during the war, including this writer, were cheerfully reassuring about the psychological effects of the war on troops. In our reports and in the press, the word went out that—in contrast to WWII—psychiatric casualties were rare, thanks to the limited 12-month tour, the off-and-on nature of the combat, and new treatment methods refined during the Korean War. In fact, evacuations and hospitalizations for psychiatric reasons *did* remain low throughout the war.

But as early as 1970, a group of psychiatrists and psychologists led by Chaim Shatan M.D. and Robert J. Lifton M.D. in New York, first began to report important and persisting emotional stress in veterans who had successfully completed tours in Vietnam *and* had had no psychiatric treatment.

From that time 10 years ago, through the final painful years of the war and the return to America of the 3.5 to 4 million men and women who served in Vietnam during our longest war, through the shock of defeat and withdrawal, through our nation's effort to forget the war and the deep divisions and mistrust which it created—slowly through this past decade—our citizens and government have recognized that a substantial minority of Vietnam veterans have been deeply wounded psychologically by what happened to them in Indochina. And now, in recent months, we have finally moved to confront and deal with this major public health problem.

The best available research to date reveals that about 20 percent, or somewhere around 700,000 veterans of Vietnam, are to this day markedly impaired by the aftereffects of their war experiences. Many of them can be said to be suffering from "post-

traumatic stress disorder."

What is this psychological condition? For most of these veterans, the core symptoms are the same as those which were felt by thousands of veterans of WWII and Korea, especially combat veterans: nightmares, depression, anxiety and fear, trouble restarting peacetime living, flashbacks and feelings of detachment from others. For some individuals, there have been other manifestations of the psychological stress disorder: alcohol or drug abuse, physical conditions such as chronic headache, low back problems or ulcers. Both the acute, short-term form, and the long-lasting or "delayed" form of this syndrome have occurred in veterans of previous wars—perhaps all wars.

All warriors know the horror, the suffering, the grief of losing buddies,

THE VIETNAM VETERAN

the profound fear and tension of daily living with death, the miserable living conditions and the extremes of human existence which happen in war. There is great heroism, humor, loyalty and friendship—along with great hatred, brutality, sadism and pain—much of which lies forever beyond the imagination of those who have been spared the experience of war.

And so, Vietnam veterans share the wounds and scars of war with their fathers and uncles and friends who are veterans of previous wars.

Again in the case of Vietnam, we have to ask why the emotional wounds of perhaps 80 percent of those veterans healed? Many reasons, perhaps. Maybe it's been a

basic flexibility of spirit, or special postwar help and attention from family and friends who have been able to aid the veteran in getting over the war experience. Or perhaps it's just been the ability to forget—to shut it out and keep it out and go on with normal living—an ability which some seem to have more than others.

But what happened to the others? What happened to those who, 10, 12, 14 years later, are still suffering from frequent nightmares, or are irritable every day with their children and troubled by the intense—too intense—anger which the child's natural cantankerousness brings up? Others have been stuck now for years in a dulling depression which takes the joy out of life, and takes the advancement out of their careers. Some suffer from sleep disturbances, difficulties in concentrating or other limitations on their capacity for work.

For some this has resulted in an endless cycle of unemployment; for others, repeated divorce; and for still others, years spent lost in alcoholism which could never be successfully treated because its roots in the war were never recognized.

Through the 1970s, the families and friends of these veterans, a few mental health professionals and a few government officials knew about the psychological wounds which would not heal. But either because our feelings about the Vietnam War itself were still so intense, or because we hoped that with time the problems would go away, our society was not able to take action about the situation.

That has changed, and in Operation Outreach of the VA and the Vietnam Veterans Outreach Project of the DAV, the nation is not only beginning to address the treatment needs of troubled vets, but we are beginning to pin down very clearly what factors have made the Vietnam War haunt the lives of some veterans and their families for so long.

First of all, as I heard expressed so eloquently in testimony in a courtroom a few weeks ago by a retired

Not Heal

general officer—a man who had been a battalion commander in both the Korean War and in Vietnam—the war in Vietnam *was* different. There are some things about a guerrilla war, as opposed to a conventional war, which simply cause a number of people to come unglued inside—unglued in a way that lasts and is very difficult to get over.

For many of us the deepest cut ultimately came from the atmosphere of terrorism which permeated the entire war zone. There was no safe ground and there were no safe people. Every Vietnamese person—man, woman and child, young and old—was potentially the enemy. Babies really were booby-trapped, and youngsters really did toss grenades into one's jeep. GIs worked, lived and even fought for months with Vietnamese who turned out to be working for the other side. *All* base camps, cities, towns, airstrips and installations established throughout the country were attacked at some time or other during the 11 years of war. Attacked also, of course, were units in the field proper and troops in "normal" combat situations. It was *all* a combat zone, the whole way through.

For those who were not in Vietnam, it is easy to dismiss this pervasive and penetrating terrorizing atmosphere—and its psychological consequences—as exaggeration. But the features of guerrilla terrorism were added to the mental challenge of combat experiences and have produced in some veterans an especially painful, deep and abiding kind of paranoid fear which we are now beginning to learn to recognize and treat.

It has also now become clear that uncertainty about the rightness or wrongness of the war itself has, for some veterans, been a major factor in producing lasting psychological disability. Now that passionate attitudes for and against the war have somewhat cooled, we have begun to see that some veterans remain sorely troubled by the nature of the Vietnam War, *and* that these difficulties



go beyond political differences. That is, many veterans with stress syndromes have—as part of their problems—a relentless despair that in a war which they believe to have been just and honorable, they and their comrades were not permitted to fight to win.

On the other hand, some veterans who believe that the war was wrong from the outset and an unjustified interference in the affairs of the Vietnamese, share the same kinds of despair, pain and bitterness as part of their symptoms.

(Continued on page 37)

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*file
Agent Orange*

May 22, 1981

FOR: SHANNON FAIRBANKS
FROM: NICK LONGWORTH
SUBJECT: California and Washington Demonstrations
by Vietnam Veterans Indicating Their Concern
of Inactivity by the Government on the Matter
of Agent Orange

A group of Vietnam Veterans are occupying the hospital lobby at the Wadsworth VA Medical Center in California in protest of VA health care and have sent a telegram airing their complaints to President Reagan. (source AP story 5/21/81 1519 EDT)

Vietnam veterans against the war and Vietnam veterans task force on Agent Orange will picket the Veterans Administration, the White House and will march to Lafayette Park for a rally today. If an opportunity presents itself for a question to be addressed to the Administration the following is a suggested question and response.

The Question

Demonstrating Vietnam veterans have criticized the Government's failure to respond to their concerns that exposure to Agent Orange herbicide in Vietnam has resulted in disease and disability. Would you respond to this?

The Response

Another unfortunate legacy of the Vietnam conflict is a continuing concern of many veterans that they have suffered or may develop health problems as a result of long-term effects of certain chemicals to which they may have been exposed while serving in Vietnam. This Administration is committed to the fullest possible scientific examination of these concerns, with the aim of insuring that this matter is dealt with fairly and equitably. The important scientific research being coordinated by the White House Interagency Working Group, including the Air Force Ranch Hand Personnel Study and the Veterans Administration Epidemiological Study, will be a major priority of this Administration./

CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS R BIT
514 WEST ADAMS BLVD
LOS ANGELES CA 90007

western union Mailgram



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*file
Agent Orange*

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

VIETNAM VETERANS ARE REQUESTING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DURING YOUR MEMORIAL DAY VISIT TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AT THE SITE OF THE MARCH 14, 1981 PROTEST BY THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS TO INHUMANE TREATMENT BY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL TO THE SICK VETERANS OF THE NATION.

THE REASONS FOR THE NECESSITY OF THIS PERSONAL VISIT, WHICH SOME VIETNAM VETERANS AND SUPPORTERS ARE STRESSING BY OUR WAIT-IN THERE, ARE THE FOLLOWING:

DELAYED STRESS AMONG VIETNAM VETERANS

"THERE ARE NO FEATURES, COMPLAINTS OR CLINICAL FINDINGS TO SUPPORT ANY RELATIONSHIP TO AGENT ORANGE, OR THE POST-VIETNAM STRESS SYNDROME, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS SPECIFICALLY EXPLORED" FROM THE APRIL 7-8, 1981 CASE REVIEW OF THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS AT THE BRENTWOOD V.A. HOSPITAL BY DOCTORS CYRIL BARNERT, RAMZI KIRIAKOS, GERALD MCKENNA AND MANUEL STRAKER.

1. WHY DID THE BRENTWOOD V.A. CASE REVIEW FOR JAMES R HOPKINS COMPLICATE THE CRITERIA FOR A DIAGNOSIS OF DELAYED STRESS BY ADDING SYMPTOMS IN ADDITION TO THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION (REFER TO SEE DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUALS OF MENTAL DISORDERS, 3RD EDITION)?
2. WILL YOU ORDER AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE FAILURE OF WADSWORTH AND BRENTWOOD V.A. HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE EVALUATION AND TREATMENT TO THE LATE JAMES HOPKINS?
3. WHY ARE VIETNAM VETERANS, SPECIFICALLY SWORDS TO FLOWSHARES IN SAN FRANCISCO, QUESTIONING THE MODIFICATION OF THEIR CRITERIA FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION TO VIETNAM VETERANS FOR DELAYED STRESS BY THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, SO THAT FEWER VETERANS QUALIFY FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT.
4. WILL YOU ORDER A NATIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING FOR VIETNAM VETERANS BY A TEAM OF NON-V.A. EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF DELAYED STRESS?

HEALTH PROBLEMS RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE HERBICIDE EXPOSURE
"IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BE SHAKEN FROM THEIR LETHARGY TOWARD ALL VETERANS," FROM THE MARCH 19, 1981 STATEMENT OF THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS FROM THE LOCKED WARD OF THE BRENTWOOD V.A. HOSPITAL.

1. WHY HAS THE V.A. FAILED TO INSTRUCT THEIR EXAMINING PHYSICIANS IN



THE DIAGNOSIS OF CHLORACNE DESPITE THE V.A. SO-CALLED PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR AGENT ORANGE THAT THE V.A. HAS ADMINISTERED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS AND THE MORE THAN 40,000 VIETNAM VETERANS WHO HAVE REQUESTED SUCH AN EXAMINATION FROM THE V.A. HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY?

WHY IS THE V.A. ONLY ABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS CONCERNING THIS IMPORTANT MATTER WITH THE APRIL 27, 1981 STATEMENT FROM DR BARCLAY M SHEPARD THAT "THE TASK FORCE (ON AGENT ORANGE) IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF REFINING DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES RELATIVE TO CHLORACNE?"

2. WHY HAS THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CENTRAL OFFICE REFUSED TO ALLOW OR DENY THE MARCH 31, 1980 REQUEST BY THE CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS FOR THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL DISABLED VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM ERA IN CALIFORNIA UNDER 38 U.S.C. SECTION 3301(F) FOR THE PURPOSE OF OUTREACH TO THEM CONCERNING THE AGENT ORANGE SERVICES OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION?

3. WILL YOU APPOINT AN EXPERT PANEL OF NON-V.A. INDIVIDUALS TO EVALUATE THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL DELAYED RE-ENTRY PROGRAM FOR ALL 4.2 MILLION VIETNAM VETERANS WHO HAVE LACKED INFORMATION ABOUT THE VIETNAM RELATED PROBLEMS OF DELAYED STRESS AND USE OF TOXIC HERBICIDES?

4. WHY ARE VIETNAM VETERANS PLANNING TO PICKET THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE V.A. IN WASHINGTON DC ON FRIDAY MAY 22, 1981 CONCERNING V.A. LACK OF ACTION ON THE AGENT ORANGE ISSUES?

BUDGET CUTS IN THE V.A.

"I CALL ON PRESIDENT REAGAN TO STOP SPENDING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON INAUGURAL BALLS AND TO UTILIZE THE MONEY FOR WHAT THE DEFENDERS OF OUR FINE COUNTRY ARE ENTITLED TO," FROM THE MARCH 19, 1981 STATEMENT OF THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS.

1. WHY HAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ORDERED A 743 MILLION DOLLAR REDUCTION IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET OF THE V.A. SYSTEMS WITHOUT ANY EVALUATION OF THE COSTLY MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATION IN THE V.A. SYSTEM WHICH DRAINS UP TO 60 PERCENT OF THE MEDICAL BUDGET INTO TRAINING COSTS (SEE JULY 3 1979 V.A. DEPT OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY LETTER 1L-14-79-4)?

2. HOW WILL V.A. HOSPITALS BE ABLE TO OPERATE AT ALL WITH THE PLANNED REDUCTION OF 20,000 PHYSICIANS IN THE HOSPITAL SYSTEM BY 1986?

PLEASE RESPOND
 CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS
 RONALD BITZER
 TEL 213-746-6315
 514 WEST ADAMS BLVD
 LOS ANGELES CA 90007

13:23 EST

MGMCOMP MGM