

SVol 865-1
STENOGRAPHIC ASSISTANCE

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

UNITED STATES SENATE

EIGHTIETH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 1268

**A BILL TO AMEND SUBSECTION 200(c) OF THE
SERVICEMEN'S READJUSTMENT ACT OF 1944,
AS AMENDED, AND AN AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

MAY 25, 1948

Printed for the use of the Committee on Finance



**UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1948**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

EUGENE D. MILLIKIN, Colorado, *Chairman*

ROBERT A. TAFT, Ohio

HUGH BUTLER, Nebraska

OWEN BREWSTER, Maine

HARLAN J. BUSHFIELD, South Dakota

ALBERT W. HAWKES, New Jersey

EDWARD MARTIN, Pennsylvania

WALTER F. GEORGE, Georgia

ALBEN W. BARKLEY, Kentucky

TOM CONNALLY, Texas

HARRY FLOOD BYRD, Virginia

EDWIN C. JOHNSON, Colorado

SCOTT W. LUCAS, Illinois

SHERWOOD B. STANLEY, *Clerk*

CONTENTS

	Page
Statement of—	
Adamy, Clarence G., national service director, AMVETS.....	6
Floyd, William M., national commander, Regular Veterans Association.....	12
Kraabel, T. O., the American Legion.....	9
Lawlor, Lawrence A., Veterans' Administration.....	12
Tate, William E., national director for claims, Disabled American Veterans.....	1
Williamson, John C., Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.....	7
Letters, statements, reports, etc., submitted for the record by—	
S. 1268.....	1
Amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 1268.....	1
Lawlor, Lawrence A., Veterans' Administration:	
Report of Veterans' Administration on S. 1268.....	12
Report of Veterans' Administration on proposed amendment to S. 1268.....	14



STENOGRAPHIC ASSISTANCE

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1948

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, D. C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 3 p. m., in room 312, Senate Office Building, Senator Eugene D. Millikin, chairman, presiding.

Present: Senators Millikin (chairman), Butler, Martin, George, Barkley, and Johnson of Colorado.

The CHAIRMAN. The next bill is S. 1268, to provide stenographic assistance to representatives of recognized veterans' organizations.

(S. 1268 and amendment follow:)

[S. 1268, 80th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL To amend subsection 200 (c) of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subsection 200 (c) of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, as added by section 3 of the act of December 28, 1945 (Public Law 268, 79th Cong.), is amended to read as follows:

"(c) The Administrator is further authorized at his discretion, and under such regulations as he may prescribe, to furnish, if available, necessary space, suitable office facilities, and stenographic assistance for the use of paid-full-time representatives of such organizations."

[S. 1268, 80th Cong., 2d sess.]

AMENDMENT (in the nature of a substitute) intended to be proposed by Mr. BUTLER to the bill (S. 1268) to amend subsection 200 (c) of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, viz: Strike out all after the enacting clause and in lieu thereof insert the following:

That subsection 200 (c) of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, as added by section 3 of the Act of December 28, 1945 (Public Law 268, Seventy-ninth Congress), is amended to read as follows:

"(c) The Administrator is further authorized at his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe to furnish in central, branch, and regional offices, if available, necessary space, suitable office facilities, and stenographic assistance for the use of paid, full-time representatives of such veteran organizations as are incorporated by Act of Congress."

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Tate.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM E. TATE, NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR CLAIMS, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. TATE. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I am William Tate, national director for claims of the Disabled American Veterans.

The CHAIRMAN. Proceed.

Mr. TATE. We of the Disabled American Veterans desire to express our appreciation to Chairman Millikin and the members of the Senate

Finance Committee for this opportunity to present testimony regarding the amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 1268 which was introduced by Senator Hugh Butler.

This proposal is intended to provide stenographic assistance to full time, paid service officers of congressionally chartered veteran organizations. A companion, H. R. 3016, is now on the House Calendar. It is supported by the four major veteran organizations.

At first mention this request on the part of veteran organizations is difficult to understand, but one of the points we stress is that service officers of congressionally chartered veteran organizations are now performing services for veterans, their families, and the survivors of deceased veterans which conserve the personnel of the Veterans' Administration and save that agency many thousands of dollars each year.

For many years the Veterans' Administration furnished the necessary stenographic assistance in recognition of the work done by the major veteran organizations. However, when the bill H. R. 3749, Seventy-ninth Congress, which amended the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, was reported by the Senate Finance Committee, it contained a provision to provide stenographic assistance despite the fact that such assistance was then being supplied by the Veterans' Administration. The bill went to conference and the provision as to stenographic assistance was eliminated; based upon this action, the Veterans' Administration then ruled that it was the intent of Congress such assistance should not be supplied. The bill later became Public Law 268, Seventy-ninth Congress, approved December 28, 1944.

During the first session of the Eightieth Congress H. R. 3839, the independent offices appropriation bill, 1948, was reported by the Senate Appropriation Committee. That committee stated in its report, in effect, that the Veterans' Administration should supply stenographic assistance to the congressionally chartered organizations for their full time, paid representatives, but that it should be done within the discretion of the Administrator.

There are many expressions of Congress to support the view that the stenographic assistance should be supplied, but one example will suffice. The House Committee on the Judiciary, Report No. 1271, Seventy-second Congress, first session, quotes Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, then Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, in referring to the DAV, as saying, in part, the following:

I desire to testify as strongly as I can to this organization's efforts in assisting the disabled men in many ways. Naturally, it might be asked, why is it necessary for an organization of this kind to present claims and to assist families of veterans when we are doing so much from the Federal Government's standpoint? Simply for this reason: That no matter how carefully the organization prepared a claim and presents it, no matter to what extent we may go in our desire to find a way to allow the claim, I am sure that there exists in the mind of the veteran the thought, if he has an outside agency representing him before the various appeal and rating boards, his treatment will be more satisfactory than if the Government were doing that all alone.

Members of Congress are aware of the splendid work done by service officers of veteran organizations on behalf of the veteran, his family, and the survivors of deceased veterans. They also know that this work saves the Government in work and hundreds of thousands in dollars annually.

However, a few additional points as to the value of this work may be timely:

1. Every time a national service officer interviews a claimant for a benefit administered by VA, he saves the time of a VA employee.

2. A large part of the correspondence a service officer receives would otherwise be addressed to VA.

3. Every time his advice to a claimant as to the inadequacy of evidence is accepted, he saves the time not only of the contact representatives and the stenographer, but the time of members of rating boards and adjudicators.

4. Every time he obtains official documents in support of a claim, he saves the time of VA personnel.

5. Every time he assists in the development of evidence, he saves the time of VA personnel.

6. Every time his advice not to file or further prosecute a claim without merit in a regional office is accepted, the time of VA personnel is saved.

7. Every time a claimant accepts the advice of a national service officer not to file an appeal, the time of personnel not only in the regional office, but central office as well is saved.

8. Many times when a claim is presented either informally by correspondence or by formal appearance before an adjudicatory body by a qualified trained service officer rather than by the claimant himself or an advocate not versed in law and regulations, the time of VA personnel is conserved.

9. Every time the national service officer convinces a disappointed claimant that his case has been properly handled under the law, good will for VA is preserved.

10. The cost of such legislation, at the very most not more than \$400,000 annually, would result in a savings of personnel and funds amounting to millions of dollars for the Federal Government and more complete service for the disabled veteran, his family, and the dependents of deceased veterans.

11. The Veterans' Administration recognized the value of our work and did supply the necessary stenographic assistance until a ruling of the Solicitor discontinued such assistance; and

12. Our request is just and reasonable in that we are serving the disabled veterans at a great savings in personnel and funds to the Federal Government and the Veterans' Administration.

Expressive of the immediate and urgent necessity for stenographic assistance is a paragraph included in a letter to the national director for claims from a DAV national service officer which opinion is being reiterated in all sections of the Nation. It reads:

No secret is being made of the fact that the Veterans' Administration has quite plainly indicated that much of the curtailment in service being rendered the veteran will fall directly into the laps of service organizations.

We are hopeful the Senate Finance Committee will render an early and favorable report upon the amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 1268.

I would like, if I may, to point out a situation in this substitute bill which has just reached my attention, and that is that as it is now worded, section (c), beginning on line 5 on page 1, would have an effect that we did not intend, that is, it would take away the space

now being furnished the organizations other than congressionally chartered veterans' organizations, so we request that consideration be given to amending this amendment, by using the language as it now reads in the present law, so that section (c) would read 'The Administrator is further authorized in his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe to furnish, if available, necessary space and suitable office facilities for the use of paid full-time representatives of such organizations,' and at that point insert the following, "and stenographic assistance for the use of paid full-time representatives of such veterans' organizations as are incorporated by act of Congress."

You see, we had no intention of taking away any privilege that the other organizations now have, but it was the sense on the other side of the Capitol that the stenographic assistance should be limited to the congressionally chartered veteran organizations.

The CHAIRMAN. What are the privileges now of organizations which are not congressionally chartered?

Mr. TATE. If available, the Veterans' Administration is authorized to furnish suitable office facilities and office space.

The CHAIRMAN. You do not wish to restrict that in any way; all you are interested in is the stenographic service.

Mr. TATE. That is correct.

The CHAIRMAN. We have had this subject before this committee a number of times. I think there has been considerable opinion, and although this is the most valuable service yet, it is one of the central purposes of the organizations and a purpose which in part justifies their existence, and is an inducement to membership.

Mr. TATE. Well, so far as the DAV is concerned, it is the service rendered by these officers that is the only real inducement. We pride ourselves that we do render a very valuable service to any disabled veteran or any veteran or his dependent who comes to us and asks for assistance. It is not limited to our membership whatsoever. It is any veteran, and we do maintain such service in every regional office of the VA, and each of the branch offices, and in the central office.

The CHAIRMAN. Are not the dues which you collect sufficient for that purpose?

Mr. TATE. No, not by a great deal.

The CHAIRMAN. How do you meet that expense at the present time?

Mr. TATE. Well, so far as the stenographic help is concerned, we have been getting by in this manner; until Public 268 was passed, the VA did furnish us stenographic help, and because of the action taken in conference wherein they eliminated the stenographic help from the bill that had been passed by the Senate, the Solicitor ruled that it was the intent of Congress, because of that action, to take away that service that they had been giving us.

Fortunately for the DAV at that time we had inaugurated a training program to train disabled veterans of World War II to become national service officers for our organization, and as a part of their training they served for 18 months in on-the-job training in the various offices of the VA. We had 10 such classes with a 3 months' overlapping in them, and the Veterans' Administration did feel that it was a part of their duty under Public Law 16 to furnish stenographic help as one of the essentials for the proper training of those trainees.

That program comes to an end in November of this year, and we will no longer get that assistance. That is the reason we are so urgent in asking that the Congress enable the Veterans' Administration to do a thing that they did for 25 years. They furnished the stenographic help to us.

Senator GEORGE. I recall that conference. I do not think it was the intention of the conference, that the prior practice of the Administrator should not be restored if he was in the position to restore it, or to do it.

Mr. TATE. I took the same view, Senator, and at a conference in the office of the Solicitor where they asked the representatives of the various veterans' organizations to meet to work out regulations to put Public 268 into effect I tried to so argue with the Solicitor.

Senator GEORGE. He was not open to argument.

Mr. TATE. Well, at least I was not successful in it.

Senator GEORGE. I distinctly recall that. It was my understanding that the law has been all of the while that any veterans' organization approved by the Administrator could be furnished certain help and assistance if it were available.

Mr. TATE. Well, as a matter of fact, Senator, there was no legal authority for it.

Senator GEORGE. No.

Mr. TATE. The Administrator——

Senator GEORGE. He had practiced it.

Mr. TATE. That is right, for some 25 years.

The CHAIRMAN. We made it a definite part of the law to provide space when available, and facilities.

Mr. TATE. That is correct. The bill that the Senate passed also had the stenographic help in it, but something happened in conference there.

Senator JOHNSON. We could not keep it in conference.

Mr. TATE. I remember that, Senator.

Senator JOHNSON. I remember that.

Mr. TATE. I do not know what happened.

Senator BUTLER. What did you say, Senator?

Senator JOHNSON. We could not hold it in conference.

Senator GEORGE. I did not think it was the meaning of that at all that such assistance as they could render if they could render any legally was taken away.

Mr. TATE. Well, this would simply give legal basis to what was practiced for 25 years, and is not mandatory. It is left to the discretion of the Administrator.

I cannot see where the passage of this bill would in any way hurt the Veterans' Administration, but I think it would give them an opportunity to help themselves by putting us in a better position to give them help.

For example, our service officers are not handicapped by the technicalities that handicap the employees of the Veterans' Administration. You notice that I said that we stopped evidence. If our service officer gets a piece of evidence which in the mind of the veteran establishes his claim, but which does not meet the requirements of the law under the regulation, we can so advise him and help him in getting that developed.

The Veterans' Administration does not follow that practice. In other words, the contact man who is the fellow the claimant goes to see, he does not have the right to pass on that evidence. That is the duty of the claims service of Veterans' Administration.

So when that evidence is submitted, even though it is clear on the face of it that it does not meet the requirements, it still has to be passed upon by claims and rating board and they have to make a decision, and when they make that decision, they have to notify the veteran of it.

In that notification they have to tell him of his right to submit additional evidence, or to appeal, and almost invariably he will follow one or the other of those two courses, and just repeat. If he appeals, it comes up to the central office, where it takes up the time of some pretty high paid personnel of the VA. Every time a service officer explains to that veteran the inadequacies of that evidence, and if necessary contacts his witnesses and develops the case, he has saved the time of a lot of people in the VA, and thereby has saved money.

I think that any responsible officer that is familiar with adjudication in the VA—it may be that some newcomers may not appreciate this, but any man that has been in the VA over a considerable period of time, either in central office or in the regional office, will have to recognize the truthfulness of that statement, and the value and the savings that we furnish the Veterans' Administration.

We cannot continue the present service we have. We do not pay our service officers what they should get, and we cannot continue what we do have unless we get some relief and we think this service is of so much value to everybody concerned, because I have seen this happen more than once, and I think perhaps you have too, Senator George, I have seen men so disappointed and disillusioned by the red tape and become disgruntled and on the verge of being bad citizens where we can step in there, if he has a legitimate claim, get it through for him. If he has no claim under the law, we explain it to him. He will take an explanation from us. He knows we are in his corner. He might not take it from the employee of the VA.

We think this thing is of great importance and most earnestly solicit early and favorable consideration.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. TATE. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Adamy is next.

STATEMENT OF CLARENCE G. ADAMY, NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR, AMVETS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. ADAMY. AMVETS are indeed proud to support this bill. We feel that it is an honest bill, and one which will permit greater service to the veterans, both by the organizations and by the Veterans' Administration itself, and that in effect it will save money.

The CHAIRMAN. You folks have service officers that work at headquarters?

Mr. ADAMY. We have 24 full-time paid officers now. We are just starting out. I have been at it exactly for a year now developing this organization.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. ADAMY. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Next is Mr. Williamson.

STATEMENT OF JOHN C. WILLIAMSON, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is supporting this measure in conjunction with the other veterans groups. We have a number of full-time paid representatives situated in the regional and the branch offices as well as the central office of the VA. These full-time representatives are paid by the national organization or the department. Sometimes the salary represents the joint contribution of both.

These representatives provide what we think is a public service, and if it were not for these representatives, there would be an increased burden on the VA with a resultant increase in their own appropriations for administrative purposes.

We believe the bill would help us materially. The chairman mentioned during the testimony of Mr. Tate that this is just one of the services that provides an incentive for membership. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has been operating on a good sized budget the last 2 or 3 years, and the largest item on our budget is for rehabilitation service. Like the executive branch of the Government, we sometimes find it difficult to make ends meet. In fact occasionally we find ourselves running into the red on the national level, because of the great burden that has come on our rehabilitation service and we believe this bill would assist us materially.

We earnestly solicit the favorable consideration of the committee.

Along with the Disabled American Veterans and AMVETS, we concur in the amendments proposed by Mr. Tate, limiting the stenographic services to the congressionally chartered organizations. In our opinion most of the members, probably 95 percent of the members of all of the nonchartered veterans' organizations, are members of the four big groups. In fact, to some extent there is duplication of membership even in the big four, and if the stenographic services were to be provided to all, there would be considerable overlapping and duplication. The increased cost would not justify such an extension.

The CHAIRMAN. Does this contemplate separate stenographic service for each agency or for each service organization, or could it be worked out on a pool basis?

Mr. WILLIAMSON. That would be the most feasible way of working this out, to provide the stenographic pool from which the representatives could draw stenographic service.

Senator BUTLER. It could be the same pool from which the Veterans' Administration get their help.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. I think that would be very probably the way to work it out.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you supplying your own stenographers at the present time?

Mr. WILLIAMSON. Yes, sir, we are, and the lack of stenographers has placed quite a burden, and has put us behind, in our services along this line. It has contributed to a marked strain on our services and has prevented an expansion of such services when it is needed.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Senator JOHNSON. What is the extent of coordination between and among the five agencies, veterans agencies? Do they work together closely? Is there duplication?

Mr. WILLIAMSON. It has been my experience that they work together very effectively. I am sure that Mr. Tate and Mr. Krabel concur in that.

Mr. TATE. There can be no duplication. In order for a representative of the DAV or the VFW or any other veterans' organization to represent a claimant, they have to have power of attorney from him to represent him, and he can only give it to one at a time. He can change that power of attorney if he desires. The Veterans' Administration has a regular form in which he names the organization he desires to represent him.

Senator JOHNSON. These stenographers who are assigned to assist you and help you, can they be used and utilized by more than one agency under this bill? Is it permissive, and I presume that would be possible, if you did not have work enough for a stenographer or two or three or more stenographers, for each one of the veterans' groups, that they could be used by all of the groups.

Mr. TATE. What would happen, judging by what has happened in the past, if this is enacted into law, the Administrator or his designate will call for a conference with the representatives of the various organizations to work out the regulations which will put this law into effect, and all of us will try to work together to do it in a way as to be the most economical way to do it, and in the final analysis while we can make our recommendations as to how it may be done, the decision will rest with the Administrator as to how he does it.

It would depend upon the circumstances perhaps in the various offices; some offices are large and some are small, as to whether a stenographer is assigned to a particular organization or whether it is in a pool is a matter that would have to be worked out by the Administration.

I might say it has been our experience where they have been furnishing stenographers for our training program that we have been a pretty good training school for their stenographers. About the time we get them where they are of real service to them, they reassign them to somewhere in the VA, and give us new material to break in. Of course, we are glad to do that, because we appreciate their cooperation.

You can rest assured that the Administrator will work it out in such a way as to be then to the best interests of the VA.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. I would like to include this statement.

The CHAIRMAN. That may be done.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity of testifying in behalf of the bill S. 1268, and I wish to suggest certain amendments which would reduce the cost of the bill and which would bring the bill in conformity with H. R. 3016, now pending on the House Calendar.

It is my understanding, that, prior to the enactment of amendments to the Servicemen's Readjustment Act in December 1945, the Veterans' Administration furnished some stenographic assistance to accredited representatives of veterans' organizations handling claims in various offices of the Veterans' Administration. An attempt was made to write this heretofore discretionary authority of the Administrator into law and the Senate version of Public Law 268, Seventy-ninth Congress, contained such a provision. When the bill went to conference all references to stenographic assistance were deleted and

the VA seized upon this as a manifestation of the intent of Congress not to furnish such stenographic assistance. The service was discontinued very shortly thereafter.

There are approximately 400 full-time paid representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars processing the claims of all veterans regardless of membership in any particular organization, in the central, branch, regional and subregional offices of the VA in every State of the Union. These representatives are paid by the VFW national organization or the VFW department and in many respects the salary represents a joint contribution from both the national and department levels.

These representatives provide a public service and there is no question but that the absence of these accredited representatives would result in an increased burden on the part of personnel of the VA with the resultant increase in appropriations for VA administrative purposes. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is dedicated to the service of the veteran, and the greater part of their activity on the national and department levels is geared to this claims work. It is a costly service and the money comes from the dues and from what little is received through the sale of the "Buddy" poppy.

The furnishing of stenographic assistance as contemplated in this bill would cost the Government very little in relation to the value of the service performed.

I would like at this time to suggest two amendments to the bill as follows:

First, after the word "furnish" on line 9 add the language "in central, branch, regional and subregional offices." This would serve to clarify the scope of activities which would benefit from the enactment of this bill. In the absence of this language considerable question may arise as to whether such service should be limited only to offices on one particular level.

Second, after the last word on page 11 change the period to a comma and add the following words, "as are incorporated by act of Congress." We believe this language to be of considerable importance. Approximately 24 service organizations have been recognized for presenting claims before the VA.

In my opinion only the present congressionally chartered veterans' organizations are at present operating extensively and effectively in this field of work. The greater majority of members in the non-chartered organizations are also members of the four congressionally chartered groups. To a lesser extent there is duplication of membership even within the four major groups. There is some apprehension that the offering of this service to all of the 24 groups recognized by the VA would result in considerable overlapping and duplication with resultant increase in cost to the Government.

We urge you, therefore, to recommend approval of this bill with the above amendments.

The CHAIRMAN. The next is Mr. Kraabel.

**STATEMENT OF T. O. KRAABEL, THE AMERICAN LEGION,
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

Mr. KRAABEL. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, our organization also joins in the support of 1268, and has a statement here to submit for the record giving our position.

The point just raised by the Senators, we look forward to the possibility that the Administrator, if this becomes law, will call up together, as he did after the passage of Public 268, and work out a formula, a criterion, by which the determination of how stenographic help is to be accorded will be made, and we will readily join in that.

I want to emphasize again that each claimant designates his representative, if he chooses to have one, and as long as that designation is in effect, no other group or organization interferes with it. To that extent we understand each others operation.

The CHAIRMAN. Do the service officers work together to try to reach uniformity of interpretation in these things?

Mr. KRAABEL. I have traveled about and visited a great number of the VA offices and have found in them in most cases satisfactory office accommodations and facilities, and I have noted this very thing you ask about, Senator, that if they have developed a point of interpretation, they are not reluctant to share it with each other in the interest of furthering the equitable adjudication of a veteran's claim.

The CHAIRMAN. It would be a very desirable thing to do, I think.

Mr. KRAABEL. Our experience has taught us the same, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Your statement will be included.

Mr. KRAABEL. S. 1268 is a bill to amend subsection 200 (c) of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 as amended. This subsection now reads as follows:

(c) The Administrator is further authorized at his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe to furnish, if available, necessary space and suitable office facilities for the use of paid full-time representatives of such organizations.

H. R. 3016 reported with amendments on July 24, 1947, amends this bill to read as follows:

(c) The Administrator is further authorized at his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe to furnish, in central, branch, regional, and sub-regional offices, if available, necessary space, suitable office facilities, and stenographic assistance for the use of paid full-time representatives of such organizations as are incorporated by Act of Congress.

The bill before this committee, S. 1268, dated May 6, 1948, has an additional change, to which we all agree. It eliminates the word "subregional." We agree that there should be inserted after the word "facilities" the phrase "for the use of paid, full-time representatives of such organizations."

From its very inception in the days immediately following World War I the American Legion launched forth into a program of assistance, counsel, and representation for veterans, their dependents and beneficiaries. This has developed into a Nation-wide coverage in which approximately 15,000 volunteer service officers, 1,500 certified accredited representatives and 70 national rehabilitation staff members, and 23 field representatives, are engaged. The work of the full-time service officers and representatives requires that many of them have office space and accommodations at Veterans' Administration installations.

The provisions of the above-cited section of the law and the instructions of VA putting it into effect, VA Circular 13, January 16, 1946, have been translated into fairly satisfactory arrangements for Ameri-

can Legion service officers, rehabilitation and field representatives, as to office space, desks, filing cabinets, telephones, tables, chairs, typewriters, and so forth. Occasionally a complaint is heard as to crowded conditions or inadequate facilities. Adjustment, however, is eventually brought about.

We have now come to the point where the increase in the work load and circumstances attendant thereon make it necessary for many of our full-time service officers and rehabilitation representatives to have extra stenographic or clerical help. Because of the nature of the service officer's work in counseling and assisting claimants with the filing and development of their applications, it is recognized that these full-time representatives of veterans' organizations do much which otherwise would have to be done by the VA itself. The record may never show, but it should be set forth that trained and experienced service officers develop innumerable claims of veterans and dependents, completing the evidence necessary to an equitable VA adjudication. They know what is required and endeavor to assist in meeting these requirements before the VA is asked to take action.

They not only assist in preparing appeals when considered justifiable, but they also dissuade claimants from proceeding in the hopeless cases. They are familiar with the procedure of administrative reviews and other channels by which erroneous interpretations, inadequate adjudication or inappropriate application of the rating schedule may be brought to the proper VA officials at branch or central offices.

We submit that in all these matters it would be a modest and economical investment for the Veterans' Administration to provide such stenographic and clerical help as the work load and full-time activity of an accredited representative of a congressionally chartered veterans' organization might justify.

It is not our proposal that everyone engaged in service work should be furnished with a stenographer by the Veterans' Administration. This should be left to the judgment and discretion of the Administration, the Administrator. Presumably he would, as he did before circular 13 was issued, confer with officials of the recognized veterans' organizations in order to formulate a rule or criterion according to which stenographic help could be accorded.

The American Legion maintains two rehabilitation representatives or claims people and one secretary in each of the 13 VA branch offices, in New York there are three. Each group has satisfactory office accommodations and facilities. They are in close proximity in most instances to the contact and adjudication sections of the branch office. We cannot visualize that there would be any difficulty in the assignment of clerical or stenographic help in any of these offices where justified. Despite the program of curtailment in the number of VA employees it will be recognized that stenographers and typists in great numbers will be required and that the services of a modest number in assisting full-time service officers and rehabilitation representatives will in fact facilitate the work of the Veterans' Administration.

The American Legion recommends the approval and passage of this measure.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Floyd.

**STATEMENT OF WILLIAM M. FLOYD, NATIONAL COMMANDER,
REGULAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.**

Mr. FLOYD. There is not much I can add to this statement of the Disabled American Veterans, the Legion, and AMVETS and VFW. We are fully in accord with this bill, although we are not a nationally known charter, but we came under that. We are recognized by the VA and recognized by the other four organizations, and we get along simply wonderfully together. I hope some day that this will come in effect.

I would like to see the Congress enact this into law. I have a statement I would like to include.

The CHAIRMAN. You may proceed.

Mr. FLOYD. Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Finance, my name is William W. Floyd. I am the national commander of the Regular Veterans Association. Our organization is composed of members who have honorably served, or who are serving their country today. I might further state that all of the women components are eligible for membership in the Regular Veterans Association.

I am happy to have the privilege and honor of supporting this worthy measure, such as the bill we have before us today, S. 1268. We feel that the Disabled American Veterans' representative has brought all of the most important points home to the committee, and are fully explained.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lawlor.

STATEMENT OF LAWRENCE A. LAWLOR, VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. LAWLOR. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the Veterans' Administration submitted a report on S. 1268 as introduced June 25, 1947, and at that time General Bradley was the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

The CHAIRMAN. We will make that report a part of the record at this point.

(The report is as follows:)

JUNE 25, 1947.

HON. EUGENE D. MILLIKIN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MILLIKIN: This has further reference to your letter of May 14, 1947, requesting a report from the Veterans' Administration relative to S. 1268, a bill to amend subsection 200 (c) of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended.

The purpose of this bill is to amend subsection (c) of section 200 of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, so as to add "stenographic assistance" to the items of necessary space and suitable office facilities which the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is authorized to furnish at his discretion, if available, for the use of paid full-time representatives of recognized organizations.

The furnishing of space and office facilities for the use of representatives of recognized organizations was first authorized by section 3 of the act of December 22, 1945 (Public Law 248, 79th Cong.), which added to section 200 of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 a new subsection (c) which reads as follows:

"(c) The Administrator is further authorized at his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe to furnish, if available necessary space and suitable office facilities for the use of paid full-time representatives of such organizations."

The bill which was finally enacted as said Public Law 268 (H. R. 3749) sought to amend the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, in several respects. When this proposed legislation was under consideration by the Congress the matter of including "stenographic assistance" in the amendment to section 200 was considered. In fact, such provision was in the bill as passed by the Senate on November 8, 1945, having been added as an amendment on the floor while the bill was under consideration (Congressional Record, vol. 91, pt. 8, pp. 10508-10512). However, this provision was eliminated by the conference committee as shown by the conference committee print of December 15, 1945. This bill as passed by the Senate also contained a provision which would have required the organizations to reimburse the Government for such space and office facilities on an actual cost basis, which was also eliminated by the conference committee. The bill as first passed by the House made no change in said section 200.

Under existing law and regulations of the Veterans' Administration, stenographic assistance may not be furnished accredited representatives of recognized organizations. To furnish such assistance would not affect the requirements of such representatives for stenographic service nor would it affect such requirements for the work of the Veterans' Administration.

In effect it would constitute an additional contribution by the Veterans' Administration to the recognized organizations concerned in the performance of their work in representing claimants before the Veterans' Administration. Should such service be furnished by the Veterans' Administration there would doubtless arise administrative difficulties with respect to such matters as time and leave control, allocation of positions, overtime work, efficiency ratings, and the application of various administrative regulations, including those of the Civil Service Commission, to the Veterans' Administration employees working under the supervision and control of the accredited representatives who are not Veterans' Administration employees and not subject to the supervision or control of the Veterans' Administration. If it is determined, as a matter of congressional policy, that stenographic assistance is to be furnished accredited representatives it would seem most feasible that it be granted by means of an authorization for a specific annual appropriation to each organization. Under such a procedure the administrative difficulties would be eliminated, personnel would be obtained without detriment to the personnel requirements of the Veterans' Administration, and the Congress would have complete control.

Twenty-four service organizations have been recognized for presenting claims before the Veterans' Administration. In addition, 40 States and the Territory of Hawaii have State agencies which have been so recognized. Most of these organizations and agencies have accredited representatives who are active in handling matters before the Veterans' Administration. The number of such accredited representatives aggregated 3,548 as of April 2, 1947. While exact figures are not available it is believed that most of these are paid full time representatives.

The value of the space, heat, light, janitor service, and telephone service being furnished paid full time representatives of recognized organizations by the Veterans Administration on October 31, 1946, amounts to \$265,898.71 a year. This represents the recurring costs and does not cover furniture and office equipment to the value of \$114,336.59. These figures do not include space and office facilities furnished such representatives in the central office.

It is not possible to anticipate the extent of the demands that will be made upon the Veterans' Administration for stenographic assistance in the event the proposed legislation is enacted. However, most of the organizations concerned now employ regular stenographic assistance for their full time accredited representatives and it may reasonably be assumed that the demand for furnishing such assistance will be considerable and that the cost thereof would be a substantial amount.

In view of the foregoing, the Veterans' Administration is unable to recommend favorable consideration of S. 1268.

Advice was received from the Bureau of Budget with respect to a similar report on an identical bill (H. R. 3016) that there would be no objection by that office to the submission of the report to the committee.

Sincerely yours,

OMAR N. BRADLEY,
General, United States Army, Administrator.

Mr. LAWLOR. We received the request for a report on Senator Butler's proposed amendment, May 7, 1948, and because of the

questions raised by the amendment, we have not been able to submit a report to date. It is being worked on now, and we have hope that we may get it here sometime today or tomorrow.

(The report referred to is as follows:)

MAY 26, 1948.

Hon. EUGENE D. MILLIKIN,
*Chairman, Committee on Finance,
United States Senate, Washington 25, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MILLIKIN: This has further reference to your letter of May 7, 1948, requesting an expression of views on a submitted copy of a proposed amendment (in the nature of a substitute) to S. 1268, Eightieth Congress, a bill to amend subsection 200 (c) of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, which reads as follows:

"That subsection 200 (c) of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, as added by section 3 of the Act of December 28, 1945 (Public Law 268, 79th Cong.), is amended to read as follows:

"(c) The Administrator is further authorized at his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe to furnish in central, branch, and regional offices, if available, necessary space, suitable office facilities, and stenographic assistance for the use of paid, full-time representatives of such veteran organizations as are incorporated by Act of Congress."

Under existing subsection 200 (c) of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is authorized to furnish, if available, necessary space and suitable office facilities at any Veterans' Administration installation for the use of paid, full-time representatives of the organizations (the American National Red Cross, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Spanish War Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars) specified in section 200 of the act of June 29, 1936 (49 Stat. 2031; 38 U. S. C. 101), and other such national organizations recognized by the Administrator thereunder in the presentation of claims under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration.

Enactment of the proposed amendment would therefore have the following principal legal effects:

(1) It would limit the furnishing of space, office facilities, and stenographic assistance to the representatives of such veteran organizations as are incorporated by Act of Congress. These are the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the American Veterans of World War II, and the Marine Corps League. Existing law authorizes the furnishing of space and office facilities to representatives of the American National Red Cross, which is not a veteran organization, and organizations (veteran and nonveteran) which are not incorporated by Act of Congress.

(2) It would authorize the furnishing of an additional Government subsidy to veteran organizations in the form of stenographic assistance. Under existing law only space and office facilities may be furnished.

(3) It would limit the furnishing of space, office facilities, and stenographic assistance to central, branch, and regional offices. Existing law authorizes the furnishing of space and office facilities at the mentioned and other Veterans' Administration installations.

It is estimated that approximately 236,000 square feet of space were assigned by the Veteran's Administration to full-time, paid representatives of recognized organizations as of March 31, 1948. If enacted into law it is estimated that the proposal would result in a saving of approximately 109,000 square feet of space, of which 72,000 is now assigned to the American National Red Cross, and the remaining 37,000 to other organizations not within the purview of the proposed amendment. Such estimates do not include assigned hospital space.

Attention is invited to the present Government-wide critical stenographic situation. Despite intensive recruitment efforts the Veterans' Administration has long experienced and continues to experience great difficulty in securing a sufficient number of stenographers to perform its official work. Thus, under existing conditions, and in view of the provision in the proposal as to availability of stenographic assistance, it does not appear that enactment thereof would result in the furnishing of such assistance to the veteran organizations specified in the measure.

In the event the critical stenographic situation should ease at some time in the future, the Veterans' Administration would then be confronted with the prob-

lems of availability of appropriations and personnel ceilings imposed by law in determining whether it could furnish stenographic assistance to the designated organizations. If such problems could be resolved satisfactorily, there would doubtless arise in many instances administrative difficulties with respect to such matters as time and leave control, allocation of positions, overtime work, efficiency ratings, and the application of various administrative regulations, including those of the Civil Service Commission, to the Veterans' Administration employees working under the supervision and control of the accredited representatives who are not Veterans' Administration employees and not subject to the supervision or control of the Veterans' Administration.

If it is determined, as a matter of congressional policy, that stenographic assistance is to be furnished accredited representatives at Government expense, it would seem most feasible that it be granted by means of an authorization for a specific annual appropriation by the Congress to each organization. Under such a procedure the mentioned administrative difficulties would be eliminated; true employer-employee relationships could be established between the accredited representatives and the stenographers concerned; and the Congress would have complete control.

As previously indicated, enactment of the proposed amendment would result in the saving of certain space, and office facilities incident thereto, now being furnished to organizations. Time does not permit the computation of an estimate of the value of such savings. With respect to the cost of furnishing stenographic assistance, it is not possible to anticipate the number of stenographers, if any, that might be available and the requirements of representatives of the organizations concerned for such services. Accordingly, no estimate can be made of the cost thereof.

As the committee knows, it is my general policy not to recommend for or against legislative proposals except when they relate to matters of administration. In my judgment the proposed amendment to S. 1268 comes within the exception. In view of the effect this proposed amendment would have with respect to the furnishing of space and suitable office facilities on certain organizations (for example, the American National Red Cross) presently eligible for such privileges, and in view of the involved problems and considerations inherent in a program of furnishing stenographic assistance in the manner contemplated by such proposal, the Veterans' Administration is unable to recommend favorable consideration thereof.

There has not been sufficient time in which to ascertain from the Bureau of the Budget the relationship of the proposed amendment to the program of the President. A supplemental report will be furnished later in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

CARL R. GRAY, Jr.,
Administrator.

Mr. LAWLOR. One of the questions that arose in connection with the amendment was the item which would be removed by the amendment which Mr. Tate suggested, that is, whether it would require us to displace organizations who now have space, including the Red Cross.

The CHAIRMAN. Was that amendment given to the reporter in the form in which you want it?

Mr. MILLER. Yes; I have it.

(The amendment appears on p. 1.)

Mr. LAWLOR. I have no statement of the VA to submit on this measure because the report has not been completed, but I do know that the Veterans' Administration at the present time has a very great shortage of stenographic help. Like every other Government agency it is very difficult to get stenographers and at the present time I doubt if there are many places where there are stenographers available not needed for Veterans' Administration work.

The CHAIRMAN. Am I correct that this bill is discretionary? If you cannot supply it, you cannot supply it.

Mr. LAWLOR. The bill says if they are available, they may be supplied.

The CHAIRMAN. So if they are not available—

Mr. LAWLOR. It requires, so far as I see, no authorization to require or acquire stenographic assistance in excess of the VA needs. In every business where there is a lull in the activities, you have to wait for something else before you can proceed. There is stenographic assistance available from time to time, but at the present time it is necessary to utilize the stenographers of one office to do the work in another office because of the shortage. The availability of stenographers is less.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you intend that the VA should go out and make an extra effort to get additional stenographic service to meet the requirements of the bill?

Mr. TATE. I understood Mr. Lawlor to say that they do not have sufficient now under their present organizational set-up. We feel this way about it. There is nothing mandatory in this bill. It is in the discretion of the Administrator. We could not insist that he go out and get over and beyond his own organizational strength.

I think the Veterans' Administration would be agreeable to doing that if there was an amount earmarked for such purpose in their appropriation bill. That is the only objection I have ever heard raised by any official of the VA, that is, if this goes in there should be a provision to take care of it. Then in discussing it later with some of the officials, that is a matter in our regular budget which we can simply earmark. It would not be a large sum, Senator. It would be less than half a million dollars a year, and that is not large.

The CHAIRMAN. I am thinking about the organization sense, and what the VA is required to do. Are they required to make this service available if they have already got it and can spare it, or are they required to go out and get it for this purpose?

Mr. TATE. This bill would not make any such requirement.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, they supply it if they have it.

Mr. TATE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Wait a minute. They supply the service if they have it, and if it is already available in their organization.

Mr. TATE. Or becomes available.

The CHAIRMAN. Or becomes available.

Mr. TATE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. There is no mandate to go out and get the help so that it would be available.

Mr. TATE. No, sir; this would simply enable the representatives of the VA and the Administrator to get together and try to work in cooperation to the best interests of the disabled.

Senator JOHNSON. I understood the witness to say that this proposed amendment does not authorize them to employ help for this purpose. I may have misunderstood the witness but that is what I understood him to say, that there is no authorization in this amendment, so that they would not be permitted to hire anybody, even if they were willing to hire them or wanted to hire them.

The CHAIRMAN. That is what I thought ought to be clear here in the record, because the Veterans' Administration if this should pass will have to have clear instructions.

Senator JOHNSON. I am glad that the point is being clarified, but I do not think that Mr. Tate has clarified it even now.

The CHAIRMAN. Take another shot at it, Mr. Tate.

Senator JOHNSON. Here is the point. As I understand it, this is not an authorization for the employment of any kind of help, such as is contemplated in this measure.

Mr. TATE. It is my understanding that that is correct; it is not. It is an enabling act, and that in order to get authorization to employ above their present structure, they would have to have a provision in the appropriation act.

Senator JOHNSON. The only thing this legislation does then is to permit them to use surplus employees for this purpose.

Mr. TATE. Or they can exercise good judgment and see that by furnishing such stenographer to use, they get more real value out of the stenographer than they do in having them assigned to somebody in the personnel.

Senator JOHNSON. That is the point I am trying to make. I understood the witness to say there is no such authorization in this legislation, for them to do that, to exercise good judgment.

Mr. TATE. I think there is certainly such authority for that.

Senator JOHNSON. I may have misunderstood the witness.

Mr. LAWLOR. I did not intend, Senator, to raise that question at all. I assumed that what was understood was that where the Veterans' Administration had stenographic assistance just sufficient for ordinary needs, but where because of the lack of continuity of business of particular types, certain of the employees would not have Veterans' Administration business to keep them busy all of the time, and that through a combination of such stenographers the VA would be able with the supply for ordinary use to furnish stenographic assistance to the service organizations. I was not proposing that there ought to be an increased appropriation or an authorization to employ more stenographers than we needed normally. It was just to point out that at the present time there is a very great shortage of stenographers, so that the Veterans' Administration is unable to secure enough stenographers for its own use at this time, and that in the face of that situation, there would be comparatively few available stenographers at the present time that could be placed at the disposal of service organizations.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, now, Mr. Tate, going that far, do you take the further step and say that under those circumstances they should go out and get some additional stenographic assistance, so that stenographic assistance would be available?

Mr. TATE. I think that would be very good business on the part of VA.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that required by the act?

Mr. TATE. I hope there will not be anything in the hearings of this bill that will permit the Solicitor to render an opinion that this thing will just be furnished on a haphazard basis.

The CHAIRMAN. We are trying desperately here to get you to make a clear statement of it so that that will not happen.

Mr. TATE. We would like to have it in the bill, we want to leave it to the discretion of the Administrator; we do not want to impose any hardship on him under circumstances such as Mr. Lawlor has described, that is, the impossibility in some cities of finding stenographic help. They just cannot employ them. But we do feel that it should be made clear that we expect them when they can get it, if they do not have them, that they should obtain them in a sufficient

amount to meet the modest requirements for good service on the part of these service officers.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me put it to you this way. Suppose at the X regional office, they have Y number of stenographers, and you want some of this assistance, and you go to the man in charge and you tell him, and he says, "I am sorry, all of our stenographers are engaged in Veterans' Administration business." Does he have any duty in addition to that under this bill?

Mr. TATE. Well, I do not think there is anything mandatory, but what we want, Senator, let me put it this way: For 10 years I was a service officer in the Atlanta office of the Veterans' Administration. During those 10 years the VA furnished me a full-time stenographer, and it was on a full-time basis that she was there. I am quite positive that the then manager of the VA, if he were here would think that the VA got full value out of that stenographer.

The CHAIRMAN. That is not the question.

Mr. TATE. What we want is that sort of understanding, that they will furnish, with the exception if they just cannot hire them; then of course we cannot expect the impossible.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you want it this way, that if they cannot spare stenographers out of their existing organization, that they should get a sufficient addition of stenographers to provide this service, if the stenographers can be employed? Is that what you want?

Mr. TATE. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Is everybody agreed on that? Does anybody disagree? If so, speak up, please.

Senator GEORGE. I should think that the legal aspect of this status of this matter, if we pass this amendment, and it becomes law, would be this, that while the Administrator is vested with the discretion under such regulation as he may prescribe with the authority to furnish stenographic assistance, if available, upon that basis he could go to the Budget Bureau and consequently and subsequently to the Appropriations Committee and say, "We have the authority to do this. We will have to have additional stenographic help if we do it," and he might ask for it.

You do not want to take away his discretion, however, as I understand it.

Senator JOHNSON. But we want to give him authority to do it if he wants to do it.

Senator GEORGE. Yes.

Senator JOHNSON. What I was worried about was that.

Senator GEORGE. I think he would have the authority if we authorize him to do this, then he could go to the Appropriations Committee and the Budget and say "We have this authority, but we will not have the available help unless an additional appropriation is made, or some additional sum is added to our appropriation for the purpose of providing this help."

The CHAIRMAN. Is that what you gentlemen contemplate?

Mr. TATE. That is correct. I have not discussed this matter with the Administrator himself. I have with some of the officials there, and that was very much a position that they took, and seemed to think it would be a comparatively simple matter to make the provision in the budget request.

The CHAIRMAN. I should think you would not be satisfied with anything less than the thought that has been expressed by Senator

George, because if you got an economical Administrator, and he is using the stenographic help continuously, what good does it do to ask for it, if he can dispose of the subject merely by saying, "I am sorry; they are not available." That will do you no good.

Mr. TATE. I think you are right, Senator, and we do want that.

The CHAIRMAN. If he is approaching a pretty tight working arrangement, you cannot sit around and wait for a week for a stenographer, until they find an open period for one.

Mr. TATE. No, we could not do that. Of course, maybe I overestimate the understanding of the officials of the VA as to the value of this. Of course, we do not know who the Administrator may be from time to time, what policy of one may vary from his predecessor, and for that reason I think you have expressed, and Senator George has expressed the thing that we want; that is, we should have that service, and if we do not have it available now, and the funds with which to get it, they should be required to ask for it.

The CHAIRMAN. First he has discretion.

Mr. TATE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. To do it or not to do it.

Mr. TATE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Assuming that he does it, then he has to do it if it is available.

Senator GEORGE. I would think, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Tate, that we may understand what you wish and if we decide the whole committee should approve it, instead of saying it available, if you were to say if they may be made available, may be made available, then you would have the whole thing covered, and it would be up to the Administrator then to say "We can go to the Budget and we can go to the Appropriations Committee and ask for this additional help if we wish to supply it."

That would rather put the burden on the Administrator to do it.

Mr. TATE. I was going to hope that, I certainly hope the committee will put that into effect.

The CHAIRMAN. I suppose the purpose of the discretion is the Administrator knows what the work load is and knows just how busy the service officers are, and he might say, "Well, they do not need a stenographer," and you do not intend to deny him that discretion. Am I correct in that?

Mr. TATE. That is correct. The situations will vary in the various offices, Senator, as to the requirements, for good service, and we would like them to have that discretion, but have that discretion limited as just expressed by Senator George.

The CHAIRMAN. If in his discretion he thinks you need a stenographer, then he is supposed to give you one if it is available out of his existing organization, and if not, you intend that he shall have the power to get one, or at least to appear before the Congress and ask for additional appropriations, so that he can get a stenographer under those circumstances. Is that correct?

Mr. TATE. That is correct.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Mr. Lawlor, have you finished?

Mr. LAWLOR. There is probably one other item which I should call to the attention of the committee; that is in the report on the bill. It was stated that doubtless would arise administrative difficulties with respect to such matters as time and leave control, allocation of positions, overtime work, efficiency ratings, and the application of

various administrative regulations, including those of the Civil Service Commission to the Veterans' Administration employees working under the control and supervision of the accredited representatives who are not Veterans' Administration employees. There will be some administrative difficulties, but how serious that would be, I am not in a position to state.

Mr. TATE. Mr. Chairman, may I make a comment on that statement?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. TATE. I noticed that same statement in the report on the old bill that was sent over to the House. I take exception to that whole report. I did not intend to bring it up because it was my impression that you were to get a new report on this bill, which will be entirely different from the other.

I would just like to point out in that statement about administrative difficulties that for 25 years they did furnish this help. At the time Public Law 268 went into effect, they were furnishing 40 stenographers to the DAV, and I for many years was one of the service officers that used such a stenographer, and during all of those years, I never heard one word about any administrative difficulties.

They are still VA employees. They have the same leave, they have the same civil-service status they would have as if they were assigned to a contact man. They are still employees of the VA. I do not know who feels that there is a great deal of difficulty there. It may be that in this expansion in the VA the new people in personnel that are anticipating something that practical experience has shown did not exist, and I have discussed that with some of the officials over there. They do not seem to be concerned about any administrative difficulties in this matter.

The CHAIRMAN. Do all of the representatives here agree that these stenographers shall be employees of the VA? Is there any contrary opinion? Let the record show that they all agree, and that no one disagrees.

Are there any further witnesses in this matter?

I think, then, gentlemen, we have finished today's assignment, and we will recess until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Thereupon at 4 p. m., the committee recessed.)

X