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UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20415

Mrs. Blackwell

9/13/82

FYI

12

From: Donald J. Devine
Director

Directors Warn Of Dangers to Vets' Programs

"We must remain strong to ward off assaults on our medical care system and veterans' benefits programs," warned DAV National Director of Services Norman B. Hartnett in his report to the DAV national convention in Las Vegas.

"We're being attacked on all fronts by enemy forces—the Executive Branch, some members of Congress and the Congressional Budget Office, the courts and the private sector," Hartnett continued.

Hartnett's stirring remarks set the tone for the reports of the DAV's national service, legislative, and employment directors—all of whom listed numerous dangers to rights, benefits, and services earned by disabled veterans.

"In an atmosphere of austerity," stated DAV National Service Director Arthur H. Wilson, "the DAV has had a very difficult year in protecting veterans' benefits from adverse proposals by the Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the VA."

DAV National Legislative Director John F. Heilman reminded the delegates that direct benefit payments to service-connected disabled veterans and their families came under attack this year. He harked back to the Reagan administration's "proposed savings of some \$233.9 million to be achieved through reductions in existing levels of benefits.

"Some \$165 million of this figure," Heilman emphasized, "was proposed to come directly out of the pocket of the service-connected disabled veteran!"

DAV National Employment Director Ronald W. Drach harshly criticized the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), again accusing postal officials of persistent discrimination against disabled veterans. While Drach reported DAV progress against discriminatory USPS hiring and promotion policies, he warned that continued DAV vigilance is needed.

Hartnett, who supervises the DAV's National Service, Legislative, and Employment Programs, listed the most serious attacks leveled against the earned entitlements of disabled veterans during the past year:

1) A proposal by the Reagan administration to eliminate dependency allowances to more than 300,000 service-connected disabled veterans with disabilities rated at 30 and 40 percent;

2) Another Reagan administration proposal that would reduce subsistence allowances for thousands of Vietnam era disabled veterans pursuing a course of vocational rehabilitation;

3) Heightened attacks on total VA disability ratings based on individual unemployment;

4) A Senate-passed measure that would have denied a cost-of-living increase in com-



Hartnett



Heilman



Wilson



Drach

penation for veterans with disabilities rated at 10 to 60 percent and granting a paltry 4-percent boost in compensation for disabilities at 70 to 100 percent, while allowing a 7.4-percent hike in nonservice-connected pension benefits;

5) The same Senate measure would have denied a cost-of-living increase in DIC benefits for widows and survivors of those who were killed in combat or who died due to service-connected disabilities;

6) A Congressional Budget Office recommendation that Congress consider saving money by taxing service-connected disability compensation, eliminating compensation for disabilities rated at 30-percent or less, totally eliminating the veterans' pension program, and closing up to 30 VA hospitals;

7) A recent U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that the different tax status given to veterans' groups with regard to lobbying is unconstitutional;

8) Attempts by some private health care providers to do away with the VA medical system; and

9) Recommendation by some conservative leaders of an alternative federal budget that would tighten qualifications for service-connected disability, eliminate non-service-connected pensions, and dismantle the separate VA hospital system.

"The DAV, with your continued support, will never waiver in the heat of these repeated attacks," Hartnett told the convention delegates as he concluded his report. "We will continue the battle to defend the rights of those who have paid the price for peace.

"America owes a debt that can never be fully repaid to the men and women who have fought our wars and preserved our freedom. We are totally committed to making sure America remembers that debt, because 'Poor is the nation that has no heroes. Shameful one that having them, forgets.'"

On a more up-beat note, National Service Director Wilson reported that DAV national service officers (NSOs) had successfully represented veterans and their families in claims that had resulted in nearly \$800 million in new monthly and retroactive benefits from July 1, 1981, to May 30, 1982.

Heilman noted the passage of a number of significant, DAV-backed bills, including the Former POW Benefits Act, a realistic in-



61st National Convention

crease in disability compensation and DIC, health care benefits for veterans exposed to Agent Orange or radiation, a 90,000-bed minimum for the VA medical system, and much more.

He also reported that the DAV's new Legislative Action Plan was already helping to avert many of the threats that confront veterans' programs. Heilman made a point of commending House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.), Senate Veterans Committee Chairman Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.), all the members of their committees, and several members of the Congressional Budget Committees.

All of these legislators, said Heilman, played vital roles in turning aside attacks on the benefits of service-connected disabled veterans. However, he expressed his deepest gratitude to the DAV's membership, stating that the DAV's legislative success in 1981-82 would not have been possible "were it not for your concern, your dedication, and your participation in the DAV legislative process."

While DAV National Employment Director Drach's report dwelled on the continued problems disabled veterans face in today's tight job market, he smiled as he told the convention delegates about H.R. 6440. Recently introduced in Congress, this legislation would improve veterans' employment programs in a number of ways.

Drach also praised the Office of Personnel Management and its director, Dr. Donald Devine, for OPM's actions in support of the rights of disabled veterans in federal employment.

GARY VAN BUSKIRK

Deputy Assistant Director for Community Liaison



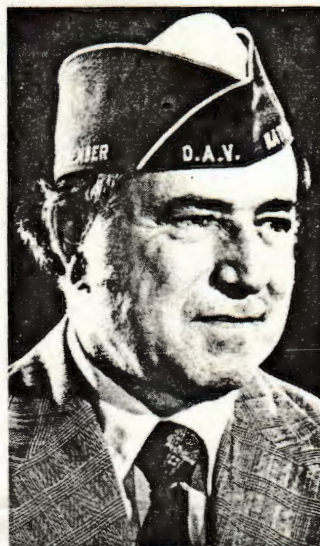
Coalition Division
Republican National Committee
310 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 (202) 484-6598

To: Morton Blackwell
Part of the payroll
of the RNC effort w/
Veterans. Gary Van Buren

file
12/11/11

Veterans & Defense

Norman B. Hartnett, National Director of Services
807 Maine Avenue, S.W. Washinton, D.C. 20024
Phone 202-554-3501



I've noticed that some in Washington, D.C., are beginning to see veterans' affairs and the national defense as related issues.

I found strong evidence of this positive trend in a recent issue of *New Beginnings*, a Republican National Committee (RNC) newsletter designed to support the economic policies of the Reagan administration.

Noting that "Victory for President Reagan's Program for Economic Recovery insures a strong national defense and strong veterans' benefits," the publication went on to promise, "National Defense and Veterans' Benefits will not be compromised!"

"President Reagan, honoring his campaign pledges, asked for restoration of several veterans' programs which were initially pared back" in the budget request prepared for him by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the flyer continued. It went on to comment that "Veterans did share, however, in the sacrifice of necessary budget cutting, but less than was first anticipated."

The *New Beginnings* issue was a direct pitch to veterans, asking them to support the President's overall economic policies. "The veterans' stake in the success of the Economic Recovery Program is immense," stated a cover letter attached to the flyer by RNC Chairman Richard Richards. "Pension and benefit payments, education and job training, and medical aid all require a healthy economy for funding."

Before I'm misunderstood, let me remind you that the DAV, its state departments, and its chapters are prohibited from taking stands on issues not directly related to veterans benefits and services. As an organization, we cannot and will not take a position on the President's overall tax and spending plans.

However, there are many ways in which veterans and military issues are related in ways that do affect benefits and services for disabled veterans and their families. And, while the RNC's *New Beginnings* didn't cite these relationships directly, I'm encouraged to see the RNC beginning to think about veterans' and defense issues as linked together.

If *New Beginnings* didn't make the linkage directly, its phrasing strongly implied that veterans' and defense issues are threads woven into the same fabric. During the 1970s, particularly after the Vietnam War, there was a growing tendency to view veterans' programs as elements of the nation's social welfare programs . . . as separate from the national defense.

This allowed our politicians to ignore the consequences that a new war would hold for veterans' programs. It permitted them to disregard the effects of shoddy treatment of veterans on the recruitment and retention efforts of our Armed Forces. And many politicians saw this attitude as a green light, making it somehow okay to gouge the VA and veterans' job programs for budget savings.

Of course, veterans' benefits and services are not social welfare programs. They're earned entitlements paid for by the sacrifices veterans were asked to make in the defense of our country.

All veterans, particularly those who served during wartime, have given up considerable time out of their lives to participate in the national defense. This set back their careers, their educations, their family lives and more. Our country owes something to these people.

And in no case is the entitlement aspect of veterans' benefits and services more clear than in the case of veterans with service-connected disabilities. Our government has a conspicuous moral obligation to those who spilled blood, lost their health, or suffer mentally as the result of their military service.

Unfortunately, the notion that veterans' programs are social welfare programs permeated the Carter administration, and cuts in the VA, particularly its health care system, resulted. Job programs for disabled and Vietnam era veterans were held at a low priority in the Labor Department, and veterans' preference in federal employment was viciously attacked.

Hopefully, things will improve during the Reagan administration, if the idea takes hold

that veterans' and defense issues go hand-in-hand in many respects. In this regard, I would strongly urge

two Republicans, OMB Director David A. Stockman and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Alan K. Simpson of Wyoming, to pay close heed to the commitment their party's national committee made to veterans' programs in its *New Beginnings* bulletin.

Of course, the growing realization that veterans' and military issues are linked is not limited to the Republican Party or the White House. Many Democrats have recognized the vital connection of these issues for some time, and we've noted expressions of this idea by members of both major parties in recent proceedings in Congress.

A good example of this appeared in a recent letter sent to all U.S. Senators in support of a three-year extension of the VA's "Operation Outreach" psychological readjustment program for Vietnam era veterans.

"At a time when the military is plagued with manpower problems, and the All-Volunteer Force is facing increasing challenges in recruiting adequate numbers of qualified personnel, we must meet our obligations to the veterans of the last war," said the letter signed by Senators Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and John H. Chafee (R-R.I.).

In encouraging this kind of philosophical linkage between veterans' and defense programs, the DAV recognizes that more is at stake than meeting commitments to current veterans. Here are some further considerations:

(1) Though we are not now at war, our country certainly does not exist in a peaceful world. One look at the evening news should be enough to convince anyone that at least the threat of U.S. involvement in conflict overseas is a fact of life.

The DAV is deeply concerned about the welfare of those veterans who would come home wounded or otherwise disabled if the United States were forced into some future conflict. We're particularly worried about the

response of the VA health care system. We don't want a repeat of what happened during the early years of the Vietnam War when our VA hospitals were caught completely off-guard.

(2) Legislation is pending in Congress that would enable the VA and military medical systems to operate cooperatively in a number of ways. Those interested in reducing the cost of government should look closely at this legislation. The VA medical system provides health care at considerably reduced cost when compared to the private medical sector—approximately 15 percent less, according to former VA Administrator Max Cleland. This legislation has the potential to begin an expansion of this efficiency.

There is no doubt in my mind that the budget-cutting policies of the past few years, as applied to the VA health care system, are actually increasing federal health care costs.

Tens of thousands of eligible veterans have been denied VA care in recent years due to a lack of medical resources caused by budget constraints on the VA. Many of them were referred to other public sources of care that cost more than the VA, with the expensive Medicare and Medicaid programs leading the list. And the CHAMPUS health insurance program for military people and their dependents is in no way inexpensive, though benefits are frequently inadequate.

(3) Cooperative arrangements between the VA and military systems could make medical treatment more readily available to veterans, military people, and eligible military dependents. This would be added to the cost benefits of such arrangements.

(4) Finally, I want to expand on the idea that Senators Cranston and Chaffee mentioned, concerning the relationship of veterans' programs to military recruitment and retention, a situation that must be viewed realistically.

The Armed Forces today are highly technological. They need technicians and highly qualified people in other fields. They need the trained NCOs and middle-ranking officers who are leaving the services today in droves. In terms of new recruits, the uniformed services seldom get the kind of men and women needed to replace these people in sufficient numbers. This is a widely recognized problem.

I remember the old sergeant who said, "If the Marine Corps wanted me to have a wife, it would have issued me one." Realistically, that kind of soldier is rare. Military people have families. Regardless of how patriotic our service people may be, practical considerations come into play when we're talking about family people.

Why should a highly qualified person join or stay in the Armed Forces when civilian jobs offer a far better deal in terms of pay, benefits, and retirement? Veterans' programs are part of the deal offered to military people, and cutting those benefits and services back makes the deal that much less inviting.

The inability to attract enough qualified

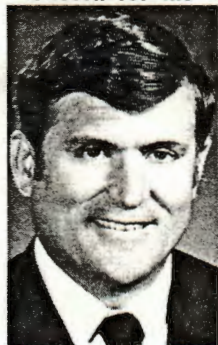
VA Administrator Hearings Set

Hearings on the confirmation of Robert P. Nimmo as VA administrator will be held July 9 by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

No one anticipates any problems in the hearings, after which the committee is expected to recommend confirmation of the World War II and Korean War veteran to the full Senate. President Reagan's choice of the California rancher and businessman for the VA's top job was announced April 30.

Last month the President announced his nominations for the positions of deputy VA administrator and VA inspector general.

Chosen for the VA's second-in-command job was Allen B. Clark, Jr., a combat-wounded veteran of the Vietnam War, who currently works as a special assistant to Texas Governor Bill Clements. Frank S. Sato, the Department of Transportation's inspector general (IG), was picked for the IG job in the VA.



Clark

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold confirmation hearings on Clark and Sato immediately following its hearings on the Nimmo nomination on July 9.

Former VA Deputy Administrator Rufus Wilson has gone to work with the House Veterans' Affairs Committee as its minority counsel. Also moving from the VA to the House committee staff is J.C. Peckarsky, who left his job as the VA's director of Com-

people to the military and retain them once they're in the service is costing our government money. And what good is a brand-new weapons system when there's no one there who knows how to operate it or fix it if it breaks down?

The DAV wants to reinforce the idea of a direct relationship between veterans and military programs, because we see the potential for improved services for disabled veterans. But these further considerations should be weighed by those in Washington who are making the decisions.

The idea of a direct relationship between veterans' and military programs hold the potential for improved services to veterans. In the DAV's opinion, such a relationship would certainly result in a strengthened VA medical system.

Our nation's leaders should give strong consideration to this idea, because it would demonstrate a commitment to good services to members of our Armed Forces, as well as a commitment to adequately care for these people should they become disabled veterans.

pensation and Pension Service to become a professional staff consultant for the majority of the House Committee.

The Reagan administration has still not nominated anyone to become assistant deputy secretary of labor for veterans' employment, a position which has been vacant since March.

Clark Withdraws Name

Allen B. Clark, Jr., withdrew his name from consideration for deputy VA administrator just as this issue of *DAV Magazine* was going to press. He made no public statements regarding the reasons for his withdrawal. However, informed sources say the Vietnam veteran was unhappy with the role planned for him in the VA's second highest office. *DAV Magazine* will report details when they become available.

Clark, the deputy VA administrator designate, served as a Green Beret captain during the Vietnam War. The 38-year-old Austin, Tex., resident holds a master's degree in business administration from Southern Methodist University, in addition to a bachelor of science degree from West Point.

Clark lost both legs due to combat in Vietnam, and is a life member of the DAV. His military decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and two battle stars. He also holds the Combat Infantryman's Badge and Airborne Wings.

Prior to his appointment as special assistant to Governor Clements, Clark worked for Texas businessman Ross Perot, and later was employed by the Republic Bank in Dallas.

He served as president of the West Point Society of North Texas in 1973, president of the Young Executive Group of the Dallas Council on World Affairs in 1977, as chairman of the Horizons Committee in 1976.

The IG designate, Sato, developed a considerable reputation for combatting fraud and abuse in federal highway programs following his appointment as Transportation Department IG in 1979. Very well respected, he serves on several committees and boards of accounting and government auditing associations and other professional organizations.

From 1974 to 1979, Sato worked as deputy secretary of defense (audit) in the office of the assistant secretary of defense (comptroller). From 1977 to 1979, he was director of the Defense Audit Service. He held various positions with the U.S. Air Force auditor general and the office of the secretary of defense between 1953 and 1974.

Born in Puyallup, Wash., Sato holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Washington and did postgraduate work at the University of California in Los Angeles.

July 1981



The official voice of the Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary



David H. Berry

— 1981 —

DISABLED VETERAN
OF THE YEAR

Pages 12 and 13

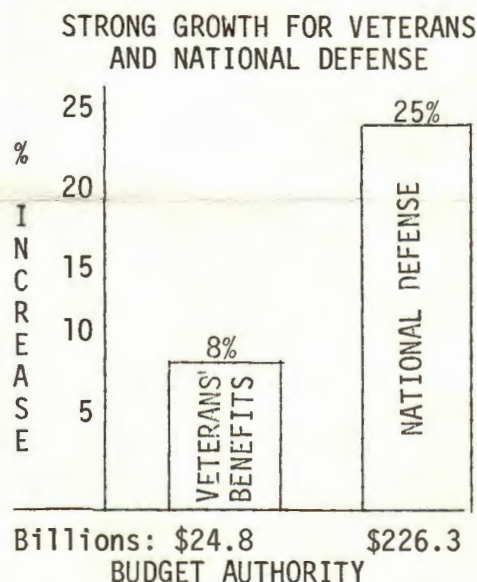
New Beginnings: A Tax and Spending Bulletin

This economic flyer explains the facts of President Reagan's Program for Economic Recovery. It is being sent to inform you of the actions needed now for the economic revitalization of America.

VOLUME I

Victory for Reagan Economic Recovery Program Strong Support for National Defense and Veterans' Affairs

Victory for President Reagan's Program for Economic Recovery insures a strong national defense and strong veterans' benefits. In the limelight this month has been the Gramm-Latta bipartisan budget resolution, which boasts the support of President Reagan, overwhelming majorities in Congress, and the backing of all the major veterans' organizations. In a series of historic votes in early May, the Reagan budget sped through Congress with unprecedented success. On the 7th, the House of Representatives passed the Gramm-Latta resolution (backed by the President) by a huge, 77-vote margin. On the 12th, the Senate seconded the vote on the President's budget by 78-20. And on the 14th, House-Senate Conference Committee members nailed down agreements for the First Congressional Budget Resolution, which will set spending targets for the years to come. One message that came back loud and clear: National Defense and Veterans' Benefits will not be compromised!



President Reagan, honoring his campaign pledges, asked for the restoration of several veterans' programs which were initially pared back. The approved resolution calls for \$450 million in additional outlays and \$600 million in increased budget authority over the earlier targets. The President supported the higher figures for veterans in the House, and moreover, made sure they were maintained in the work of the House-Senate Conferrees. The result? Medical and Department of Veterans' Benefits personnel will not be cut and funds are available for Readjustment Counseling Centers.

Veterans' programs will grow by almost \$1.5 billion in FY 1982. Veterans did share, however, in the sacrifice of necessary budget cutting, but less than was first anticipated.

BREAKDOWN OF VETERANS' PROGRAMS (\$ OUTLAYS IN MILLIONS)

CATEGORY:	APPROX. AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
OPERATING EXPENSES	670	3%
BENEFIT PROGRAMS	14,530	60%
MEDICAL PROGRAMS	7,260	30%
CONSTRUCTION	450	2%
PROPOSED LEGISLATION	840	3%
OTHER	400	2%
TOTAL	24,150*	100%

*To be reconciled to \$24,050. Program categories from House Veterans' Affairs

Cuts were made by eliminating programs earmarked by the Veterans' Affairs Committees and in the rescission and deferral of several hospital construction projects. Such adjustments allowed the Conference Committee to meet the economic objectives of the President while protecting veterans' health care, counseling and compensation plans.

The approved resolution also achieves the President's goals for strengthening America's national defense. After a decade of decline when compared to the GNP, military programs will see real increases with outlays of \$188.8 billion in FY 1982. Budget authority, a better measure of the ability to buy new weapon systems and increase military preparedness, will similarly rise to \$226.3 billion, an increase of 25 percent.

Reaction in Congress Positive for Veterans' Programs

Reactions to the historic votes were quick in coming from leading Congressmen. It was apparent that veterans had done a good job in communicating their concern for specific programs. Congressman Delbert Latta (R-Ohio), co-author of the Gramm-Latta bipartisan resolution, was enthused by the 253-176 House vote. "This shows that a new attitude has taken hold in Congress", Latta said. "The fact is that government spending must be slowed and unnecessary programs eliminated. Unless inflation is brought under control, veterans and all others who retire on fixed incomes will continue to see the substance of their pensions eaten away." Latta was especially pleased that the House-Senate Conference Committee could meet the President's budget objectives while still providing sufficient funds for veterans' medical care. Earlier, Latta had been informed by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee that the amounts set forth in the Gramm-Latta resolution were adequate for the Veterans' Administration and that no change was anticipated in the number of hospital patients treated.

Congressman John P. Hammerschmidt (R-Arkansas) was pleased that, "Congress did not forget those who have served so valiantly to keep their fellow countrymen free." As the ranking minority member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Hammerschmidt played a pivotal role in seeing that necessary benefits were kept on track while carefully **examining** areas where some cuts could safely be made. Along with the House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Mississippi), their meetings with veterans' organizations and then with Administration officials cleared the way for acceptance of the funding targets in the approved resolution. "With President Reagan's support", Hammerschmidt explained, "the House-Senate Conferrees needed only to dot the i's. "

The Budget Process

When President Reagan announced, on February 18, 1981, the dramatic changes in national priorities that were needed to return the country to economic sanity, a loud groan was heard from the cadre of budget analysts who serve Congress. Extra Congressional effort would, indeed, be necessary to enact the Program for Economic Recovery. This year, the First Congressional Budget Resolution contains "reconciliation instructions" directing the legislative authorizing committees to report the changes in law necessary to implement budget savings. The following highlights the time-frame of budgetary decision-making.

	MAY 15	JUNE 15	JULY 15	AUGUST	SEPT. 15	OCTOBER 1
CONGRESS:	ADOPT 1ST CON-CURRENT BUDGET RESOLUTION	ADOPT OMNIBUS RE-RECONCILIATION BILL			ADOPT 2ND CON-CURRENT BUDGET RESOLUTION	NEW F.Y. BEGINS
	PASS AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION AND SPENDING BILLS					
COMMITTEES:	REPORT ALL AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION FOR NEW F.Y.	REPORT SPENDING AND REVENUE BILLS				
		REPORT RECONCILIATION BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS		NOTE: SPENDING BILLS EXCEEDING TARGETS SET IN 1ST RESOLUTION ARE NOT TO BE ENROLLED. BUDGET COMMITTEES ARE TO ENFORCE, ACTING THROUGH AMENDMENTS IF NECESSARY.		

The Veterans' Stake in the Economic Recovery Program

DEAR VETERAN:

THERE ARE OVER THIRTY MILLION OF US. VETERANS ARE OUR MOST RESPECTED CITIZENS. OVER NINETY PERCENT OF ALL VETERANS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE, AND YOU PARTICIPATE LIKE NO OTHER GROUP IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. YOU HAVE FOUGHT ON THE BATTLEFIELD FOR FREEDOM AND MANY OF YOU HAVE SUFFERED SILENTLY AT HOME WITH YOUR WOUNDS. YET ANOTHER BUGLE CALLS YOU.

NEVER BEFORE HAVE I COME TO YOU WITH A MORE URGENT MESSAGE. THE NEED FOR YOU TO TAKE QUICK ACTION IS GREAT. THE PRESIDENT IS DEPENDING UPON ALL OF US.

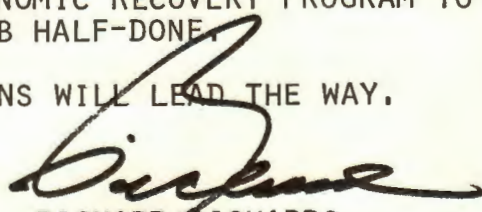
PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS CALLED THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS OUR NATION'S MOST SERIOUS SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION. WE MUST CHOOSE NOW WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE GOING TO PRESERVE AND RENEW THIS BLESSED NATION OF OURS. THE PRESIDENT HAS PROPOSED AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM WHICH WILL RENEW OUR COUNTRY AND GIVE US AGAIN THE INCENTIVES TO BE GREAT. YOU HAVE BEEN READING OF THE PROGRAM'S VICTORIES BUT MANY BATTLES LIE AHEAD.

THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM CAN BE DESCRIBED IN FOUR PARTS: SPENDING REDUCTIONS, TAX CUTS, A STABLE MONETARY POLICY, AND THE ELIMINATION OF EXCESSIVE GOVERNMENT REGULATION WITH A RETURN TO THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS OF FEDERALISM. EACH PART IS INTEGRAL TO THE WHOLE. THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU MAY PICK AND CHOOSE AMONG THE PARTS. BUT THAT IS EXACTLY HOW WE HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE MESS WE ARE IN -- BY ALLOWING BUREAUCRATS TO REGULATE OUR LIVES, BY LETTING GOVERNMENT PICK UP MORE AND MORE TAX DOLLARS EACH YEAR. WHAT HAVE BEEN THE RESULTS? FEDERAL DEFICIT SPENDING IS OUT OF CONTROL, PEOPLE ARE EARNING MORE BUT MUST BUY LESS, AND WE FACE A \$100 BILLION PRICE TAG TO MEET EACH YEAR FOR GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ON BUSINESS.

THE VETERANS' STAKE IN THE SUCCESS OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM IS IMMENSE. PENSION AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS, EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING, AND MEDICAL AID ALL REQUIRE A HEALTHY ECONOMY FOR FUNDING. THE DAYS AHEAD WILL CONTINUE TO BE DAYS OF HARD CHOICES, BUT WE HAVE NEGLECTED THE FISCAL FRAMEWORK OF OUR HOME FOR TOO LONG.

WITH YOUR HELP THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM CAN SUCCEED. FIRST, PLEASE READ THIS ISSUE OF NEW BEGINNINGS AND LET US SEND YOU UPDATES. IT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM, WHERE IT STANDS IN CONGRESS, AND THE BENEFITS YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ITS SUCCESS. SECOND, WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR, TELL THEM THAT YOU WANT ALL PARTS OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM TO BE ENACTED. DON'T LET THEM LEAVE THEIR JOB HALF-DONE.

AS IN THE PAST, I KNOW VETERANS WILL LEAD THE WAY.



RICHARD RICHARDS
CHAIRMAN, REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

For a Great New Beginning...

DEAR CONGRESSMAN:

I SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY. ALL PARTS OF IT MUST BE ENACTED!

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SEND THIS COUPON TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN IN CARE OF:

ALFRED BALITZER, DIRECTOR
COALITION DIVISION
310 FIRST STREET, S.E.,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

New Beginnings: A Tax and Spending Bulletin, is published periodically by the Republican National Committee. It provides the latest information on the President's Program for Economic Recovery. Additional copies are available from the Committee.



republican national committee

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DAV Decries Budget Cuts in Vets' Job Programs

By LARRY CARNEY
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Proposed Reagan administration budget cuts for two major Department of Labor programs for veterans will prevent the agency from providing employment services mandated by federal law, according to the Disabled American Veterans.

DAV National Employment Director Ron Drach, in letters to Labor Secretary Ray Donovan and several congressional committees, said the Reagan administration's proposed FY 82 budget for the Veterans Employment Service is \$1 million and 56 employees below the budget requested by VES.

VES, a component of the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration, oversees employment programs for all veterans.

Drach said the cuts would eliminate 52 secretarial positions for state VES directors. The Labor Department has stated that it will assign the clerical support obligation to the states.

"This action circumvents congressional intent and has the potential to render the state VES directors ineffective."

Because states are facing cutbacks in federal spending, "they won't be able to provide clerical support even if they wanted to."

In addition, he said, laws in several states prevent state employees from working for federal employees.

Drach also pointed out that of the 160 Employment Training and Administration jobs to be elimi-

nated, 52 are in VES. In effect, he said, VES will absorb 32.5 percent of ETA's total personnel cuts while it comprises only 6.8 percent of ETA's total employment.

"While DAV certainly supports fiscal restraint, we don't believe

the VES should bear such a disproportionate share of these budget cuts," Drach said.

He also charged that the 2018 Disabled Veterans Outreach Program positions will suffer drastically if ETA reduces its support to

State Employment Security Agencies by \$150 million and 5816 personnel as requested in the Reagan administration budget. DVOP is a VES program that provides assistance to job-seeking disabled and Vietnam veterans.

PM reinforces support

for Veterans

preference

Testifying before Congress, Donald J. Devine, director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) said the Reagan Administration strongly supports veterans preference in Federal employment practices, and has no plans to eliminate or weaken it.

Devine said the Federal Government owes a special obligation to those who have been willing to sacrifice their lives in the service of their country, and that veterans should continue to receive preference in employment for Federal positions.

Devine also said that OPM will take positive action to ensure compliance with veterans preference law in reduction-in-force (RIF) situations that occur as a result of President Reagan's trimming of the Government workforce.

Reporting on the noncompetitive hiring authority for veterans who are 30 percent or more disabled, which went into effect in January 1979, Devine said that while he was encouraged, he was not fully satisfied with the results. The most recent data show 372 appointments were made under the special authority in fiscal year 1980. Under all appointment authorities, a total of 1,733 veterans disabled by 30 percent or more were made in that period.

Calling it a real success, Devine also reported on the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA)

authority which hit a record high in fiscal year 1980. A total of 21,672 Vietnam-era veterans were hired under the special program, the highest number of annual hires since President Nixon created the program in 1970.

The 1980 figures represent a 37 percent increase over the 15,800 hires made in fiscal year 1979.

**VA's
budget
down**

The Veterans Administration's budget authority request for fiscal year 1982 has been reduced from \$24.9 billion to \$24.2 billion or 3.2 percent.

The net reduction of \$744 million from the request sent to Congress in January has been achieved primarily by lowering overhead and personnel costs.

President Reagan's request for veterans' programs, which is five percent above fiscal year 1981, asks Congress to appropriate \$22.7 billion and to enact legislation that would cost \$806 million. Funds already available for FY82, \$720 million,

would bring the total budget authority to \$24.2 billion, for a net increase of \$1.3 billion over the combined amounts for FY81.

The stated goal of the revised budget request is to reduce the rate of increase in spending from fiscal year 1981 to 1982.

General operating expenses for the agency were scheduled to increase in the earlier budget proposal, for example. In the revised budget, they will drop by \$38.2 million from the 1981 level and average employment will drop by 1,903 from the 1981 revised level.



Sherman E. Roodzant
National Commander

Disabled American Veterans

P.O. Box 14301 Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL . . .

. . . if you did a favor for a friend — and he turned his back on you?

That's what happened to our disabled veterans. They did a lot more than a "favor." They went to fight our wars for us. And paid a terrible price.

Now they face the daily battles of learning to walk — of living with blindness — of coping with paralysis or artificial limbs.

AND THEIR COUNTRY IS TURNING ITS BACK ON THEM!

It's easy for politicians to cut their benefits. As one man wrote us, "If no one stands up against them, they'll put the dollars where it shows up with more influential voter groups."

Imagine what it's like for a disabled veteran. His country called him to war, and he went. War left him crippled, or blind, or sick for life. He came home to pick up the pieces of his broken life and carry on the best way he can. Where can he go for help with this most important struggle of his life?

DAV is his voice, his help, his hope. We speak out for this forgotten, neglected minority. We work hard to see that they get the benefits they paid so dearly for. And we stand up to politicians who keep trying to chip away at those benefits.

DAV is, most of all, people like you. The ones who refuse to forget. The ones who won't turn their backs . . . who realize we can never really repay them for what they gave for us.

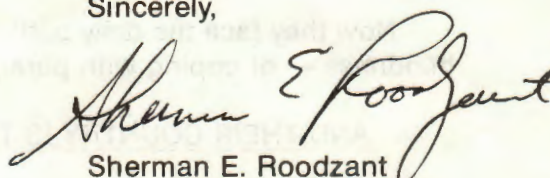
With your help, we'll do everything possible. We'll continue to battle for those benefits . . . speaking out in behalf of these men . . . to give them a chance to hold up their heads again and learn to live with their hurts and handicaps.

Can I count on you to help? Inflation cuts into our programs. And we don't want to cut back. So please — if you can — give a little more than you think you can. Make it hurt a little — for these men who hurt a lot.

These address labels are our gift to you. I only ask that you remember our disabled veterans every time you use one.

Your help is all important. We owe these men a great debt. They sacrificed for us. Now it's our turn. Please join us in extending the helping hand they desperately need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sherman E. Roodzant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sherman" and last name "Roodzant" clearly distinguishable.

Sherman E. Roodzant
NATIONAL COMMANDER

SER:MK:023

P.S. Your contribution is tax-deductible. If you'd like to know how your gifts are used, we'll gladly send a financial statement.