

lected, their background, character and philosophy where veterans are concerned, but we are not convinced that it would have any good results. As to paragraph (c) it is believed that the VA staff activities are now overrun with specialists in planning, analysis, program reviewing, office managements, etc., to such an extent that the VA is losing, or has lost sight of the more important functions such as rendering the best possible service to veterans and their dependents, the sympathetic consideration of claims on the basis of human problems, and the proper professional attitude of all officers and employees having the responsibility for making decisions affecting veterans and their dependents. There are some who believe that the chief aims of the VA too often are (1) public relations, (2) statistical and (3) work-measurement or assembly-line techniques.

Recommendation No. 67 (pp. 404, 405): The proposal to make the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs a member of the President's Cabinet has appealing aspects but could very well turn out to be a mirage, regardless of the individuals involved. As a member of the Cabinet the Administrator could be subjected to statistical arguments of depressing nature with possible intimation from higher quarters that might well interfere with conclusions reached by him if made independently and without being in the higher echelon atmosphere at the time. In addition, the Administrator, as a Cabinet member, would undoubtedly be asked for his opinion on a wide variety of subjects only indirectly affecting veterans or not at all and it is hardly conceivable that he would decline to express his views on political matters if requested to do so. As to establishing a Cabinet Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, with the Administrator as a special member, the necessity for such another new group at the high level indicated is not apparent and is not endorsed as the matter now stands. If the idea stated in paragraph (c) means what we think it might mean then the DAV can be recorded as opposed.

Recommendation No. 68 (p. 406): The preceding recommendation would make the Administrator a Cabinet member to enhance his prestige and responsibility, whereas recommendation No. 68 would place additional limitations on his authority and require him to give advance notice and obtain advance review by "appropriate agencies of the Government" whenever he issues rules in large matters affecting eligibility of veterans for benefits or involving changes in program objectives. It is not very clear just what is intended here, but from the descriptive material preceding this recommendation we would be opposed to the change.

Recommendation No. 69 (p. 408): While there may be some justification for this proposal, it is wondered if the Commission had any real comprehension as to the large number of additional qualified employees that would be required and the very substantial increased cost involved to set up and maintain such high-salaried reviewing officials thereby constituting an intermediate step between decisions of the rating boards and appellate determinations of the Board of Veterans' Appeals. If Congress, in its wisdom, desires to authorize the establishment of what, in effect, would be intermediate Appeals Board, regardless of the many new positions that would need to be created and staffed at the great cost involved, then this organization has nothing to say either in favor or in opposition.

Recommendation No. 70 (p. 409): It is believed that this recommendation if carried into effect would be helpful and this organization, generally, will be found favorable to any codification or reasonable simplification of the laws affecting veterans and the related regulations.

In the conclusion on page 410 of the Bradley Commission report the statement is

made that the VA has been examined many times by outside management experts and Government bodies, also that it has been administratively reorganized a number of times. The Commission concludes that this had had some salutary effect, but that the "shifting of organization charts has long since been discredited as a panacea for the ills of governmental administration." It is hoped that the officials in charge of the VA fully realize this truism and will profit by it. The DAV is concerned with the many surveys that have been made of the VA, the too frequent internal reorganizations that have been imposed, the stress and strain upon the personnel, much of it resulting from changes, experiments, and generally ill-considered moves of one kind or another, and the greatly impaired morale that must inevitably accompany such basic insecurity and feelings of frustration. Nothing was very much wrong with the operation of the VA, but it certainly is now or will be unless there is a cessation or let-up in the investigational and critical activities that have seemingly started on the false premise that something is radically wrong with the VA that can only be remedied by drastic surgery and a prolonged and stormy convalescence. Perhaps these remarks are beside the point of this hearing, but, in my judgment, someone should make them publicly and as we are all working toward the same end—the welfare of the veterans and their families—I thought you would not be averse to hearing the truth as we see it.

I desire to express my sincere thanks for your kindness and courtesy in hearing this rather lengthy dissertation on the many items covered in the Bradley Commission report. It is hoped that our comments will be helpful to you and in conclusion may I say that we as an organization still support the bills that were commented upon favorably by us at previous hearings and in correspondence and that we do not discern after careful study of the Bradley Commission findings any good reason for changing our position as heretofore announced. Thank you again for hearing me out.

KATYN FOREST MASSACRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. SHEEHAN] is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. SHEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I sent a cablegram to Josef Cyrankiewicz, Prime Minister of the Communist Polish People's Republic. This cablegram read:

As the Congressman who introduced the original resolution in the House of Representatives during the 82d Congress calling for an investigation of the Katyn Forest massacre of thousands of Polish Army officers and intellectual leaders, and who served as a member of the select congressional committee which was established to conduct a full and complete investigation of this international crime, I should like to make available to you and the special group which your Government is reported to have recently authorized to investigate the mass murders at Katyn, all the evidence heard by and submitted to our committee in 1951 and 1952. I would also be happy to come to Poland as a witness to elaborate upon and substantiate the facts and conclusions reported by our investigating committee.

I have been prompted to send this cablegram because of the recent news developments in both Russia and Poland. The new look in Russia is seen in denunciations of the late Dictator Stalin by the present leaders in Russia, wherein they are now criticizing him for his purge of 5,000 Soviet officers before World War II.

The present Communist-dominated Polish Government and its press and radio are following the same line.

Recent developments in Poland reveal the Polish Government is planning to free over 30,000 political prisoners, is planning to make payments to compensate people unjustly sent to jail, has promised restoration of pensions and honors to the survivors of the heroic non-Communist Polish home army, and most recently has been reported to have begun a new investigation of the Katyn Forest massacre.

I hope this new investigation by the Russian-dominated Polish Government will be as unbiased, fair, and complete as was the investigation by our select committee in the 82d Congress.

When the German armies occupied the Smolensk area in 1943 they discovered the mass graves of Polish Army officers and blamed the Russians for this massacre. When the Russian Army recaptured this area in 1944 it set up a commission to reinvestigate these mass murders and blamed it on the German Army. No complete and thorough investigation of this matter occurred until the 82d Congress authorized a special committee to investigate the facts. This select committee, after complete hearings, revealed authoritatively the information we had in our State Department files and in Army Intelligence files, which, with all the other supporting evidence gathered both in America and in Europe, caused the select committee to come to the unanimous conclusion that the mass murder of Polish Army officers and intellectuals was decreed by the Russian Communist rules and carried out by the Soviet NKVD—People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs.

It is my hope that this Polish committee will invite all interested witnesses to be heard, similar to the practice adopted by our select committee. Our committee had extended an invitation to the Russian Government to present its evidence, which invitation was not accepted.

I feel certain that an unbiased investigation will confirm the findings of our congressional committee, in that the orders to perpetrate this heinous crime on the Polish people came directly from Dictator Stalin and the bosses in the higher echelon of the Communist Party.

In presenting the facts of the Katyn massacre to the Polish people, I hope the Communist Polish People's Republic will denounce Stalin and all top Russian officials who aided or abetted this crime against humanity.

I, and I assume the rest of the members of the Select Committee To Investigate the Facts and Circumstances Surrounding the Katyn Forest Massacre, would be more than willing to present and elaborate on the evidence heard by our committee.

Mrs. CHURCH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHEEHAN. I yield.

Mrs. CHURCH. I would like to express my complete sympathy with the aims of the gentleman, but I rise particularly to commend him for his own efforts on behalf of the Poles behind the Iron Curtain. I have followed with interest and carefully for some time the efforts

of the gentleman to bring out the true facts in the case of the Katyn Forest massacre. I am certainly sure that the people of the gentleman's district should applaud him for his zeal and for his consecration and for his continued interest.

Mr. SHEEHAN. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. MACHROWICZ. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHEEHAN. I yield.

Mr. MACHROWICZ. I wish also to commend the gentleman on his fine statement. I would like to point out to him that the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MADDEN] and I have already offered resolutions which would ask the Department of State to make available the records of the Katyn committee, of which the gentleman from Illinois and I were members. I sincerely trust that the Department of State will avail themselves of the opportunity and present to the so-called Polish Government, the Communist regime in Poland the evidence which will undoubtedly prove to them, as it has proven to the rest of the world that the Communists were guilty of the murder at the Katyn Forest.

Mr. SHEEHAN. I thank the gentleman for his observation. I want to let the gentleman know that the Republican members on the committee, Mr. O'KONSKI, Mr. DONDERO, and myself have joined with you and Mr. MADDEN in submitting a similar resolution.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted as follows to Mr. DE-ROUNIAN (at the request of Mr. MARTIN), through May 11, 1956, on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to Mr. THOMPSON of New Jersey, for 1 hour, on tomorrow.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to extend remarks in the Appendix of the RECORD, or to revise and extend remarks, was granted to:

Mr. BOGGS and to include an address delivered by Mr. MILLS, of Arkansas, notwithstanding it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$187.

Mr. PRICE in three instances and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado and to include a petition.

Mr. FLOOD and to include an editorial.
Mrs. GREEN of Oregon in two instances and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. FENTON and to include an editorial.

Mr. COLE in two instances and that the remarks of Mr. O'BRIEN of New York immediately follow his remarks, both to appear in the Appendix of the RECORD.

Mr. SCRIVNER in seven instances on consecutive days, and to include extraneous matter in each.

Mr. DAGUE.

Mr. YOUNGER and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. WESTLAND and to include an editorial.

Mr. UDALL in three instances and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. QUIGLEY in three instances.

Mr. BOYKIN (at the request of Mr. SELDEN) and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. BUDGE.

Mr. FASCELL (at the request of Mr. SIKES) and to include a letter.

Mr. BOW (at the request of Mr. ARENDS).

Mr. SHEEHAN.

Mr. ROOSEVELT to include in his remarks on the public library services bill certain documents and communications.

Mr. BOLAND to extend his remarks on the library services bill following the remarks of Mr. SISK.

Mr. REES of Kansas (at the request of Mr. RHODES of Arizona) and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. MAILLIARD and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. GWINN to revise and extend his remarks made today.

Mr. THOMPSON of New Jersey in five instances and to include extraneous remarks.

Mr. METCALF in three instances and to include extraneous remarks.

Mr. ANFUSO (at the request of Mr. ALBERT) and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. DAVIDSON (at the request of Mr. ALBERT) in three instances and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. ROBINO (at the request of Mr. ALBERT) in three instances and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. FLOOD (at the request of Mr. ALBERT) in four instances and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. AVERY and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. RIVERS (at the request of Mr. ALBERT) and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. RICHARDS in three instances and in each to include extraneous matter.

Mr. GAVIN in two instances.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 44 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 9, 1956, at 12 o'clock noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1824. A letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a report by

the Bureau of Mines for the calendar year January 1, 1955, through December 31, 1955, pursuant to the Federal Coal Mine Safety Act, Public Law 552, 82d Congress; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

1825. A letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "A bill to validate certain payments made to members and former members of the naval service"; to the Committee on Government Operations.

1826. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "A bill to adjust the application of section 322 of the so-called Economy Act of 1932 to premises leased for Government purposes"; to the Committee on Government Operations.

1827. A letter from the clerk, United States Court of Claims, transmitting copies of the court's opinion relative to the claim of *Frank C. Torti v. The United States* (Congressional No. 4-52), pursuant to sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code, and pursuant to House Resolution 559, 82d Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1828. A letter from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, transmitting the 16th Annual Report, pursuant to section 201 (b) of the Social Security Act, as amended; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BURLESON: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 426. Resolution providing for the printing of certain proceedings in the House Committee on Agriculture; without amendment (Rept. No. 2113). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURLESON: Committee on House Administration. House Concurrent Resolution 280. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of additional copies of the hearings on H. R. 5550 for the use of the Committee on Ways and Means; without amendment (Rept. No. 2114). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURLESON: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 456. Resolution authorizing the printing as a House document of material relating to the Central Valley project of California, and additional copies for the use of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; without amendment (Rept. No. 2115). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURLESON: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 454. Resolution to provide funds for the expenses of conducting studies, investigations, and inquiries incurred by the Select Committee on the Baltic States and by the Special Committee To Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations; without amendment (Rept. No. 2116). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURLESON: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 468. Resolution authorizing the Committee on Ways and Means to employ one additional employee; without amendment (Rept. No. 2117). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURLESON: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 448. Resolution providing for the employment of 15 additional privates, Capitol Police force, office of the Sergeant at Arms; without amendment (Rept. No. 2118). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURLESON: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 465. Resolution to provide for the adjustment of the