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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Blackwell, Morton C.: Files

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File Folder: Veterans Administration: Veterans Leaders Meetings with
Everett Alvarez 07/07/1982

Archivist: kdb

FOIA ID: F00-084/2, Fish

Date: 06/16/2005

94 5/8/08

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. memo	Blackwell to Elizabeth Dole re Robert Nimmo and veterans community, 2p	6/3/82	B6

RESTRICTIONS

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].

B-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].

B-7a Release could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings [(b)(7)(A) of the FOIA].

B-7b Release would deprive an individual of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication [(b)(7)(B) of the FOIA].

B-7c Release could reasonably be expected to cause unwarranted invasion or privacy [(b)(7)(C) of the FOIA].

B-7d Release could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source [(b)(7)(D) of the FOIA].

B-7e Release would disclose techniques or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or would disclose guidelines which could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law [(b)(7)(E) of the FOIA].

B-7f Release could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual [(b)(7)(F) of the FOIA].

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Meeting to introduce Everett Alvarez to veterans organization leaders -- Thursday, July 8, 1982, 10 a.m., *Indian Treaty Room 474*

<i>yes</i> AMVETS	- <i>Morgan S. Rugh</i> Gabriel Brinsky	459-9600
<i>yes</i> Blinded Veterans Assoc.	- Sumner Vale	347-4010
<i>yes</i> Congressional Medal of Honor Society	- Col Charles Murray - <u>J. Elliot Williams</u>	476-7082
Legion of Valor <i>no answer</i>	- Brig. Gen. Robert M. Gaynor	920-1128
<i>fls.</i> Marine Corps League	- Capt. C.L. Kammeier	524-1137 <i>Cyril</i>
<i>yes</i> Military Order of the Purple Heart	- <i>Richard Galant</i> Frank A. Athanason	642-5360/5361
<i>yes</i> Paralyzed Veterans of America	- R. Jack Powell	652-2135
<i>yes</i> United Spanish War Veterans	- Beulah M. Cope	347-1898
<i>yes</i> U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II	- Henry T. Vande Kerkhoff - E.J. Newbold <i>Newbould</i>	789-1630
<i>yes</i> Veterans of World War I	- Charles R. Law <i>Murek Parkhurst</i>	836-3060
<i>yes</i> American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor	- Elmer E. Long Jr. - Manny Lawton	426-0597(0) <i>389-5503</i>
American Ex-Prisoners of War	Randall J. J. Briere	512-661-7516
American Veterans Comm.- Army & Navy Union	- Dr. Charles A. Stenger	365-5452
Catholic War Veterans	- June Willenz	293-4890
Fleet Reserve Assoc.	- Arthur Kilchowski	
Jewish War Veterans	- Albert C. Allen	245-6039
Military Order of the World Wars	- Joseph V. Klubert	737-9600
Non Commissioned Officers	- Herbert J. Sweet	785-2768
Regular Veterans Assoc.	Harris B. Stone	265-6280
Vietnam Veterans of Amer.	- Lt. Gen. C.M. Talbott	296-3923
<u>Air Force Assoc.</u>	- Normand Gonsauls	546-7891
Air Force Sergeants Assoc.	- Frank Feeney	362-6925
Association of the U.S. Army	- John Terzano	546-3700
National Assoc. for Uniformed Services	- Russell E. Dougherty	637-3300
National Assoc. of State Directors of Veterans Affairs	- Earl Marshall, Jr.	899-3500
National Black Veterans Org.	- Maj. Gen. Robert F. Cocklin	841-4300
National League of Families	- Col. John P. Sheffey	750-1342
Naval Reserve Assoc.	A. Leo Anderson	737-5050
Reserve Officers Assoc.	Frederick L. Jones	842-2900
Retired Officers Assoc.	- Ann Griffiths	223-6846
Vietnam Veterans Foundation	- RADM James E. Forrest	548-5800
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund	- Maj. Gen J. Milnor Roberts	479-2200
	- Lt. Gen. LeRoy J. Manor	549-2311
	- Tom Wincek	751-3797
	- Col. David Schaet	659-1151

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<i>yes</i> American Ex-Prisoners of War	<i>Col Morgan 512-653-4237</i> Randall J. J. Briere	512-661-7516 <i>Col. Charles Morgan</i>
	- Dr. Charles A. Stenger	365-5452
<i>yes</i> American Veterans Comm.- Army & Navy Union	- June Willenz	293-4890 <i>FRANK WEIL</i>
<i>yes</i> Catholic War Veterans	- Arthur Kilchowski	
<i>yes</i> Fleet Reserve Assoc.	- Albert C. Allen	245-6039 - <i>WILL ATTEND</i>
<i>yes</i> Jewish War Veterans	- Joseph V. Klubert	737-9600 <i>WILL ATTEND</i>
<i>yes</i> Military Order of the World Wars	- Herbert J. Sweet	785-2768 <i>Robert W. Nolan</i>
<i>yes</i> Non Commissioned Officers	- Harris B. Stone	265-6280 <i>Steve Shaw</i>
<i>yes</i> Regular Veterans Assoc.	- Lt. Gen. C.M. Talbott	296-3923 <i>WILL ATTEND</i>
<i>yes</i> Vietnam Veterans of Amer.	- Normand Gonsauls	546-7891 <i>Richard Johnson</i>
<i>yes</i> Air Force Assoc.	- Frank Feeney	362-6925 <i>WILL ATTEND</i>
<i>yes</i> Air Force Sergeants Assoc.	- John Terzano	546-3700 <i>WILL ATTEND</i>
<i>yes</i> Association of the U.S. Army	- Russell E. Dougherty	637-3300 <i>Jim Mc Donnell</i>
<i>yes</i> National Assoc. for Uniformed Services	- Earl Marshall, Jr.	899-3500 <i>yes</i>
<i>yes</i> National Assoc. of State Directors of Veterans Affairs	- Mar. Gen. Robert F. Cocklin	841-4300 <i>Regist</i>
<i>yes</i> National Black Veterans Org.	- Col. John P. Sheffey	750-1342 <i>Col John Sheffey</i>
<i>yes</i> National League of Families	- A. Leo Anderson	737-5050 <i>yes</i>
<i>yes</i> Naval Reserve Assoc.	- Frederick L. Jones	842-2900
<i>yes</i> Reserve Officers Assoc.	- Ann Griffiths	223-6846 <i>Carol Bates</i>
<i>yes</i> Retired Officers Assoc.	- RADM James E. Forrest	548-5800 <i>CMR Geo. R. H. Jones</i>
<i>yes</i> Vietnam Veterans Foundation	- Maj. Gen J. Milnor Roberts	479-2200 <i>Col C. Judson Lively</i>
<i>yes</i> Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund	- Lt. Gen. LeRoy J. Manor	549-2311 <i>Col MAURICE L. LIP</i>
	- Tom Wincek	751-3797
	- Col. David Schaet	659-1151 <i>Col Robert Carter</i>

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 7, 1982

ATTENDEES: July 8, 1982 meeting to Introduce Everett Alvarez

AMVETS
Blinded Veterans Assoc.
Congressional Medal of
Honor Society
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the
Purple Heart
Paralyzed Veterans of
America
United Spanish War
Veterans
U.S. Submarine Veterans
of World War II
Veterans of World War I
American Defenders of
Bataan & Corregidor
American Ex-Prisoners
of War
American Veterans Comm.
Army & Navy Union
Catholic War Veterans
Fleet Reserve Assoc.
Jewish War Veterans
Military Order of the
World Wars
Non Commissioned Officers
Regular Veterans Assoc.
Vietnam Veterans of
America
Air Force Assoc.
National Association for
Uniformed Services
National Association of
State Directors of
Veterans Affairs
National League of Families
Naval Reserve Association
Reserve Officers Assoc.
Retired Officers Assoc.
Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Fund
Air Force Sergeants Assoc.

Morgan S. Ruph
Sumner Vale

J. Elliot Williams
Capt. C. L. Kammeier

Richard Galant

R. Jack Powell

Beulah M. Cope

E.J. Newbould
Muriel Parkhurst

Manny Lawton

Col. Charles Morgan

Frank Weil

Albert C. Allen

Raymond J. Williams

Robert W. Nolan

Steve Shaw

Lt. Gen. C.M. Talbott

Richard Johnson, Charles Jackson

Frank Feeney

John Terzano

Jim McDonnell

Col. John P. Sheffey

A. Leo Anderson

Carol Bates

CMDR George R. Hooper

Col. C. Judson Lively

Lt. Col. Maurice L. Lien

Col Robert Carter

Earl Marshall, Jr.

DR CHAS. H. STANGER

THE WHITE HOUSE

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National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs	A. Leo Anderson
National League of Families	Carol Bates
Naval Reserve Association	CMDR George R. Hooper
Reserve Officers Assoc.	Col. C. Judson Lively
Retired Officers Assoc.	Lt. Col. Maurice L. Lien
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund	Col Robert Carter
Air Force Sergeants Assoc.	Earl Marshall, Jr.

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Air Force Sergeants Assoc.	Col Robert Carter
	Earl Marshall, Jr.

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

To: Officer-in-charge
Appointments Center
Room 060, OEOB

Please admit the following appointments on July 8, 19 82

for MORTON C. BLACKWELL of OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON
(NAME OF PERSON TO BE VISITED) (Agency)

RUPH, Morgan S.
VALE, Sunmer
WILLIAMS, J. Elliot
KAMMEIER, Cyril
GALANT, Richard
POWELL, R. Jack
COPE, Beulah M.
NEWBOULD, E.J.
PARKHURST, Muriel
LAWTON, Manny
MORGAN, Charles
WEIL, Frank
ALLEN, Albert C.
WILLIAMS, Raymond J.
NOLAN, Robert W.
SHAW, Steve
TALBOTT, C.M. Lt. Gen.
JOHNSON, Richard
JACKSON, Charles
FEENEY, Frnak
TERZANO, John
MCDONNELL, James
SHEFFEY, John P.
ANDERSON, A. LEO

BATES, Carol
HOOPER, George R.
LIVELY, C. Judson
LIEN, Maurice L.
CARTER, Robert
MARSHALL, Earl, Jr.

ALVAREZ, Everett
MANCIAS, Joseph

MEETING LOCATION

Building OEOB

Room No. 474

Time of Meeting 10 am

Requested by BLACKWELL

Room No. 191 Telephone 2657

Date of request July 7, 1982

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to three (3) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB - 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE - 456-6742

Veterans
Admission

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 16, 1982

File

EHD	AD
RC	W
JB	
DL	
MS	

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH DOLE

FROM:

DEE KUHN

Dee

SUBJECT: Veterans Groups

The enclosed are copies of letters to be sent out under the President's signature for your files.

EWB/MS -
Very nice.
maybe you
will like
to see!
Shr

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ANNE HIGGINS

FROM:

DEE KUHN 

SUBJECT: President's signature

Jim Jenkins has asked me to forward these letters to you for the President's signature. .

If you see any problem with them, please give me a call at 7600.

Thank you

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 19, 1982

Dear Mr. Hartnett:

I was pleased to hear that you have had a productive discussion with Ed Meese regarding this administration's view of veterans and their problems. From all I have heard, there is in the making a solid, new basis for a closer working and communication relationship between your organization and Bob Nimmo and his new Deputy, Everett Alvarez.

As you know, we rely heavily on Elizabeth Dole and Morton Blackwell to be of whatever assistance you may require in those matters involving this Administration which are outside the specific charter of the Veterans Administration. If you have further need to talk to Ed Meese or anyone else here at the White House, just let Morton know.

Again, thank you for taking the time to sit down and talk, and to make a sincere effort at clearing up the problems about which you have been concerned.

Sincerely,

Mr. Norman B. Hartnett
Disabled American Veterans
National Director of Services
807 Maine Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 19, 1982

Dear Mr. Holt:

I was pleased to hear that you have had a productive discussion with Ed Meese regarding this administration's view of veterans and their problems. From all I have heard, there is in the making a solid, new basis for a closer working and communication relationship between your organization and Bob Nimmo and his new Deputy, Everett Alvarez.

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Again, thank you for taking the time to sit down and talk, and to make a sincere effort at clearing up the problems about which you have been concerned.

Sincerely,

Mr. Cooper Holt
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Executive Director
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 19, 1982

Dear Mr. Kraja:

I was pleased to hear that you have had a productive discussion with Ed Meese regarding this administration's view of veterans and their problems. From all I have heard, there is in the making a solid, new basis for a closer working and communication relationship between your organization and Bob Nimmo and his new Deputy, Everett Alvarez.

As you know, we rely heavily on Elizabeth Dole and Morton Blackwell to be of whatever assistance you may require in those matters involving this Administration which are outside the specific charter of the Veterans Administration. If you have further need to talk to Ed Meese or anyone else here at the White House, just let Morton know.

Again, thank you for taking the time to sit down and talk, and to make a sincere effort at clearing up the problems about which you have been concerned.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mylio Kraja
American Legion
Executive Director
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1982

TO: Jim Jenkins

FROM: Maiselle Shortley

Morton Blackwell asked me to send you the attached background for the meeting on Tuesday morning with the veterans organizations' leaders.

Thanks for your help in setting up this meeting.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON OFFICE

June 4, 1982

Dear Morton:

I am deeply concerned about the persistent rumor of the departure of Charles Hagel, Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

If this is indeed fact, our veteran community will lose an outstanding Vietnam veteran, who in a very short time has demonstrated his leadership and commitment to the delivery of all benefits to our veteran population.

It is my view that the repercussion of this event, if it occurs, will have an adverse affect on the perception of the Administration by veterans--and especially by the Vietnam generation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mylio", is written over the typed name.

MYLIO S. KRAJA

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to Mrs. Elizabeth Dole
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Stars and Stripes
 Thursday, June 10, 1982

Vets Line Up Against Nimmo

Washington, DC (S&S)—Pressure is apparently mounting across the country to force the Administration to either remove VA Administrator Robert P. Nimmo from office or have him address and rectify the complaints that have mushroomed over the past few months as a result of his casual remarks to the wire services, his reported misuse of VA funds to refurbish his offices, his alleged holidays from VACO; his reported refusal to support programs, and the Administration's apparent intent to slash VA services to veterans.

The *Stars and Stripes* has been informed that the major veterans organizations who have queried Nimmo by letter concerning the complaints, have not been answered.

Veterans' leaders who were interviewed are expressing their concern that because of Nimmo's actions, columnists for major newspapers and television commentators are reporting stories that reflect discredit upon the Administration and upon the VA at a time when the agency is fighting for its financial life on the Hill.

It is noteworthy that the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) who were the only veterans organization to publicly support the candidacy of Ronald Reagan for President in



Robert P. Nimmo

1980, are leading the mounting attack.

Veterans' leaders who were interviewed are expressing serious concern that columnists for major newspapers and television commentators are portraying Nimmo in a posture that reflects discredit upon the VA at a time when it is fighting for its financial life before the Congress.

Citing the "disservice" Nimmo does the agency by such comments "which play right in the hands of the press," the VFW notes in particular an editorial which appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* entitled "Touching the Untouchable," and mentions a number of other media efforts.

The VFW said "We both know the VA is anything but un- See Nimmo, Pg. 6

Nimmo From Pg. 1

touchable. This is evidenced by the ever declining percentage of the overall Federal budget which goes to the VA.

"Untouchable is certainly an unearned title when you consider the emasculation, indeed the eradication, of the pension program by PL 95-588."

The VFW noted that the VA is up to 22.5 percent less expensive than other community hospitals," and yet Nimmo would throw us to the wolves of the private hospital community just to fill up hospitals they overbuilt."

Noting that they have taken care to assume a "sit back and wait" attitude during the beginning of Nimmo's tenure, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the VFW said they had taken care not to indiscriminately attack Nimmo or his efforts and give him a chance.

In speaking of the recent hospital construction curtailment, the VFW said, "Nimmo should not allow politics, or a simplistic effort to save money, to influence the IG's or the VA's revalidation of the construction program."

"We do not need a rabid IG who is as 'mean as a junkyard dog', as President Reagan refers to them. We need compassion and recognition that honors loyalty and service," said Cooper Holt, Executive Director of the VFW. ★

2 views of federal spending

Our bucks stop here

Despite all of Ronald Reagan's tough talk about cutting waste in government spending, it still depends on which side of the bureaucrat's desk you're sitting.

Two examples:

First, there's Robert Nimmo, who sits on the bureaucrat's side. He is Reagan's appointee as administrator of the Veterans Administration.

When Nimmo moved into his Washington offices, he was not impressed by the decor. So he ordered that the place be spruced up.

Start with the floors. His predecessor used a wheelchair, so the floors were a bit scuffed.

They were refinished at a cost of \$3,000. Then they were covered with carpeting.

Carpeting comes in a wide range of prices. I recently bought three pretty nice Scandinavian rugs—dining room, living room and TV room—for about \$1,500.

The carpeting that was put into Nimmo's governmental office was in the Karastan "plush elegance" and "new grace" styles and cost \$6,000.

THEN THEY DROPPED about \$4,000 for some wall treatments and bookshelves. Another \$1,400 for a coffee table and TV set. A comfy chair for Nimmo to sit in cost \$332.

And almost \$400 was spent on pictures to hang on his wall. (Don't bureaucrats have any nice family photos that can fill the space?)

The office finally looked nice, but it lacked a certain something.

That something was a private bathroom and shower for Nimmo. He likes to freshen up before he goes out to dinner.

So the plasterers and carpenters and plumbers came in and installed a private shower and bathroom in Nimmo's office. Cost: \$8,477.

(Nimmo's predecessor was a triple-amputee, but he somehow managed to perform his bodily functions without a private bathroom.)

There's more, but I won't go into all the details. The bottom line is that in these hard-eyed times, with social services for the poor being slashed, the cost of remodeling Nimmo's offices was \$46,000.

Think about that when you're trying to scrape up enough money, after paying your income tax, to buy some plywood so you can refinish your own basement. If you can afford to own your own basement.

THEN THERE'S Nimmo's car.

Nimmo had the government lease a 1982 Buick Electra for him at about \$720 a month. And the government provides him with a chauffeur.

And he likes to ride in the car so much—apparently using the chauffeur to take him to and from his home—that the driver piled up more than \$8,000 in overtime in less than a year.

(Nimmo's predecessor, the triple-amputee, used to drive himself to and from home.)

So to give Nimmo pleasant carpeting upon which to walk, and a big car for him to sit in, it has cost more than \$60,000 in one year.

It takes a lot of W-2 forms to raise \$60,000.

Then there is Mary Bevcich, who sits on the other side of the bureaucrat's desk, which is where most of us sit.

Mrs. Bevcich is 85, and a childless widow. She lives in a two-flat on the Southwest Side and



**Mike
Royko**

scrapes by on a monthly \$264.70 check from Social Security. That's \$61.08 a week—not exactly mad money.

Recently Mrs. Bevcich received a letter from the Social Security office that said:

"We have determined that you received \$1,058.80 more in supplemental security income payments than you were due.

"... If you repay a portion of this in cash, you may become eligible again for these payments.

"Please refund the \$1,058.80 immediately. Make your check or money order payable to..." etc., etc.

MRS. BEVCICH was confused. Bureaucrats easily confuse people her age.

But a friend of hers checked into the matter for her, and this is what the problem is:

Mrs. Bevcich is just too rich for her own good.

The Social Security people discovered that Mrs. Bevcich has two bank accounts.

In one she has \$453.40. She has set that aside for emergencies.

In the other, she has \$1,081. That money is being reserved for her funeral expenses.

She also owns a grave site in a cemetery, which is worth about \$300. The burial plot is for herself, of course.

So when you add up her funeral money, the value of her burial plot, and her emergency money, it comes to about \$1,800.

And a Social Security bureaucrat said she cannot have more than \$1,500 and still draw her payments.

"She simply exceeded her allowable limit in cash assets," a Social Security spokesman said.

BUT HOW CAN the government include the money she has earmarked to bury herself with and the value of the small patch of ground in which she intends to be buried?

The bureaucrat said: "Having that burial plot doesn't preclude someone from selling it. She could go out tomorrow and sell it and never tell us. If it's accessible as cash and she can reach for it at any time, it translates as cash."

But he was not without a heart. He said that Mrs. Bevcich wouldn't have to pay back the entire \$1,058.80 in one lump sum. She could start paying installments.

And, by getting rid of some of her money—I guess she should go on a mad spending spree—they'll begin sending her that \$61.08 a week.

Say, maybe forcing Mrs. Bevcich to spend her funeral money is just a clever trick to stimulate the economy.

After all, Mr. Nimmo in Washington is doing his part.

Nimmo - An Embarrassment

First nominated by President Reagan some fourteen months ago after an ignoble seven-month period when various individuals were offered the job and turned it down, the Administrator of the VA, Robert P. Nimmo, has become a public issue which must be addressed and resolved by the White House.

It was confounding enough to veterans and staunch supporters of the new Administration's commitment to austerity, that the agency with the second largest number of government personnel, and the third largest Federal budget, received no more than cursory consideration as to who would judiciously and effectively administer its vast operations in the future.

However, veterans who were used to the military *modus operandi* of hurry up and wait, and supporters of the new regime who desired to fairly offer the President and his men sufficient time to become acclimated, presumed that the serious impediments surfacing in VA operations across the country were temporary, and based on the short time in office of the new appointees and their remarkable tendency to be ill-informed about how Washington works, regardless of their political affiliation.

It is noteworthy that the VA functioned without losing one bed or similar catastrophe during the seven-month quibble over who would run the outfit.

The situation now, however, is ludicrous.

It has become vividly apparent in national press reports which have sleuthed out the Administrator's activities since his appointment, that because of his actions, Robert P. Nimmo's credibility is nearly zero and probably irreparably damaged.

The hierarchy is entitled to their perqs, and really, who cares, as long as the integrity of the agency and its functions are not touched.

The Administrator and his staff, like it or not, by the title of their offices are levied with the responsibility of setting an appropriate example for the minions to follow.

Unless they want a revolt—"Do as I say, and not as I do" has banished many from the role of statesman.

Despite his recent repayment to the VA treasury of some six thousand, four hundred dollars for costs associated with the illegal use of government transportation, (opinions on the use of agency vehicles and drivers were provided his office in June and November 1981 by the VA General Counsel's office, expressly forbidding unofficial commuting), the suspicion that Nimmo et al have become a political public relations disaster, are being confirmed daily.

How long will the Administration allow this self-humiliation to continue?

Nimmo has announced that he will give up his lease on his favored Buick Electra for a vehicle consistent with government regs. It is hoped that he will no longer continue to park in the handicapped area at VA headquarters allotted for paraplegics and comparably disabled veterans. At least one national organization has already issued a formal complaint coupled with the reasons why they cannot attend meetings at Central Office.

It is pointless to comment on all of the absurdities perpetrated by the Administrator and some of his staff in the name of austerity, although commandeering a military aircraft to fly his aide-de-camp and himself home from Reno (\$5,600), and refusing to allow VA employees to take leave to attend the Vietnam Veterans Memorial groundbreaking ceremony while he kept a golfing commitment, are heights worth noting.

More to the point is the fact that Nimmo has said all along he did not want the VA job and accepted it only to carry out the budget cuts President Reagan wanted.

Reliable sources in VA headquarters confirm that Nimmo has vowed to remain as head of the VA long enough to assure that he and OMB Director David Stockman can effect the severe slashes already being considered for the VA in the Fiscal '84 Budget, and the word has been passed.

While the FY '83 Budget was being reviewed, Nimmo personally supported the enactment of S. 1066, which would have paved the way towards making the GI Bill of Rights a welfare program.

When the FY '83 Budget came out, Nimmo wanted to reduce the payments to dependents of 30 to 40 percent service-connected disabled.

After an interview with the VA Administrator, an AP reporter incorrectly played down the effects of the proposed cuts by portraying them as "those with relatively minor service-connected disabilities such as flat feet, chronic laryngitis, convulsive tics, or moderate ulcers."

The White House did not correct this announcement or direct the VA Administrator to clarify that this also included people who had suffered legs blown off at the knee or the loss of the sight in an eye.

No one should be surprised, therefore, that this ridiculous travesty continues, but there is serious concern that it seems to be interminable.

Reasonable budget cuts not geared to penalize the service-connected disabled or attacking earned benefits such as the GI Bill, might have been acceptable...if they had been presented by an Administrator respected by veterans organizations and the thirty million they speak for.

How can they, the Congress or the Nation, take this man's sincerity at face value in the future when he attempts to defend any future slashes in the name of the Reagan Administration?

The issue here is not what political persuasion one professes; the Administrator of any Federal agency should represent the policies of the President who appointed him, no matter which Administration is in power.

At the same time, this individual must represent the citizens of the United States, fairly and judiciously.

The present Administrator clearly does not meet these requirements. ★

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**Veterans
Administration**

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALVAREZ TO BE NOMINATED DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

A former prisoner of war in Vietnam, Everett Alvarez, Jr., will be nominated by President Reagan to be Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs. He will succeed Charles T. Hagel, who has resigned.

Alvarez, 44, will join VA Administrator Robert P. Nimmo in leading the government's largest independent agency. He comes to the VA from the Peace Corps where he has served as Deputy Director since being appointed by the President in 1981.

A native of Salinas, Calif., Alvarez currently oversees the day to day management of more than 5,000 Peace Corps volunteers serving in over 60 countries.

The former Navy pilot received his Bachelor's Degree in electrical engineering from the University of Santa Clara in 1960, the same year he entered the Navy, beginning a 20-year career. He received his Master's Degree in Operations Research and Systems Analysis in 1976 from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif., and in December 1982 will receive his J.D. Degree from the George Washington University National Law Center in Washington, D.C.

-more-

From November 1976 to July 1980, Alvarez served as assistant program manager for the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command, and director of the U.S. Naval Air Production Management Project Office in Washington, D.C.

As assistant program manager, he managed the Navy's \$200 million A-4 aircraft program, accountable for management of development, testing, evaluation, and production of A-4 systems involving 15 models and more than 2,000 aircraft.

As director of the U.S. Naval Air Production Management Project Office, he established and implemented production readiness procedures and managed government contracting and procurement processes.

Among his numerous military awards are: Silver Star, two Legion of Merits (with combat 'V'), two Bronze Stars (with combat 'V'), a Distinguished Flying Cross and two Purple Hearts.

Upon his retirement from the Navy in 1980, Alvarez went to work for a Washington, D.C. law firm.

In 1973, following his release by the North Vietnamese, after eight and one-half years as a prisoner of war--the longest-held American POW of that conflict--he established the Everett Alvarez, Jr. scholarship foundation "to help youngsters get ahead and develop a sense of responsibility and positive feelings toward being an American." The foundation is administered by the University of Santa Clara.

As VA deputy administrator, Alvarez will assist the VA chief in carrying out the agency's numerous responsibilities in serving the nearly 30 million living veterans and overseeing the agency's \$25 billion budget.

Alvarez and his wife, the former Thomasine Ilyas of Pittsburgh, Pa., reside in Rockville, Md., with their two children Marc and Bryan.

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July 8, 1982