



Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia

VICTORIAN REGIONAL and METROPOLITAN STATE BRANCH

P.O. BOX 902, SALE, VICTORIA, 3850

MINUTES OF 8th NATIONAL CONGRESS

THESE MINUTES ARE A COPY OF THE RECORDINGS MADE AT THE
EIGHTH NATIONAL CONGRESS HELD AT LEGACY HOUSE , SWANSTON
STREET MELBOURNE ON THE WEEKEND 2 and 3RD OF MAY 1987

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA HELD AT LEGACY HOUSE, 293 SWANSTON STREET , MELBOURNE , VIC.
ON 2/3RD MAY 1987

PRESENT :

NATIONAL PRESIDENT	KEVIN GILL
NATIONAL SEC/TRAESURER	TIM McCOOMBE
QUEENSLAND	JOHN THOMPSON (STATE PRES)
NEW SOUTH WALES	JOHN HAINES (STATE PRES) MICK SCRASE (VICE PRES)
AUST CAPITAL TERRITORY	COLIN BRUCE (STATE PRES) MARY NEWELL (DELEGATE)
VICTORIA	JOHN DELACCA(STATE PRES) JOHN PRINTZ (STATE SEC)
TASMANIA	MICK ALLWRIGHT (STATE PRES) BASEL BREADMORE(V PRES)
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	PAUL WELLS (STATE PRES) RON RULE (VICE PRES)
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	COLIN EVANS (STATE PRES) LACHLAN IRVINE (DELEGATE)

VISITORS/OBSERVERS

Brig KEITH ROSSI ,RSL/VIETNAM VETERANS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA (CHAIRMAN)
Mr PETER HANSON ,PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SEN A GIETZELD
Mr DAMIEN LEY , SECRETARY MURRAY BORDER ASSOCIATION VIETNAM VETERANS
VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE BALLARAT,GEELONG,HORSHAM AND GIPPSLAND/LA TROBE VALLEY
SUB BRANCHES. MEMBERS OF THEHMAS SYDNEY & LOGISTIC SUPPT GROUP.

OPEN MEETING

THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT , KEVIN GILL , WELCOMED ALL TO THE EIGHTH NATIONAL
CONGRESS , HE WELCOMED THE GUEST SPEAKERS AND ASKED ALL TO STAND AND PAY A
SILENT TRIBUTE TO OUR LATE NATIONAL PRESIDENT PHIL THOMPSON.

KEVIN INVITED SENATOR ARTHUR GIETZELT , MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS TO GIVE
THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS.

SENATOR ARTHUR GIETZELT SPOKE AND MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS :-

- a. HIS LAST ATTENDANCE AT CONGRESS AS HE RETIRES MID 1988
- b. THE GOVERNMENTS SUPPORT FOR THE WELCOME HOME PARADE AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT A GRANT OF \$15,000 FOR THE PLANNING EXPENSES
- c. INDICATIONS THAT THE VVAA HAS COME OF AGE IN RETURNED SERVICES AREAS
- d. HE MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MR BOB HOGG , A FORMER ADVISOR TO THE PRIME
MINISTER , WILL BE PREPARING THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE EVATT
ROYAL COMMISSION , THE EVIDENCE THAT HAS SINCE ARISEN AND THE VVAA REBUTTAL
FOR TABLEING BEFORE CABINET FOR DISCISION
- e. THE ALLOCATION OF REPATRIATION BENIFITS TO THE VIETNAM LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT
ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
- f. THAT GARP HASTHE RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSESS THE DEGREE OF DISABILITY AND IS NOT
RELATED TO THE PROCESS OF DEFINING ELIGIBILITY
- g. THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTITIVE GROUP OF RETURNED SERVICE ORGANISATIONS
TO REVIEW AND REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE VEA
- h. THAT THE VVCS HAS HELPED OVER 5,000 VIETNAM VETERANS
- i. THAT PHIL THOMPSON IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THE CAUSE OF THE
CASE OF VIETNAM VETERANS.

A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WAS CONDUCTED

MR TIM FISCHER , NATIONAL PARTY SPOKESMAN FOR VETERANS AFFAIRES ADDRESSED THE
MEETING :-

MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS :-

- a. CONGRATULATED THE VIETNAM VETERANS FOR THE EFFORT DURING ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES
AND GAVE THE NATIONAL PARTYS SUPPORT FOR THE WELCOME HOME PARADE
- b. EXPLAINED THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK AND ASSURED THAT IN GOVERNMENT THE
COALITION WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE AND THAT IT IS NATIONAL
PARTY POLICY FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS THAT THE VETERANS AFFAIRS WOULD REMAIN
A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT

- c. THAT THE FUNDIMENTAL ISSUE WITH VETERANS IS THAT THE COUNTRY OWES THE VETERANS NOT THE VETERN OWING THE COUNTRY
- d. THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT MAY SLASH THE VETERANS ENTITLEMENTS AND THAT THAT IS NOT THE NATIONAL PARTYS POLICY
- e. THAT THE PROBLEM WITH THE TPI PENSION COUPLED WITH THE VETERANS AGE REQUIRES ATTENTION
- f. THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION IN RELATION TO DELAYS AND NOW THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL ADVISOR COULD BE STALLING TACTICS
- g. THAT HE WISHES THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE VVA ALL SUCCESS.

A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WAS CONDUCTED

THE FOLLOWING GUESTS SPOKE TO THE CONGRESS :-

Mz LESLIE VICK	REPRESENTING SENATOR JEANENE HAINS OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
Maj GenMORRISON	SERVICE MEMBER TO THE REPATRIATION COMMISSION
MR BRUCE FLYNN	REPRESENTING THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MR TONY ASHFORD WHO WAS ATTENDING LEGACY SEMINAR
MR COLIN BANNISTER	IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT WHO WAS REPRESENTING THE PRESIDENT OF MELBOURNE LEGACY
MR RIC MARSHALL	NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS COUNCILLING SVC
MR MICK SCRASE	A COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE WELCOME HOME PARADE

THE PRESIDENT KEVIN GILL THANKED ALL SPEAKERS AND SUMMORISED THE MEETING SO FAR AND AFTER LUNCH WHEN THE GUESTS HAD LEFT OPENED THE BUSINESS PART OF THE CONGRESS

MINUTES OF THE LAST NATIONAL CONGRESS

AFTER ESTABLISHING THAT THE DELEGATES FROM EACH STATE WERE IN ORDER THE MINUTES AS CIRCULATED WERE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION ARISING

BUSINESS ARISING

MOVED : L IRVINE (WA) SECONDED : J THOMPSON (QLD)
 THAT THE MOTION MOVED BY L FENTON (QLD) BE AMMENDED TO CORRECT TYPING ERROR TO READ "ACCEPT COMMENTS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN AND OTHERS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA".

CARRIED

MOVED : C EVANS (WA) SECONDED : M ALLWRIGHT (TAS)
 THAT THE MOTION THAT THE VVA of A ENDORSE THE SUPPORT OF THE WELCOME HOME PARADE IN NSW IN OCT 87 BE ENDORSED AS STATED FROM COUNCIL MEETING IN ADELAIDE SA IN DEC 86

CARRIED

MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE LAST CONGRESS AS AMMENDED ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF THAT MEETING AND THAT THEY BE CONFIRMED

MOVED : M ALLWRIGHT (TAS) SECONDED : COLIN EVANS (WA)

CARRIED

NOTICE OF MOTIONS THOSE NOTICE OF MOTIONS THAT DID NOT HAVE DISENTION WERE DEALT WITH SO AS TO SAVE TIME ON SUNDAY

MOTION 4 2% DISCOUNTING OF DFRBF PENSIONS

MOVED : C EVANS (WA) SECONDED : J DELACCA (VIC)
 MOVED THAT THE VVAA JOIN WITH OTHER EX SERVICE ORGANISATIONS AND MAKE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MINISTER TO HAVE THE UNJUST LEGISLATION DISCONTING 2% FROM PESIONS WHICH ARE AN ENTITLEMENT RESCINDED AND ALL BACK MONIES REFUNDED TO THOSE PENSIONERS AND HAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SUCH LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE FUTURE

CARRIED

MOTION 2 2% DISCOUNTING OF DFRBF PENSIONS

MOVED : C EVANS (WA) M SCRASE (NSW)
THAT THE VVA SEEK THE SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN THE RESCINDING OF LEGISLATION DISCOUNTING DFRBF PENSIONS BY 2% , HAVING BACK MONIES REPAID AND IN THE EVENT WE ARE UNSUCCESSFUL IN HAVING THAT LEGISLATION RESCINDED THAT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL GIVE US A WRITTEN UNDERTAKING THAT ON⁵⁻¹¹⁻⁸⁵ A RE ELECTED TO GOVERNMENT THEY WILL RESCIND THE LEGISLATION AND INCLUDE IN THAT WRITTEN UNDERTAKING THAT THEY WILL NOT RE INTRODUCE IT IN THE FUTURE

CARRIED

MOTION 3 UNCONSTITUTIONAL EXTRACTION OF FID FROM PENSIONS

MOVED : C EVANS (WA) SECONDED : L IRVINE (WA)
THAT AS THE CHARGING OF FID IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AGAINST SECTION 52(1) OF THE REPATRIATION ACT 1920 AND WHICH IS NOW ALSO UNCONSTITUTIONAL UNDER THE VETERANS ENTITLEMENTS ACT 1986 ,SECTION 125(1) WHICH REPLACED THE REPAT ACT THE VVA SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS TO HAVE THE STATES ABOLISH THIS SAME UNCOMSTITUTIONAL CHARGE AGAINST WAR VETERANS DISABILITY PENSIONS

SECONDLY :-

THAT IF THE MINISTER IS UNSUCCESSFUL IN THIS ENDEVOUR , THE VVA SEEKS IN WRITING FROM THE OPPOSITION PARTIES , THAT ON ELECTION THEY WILL ENDEVOUR TO HAVE THE STATES ABOLISH FID ON REPATRIATION DISABILITY PENSIONS.

THIRDLY :-

THAT THE VVAA CONGRESS PLEDGE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE FID ON PENSIONS ABOLISHED AND IN THE EVENT SUPPORT A TEST CASE IN THE COURTS OF ONE OF THE AUSTRALIAN STATES

CARRIED

MOTION 4 SUPPORT FOR THE WELCOME HOME PARADE

MOVED : K GILL (NATIONAL) SECONDED : J DELACCA (VIC)
THAT THE VVAA RE AFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT TO THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE WELCOME HOME PARADE , THAT WE CALL ON ALL VIETNAM VETERANS TO SUPPORT THE PARADE AND CALL ON ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND THE PARADE TO SUPPORT THOSE VETERANS

CARRIED

MOTION 5 RECURRENT FUNDING FOR ARGUS HOUSE

MOVED : J THOMPSON (QLD) SECONDED : M NEWELL (ACT)
THAT THE CONGRESS SUPPORT THE QUEENSLAND BRANCH IN ITS SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS TO GRANT RE-CURRENT FUNDING FOR ARGUS HOUSE

CARRIED

MOTION 6 REQUEST OF TRANSFER SPECILISTS WHILST IN RGHS

MOVED : J THOMPSON (QLD) SECONDED : J HAINES (NSW)
AS THE PATIENT AT PRESENT DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUEST TO BE PLACED UNDER THE CARE OF A PARTICULAR PSYCHIATRIST ON ADMITTANCE TO AN RGH THAT THE MINISTER PUT IN PLACE A METHOD THAT THE PATIENT CAN REQUEST A TRANSFER IF HE IS UNHAPPY WITH THE SPECILIST OR ANY PERSCRIBED MEDICATION.

CARRIED

MOTION 7 MOTION OF APPRECIATION TO MELBOURNE LEGACY

MOVED : J PRINTZ (VIC) SECONDED : J HAINES (NSW)
THAT THE VVAA EXPRESS ITS GRATITUDE TO MELBOURNE LEGACY FOR THE USE OF THE VENUE AT LEGACY HOUSE AND ALL THE CO OPERATION THAT WAS GIVEN IN PARTICULAR THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY MR PETER OZZARD THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CARRIED

PRESIDENT KEVIN GILL OPENED THE SUNDAY SESSION AT 9 30AM

PRESENT

ALL STATES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE DELEGATES PRESENT AT THE SATURDAY SESSION
VARIOUS VIETNAM VETERANS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA
WERE ALSO PRESENT.

TREASURERS REPORTS

NATIONAL TREASURER TIM McCOOMBE PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT

1.ROYAL COMMISSION PUBLIC APPEAL TRUST FUND	OVERDRAFT	1.36
2.FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT as at 30th june 86	CREDIT	334.33
3.FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT as at 31st Dec 86	DEBIT	497.91

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF INCOME/EXPENDITURE

INCOME	2520.00		
EXPENDITURE	1667.00		
(credit)	853.00	=====	\$ 853.00
LIABILITIES	3531.00	=====	\$3531.00
DEBIT BALANCE	<u>\$2678.00</u>		

MOVED : TIM McCOOMBE(NATIONAL) SECONDED : L IRVINE (WA)

THAT THE REPORT AS TABLED BE RECIEVED AND NOTED THAT THE REPORT WAS AUDITED
BY S.L.TAGG & CO ,CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

CARRIED

PRESIDENTS REPORT

PRESIDENT KEVIN REPORTED ON HIS SIX MONTHS AS ACTING PRESIDENT AND MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS :-

- a. UNUSUAL SIX MONTHES WHICH WAS QUIET DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR PERIOD
- b. WAS INVOLVED IN PR WORK
- c. PASSED ON AND CARRIED OUT RESOLUTIONS FRON NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
- d. HAD MEETINGS WITH MINISTER, MEDIA, AND ADVOCATES
- e. ATTENDED VICTORIAN REGIONAL STATE COUNCIL MEETING IN HORSHAM AFTER MEETING
WITH JOHN BRAMSTON

GENERAL BUSINESS AND MOTIONS

A DISCUSSION WAS HELD RE THE NON AFFILIATION AND NON ADHEREANCE TO NATIONAL
RESOLUTIONS AND AS JOHN BRAMSTON OF THE CAULFIELD GROUP OF VIETNAM VETERANS
DECLINED TO ADDRESS THE CONGRESS ON THIS SITUATION THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS
MOVED.

MOTION 8 DIS AFFILIATION OF THE CAULFIELD GROUP OF VIETNAM VETERANS

MOVED : L IRVINE (WA) SECONDED : MICK SCRASE (NSW)

THAT THE GROUP OF VIETNAM VETERANS AS NOTED UNDER THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION
SECTION 13 (d) (3) AND REFERED TO AS THE CAULFIELD GROUP HAVE ITS AFFILIATION
WITHDRAWN AND BE ADVISED ACCORDINGLY AND FURTHER THE CONGRESS INVITES THAT
GROUP TO SEEK AFFILIATION AS A SUB BRANCH OF THE ONLY RECOGNISED VICTORIAN
STATE BRANCH,THE VICTORIAN REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN VIETNAM VETERANS ASSO-
CIATION STATE BRANCH.

SECONDLY THE CAULFIELD GROUP BE ADVISED IN WRITING TO JOHN BRAMPSTON (PRESIDENT)
THAT THEY ARE TO REFRAIN FROM USING THIS ASSOCIATIONS TITLE AND INSIGNIA

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE VICTORIAN REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN STATE BRANCH
ABSTAINING DUE TO CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

NOTE ! THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION TO BE ALTERED TO SHOW THE DELETION OF THE

WORDS " THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA BRANCH)" AND
SUB PARA NUMBERS (4) BECOMES (3)
(5) BECOMES (4)
(6) BECOMES (5)
(7) BECOMES (6)
(8) BECOMES (7) and
(9) BECOMES (8)

FURTHER THAT THE NEW SUB PARA (8) READS "THE VICTORIAN REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN
VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION STATE BRANCH"

FURTHER THAT THE NEW SUB PARA (5) READS " THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA(WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)

MOTION9 RESTRUCTURE OF CONSTITUTION RE: VICE PRESIDENTS

VICTORIA WITHDREW THE NOTICE OF MOTION RE 3 VICE PRESIDENTS AS MOTION 8 REMOVED
THE NEED FOR THAT MOTION SOLVING THE COMMUNICATION PROBLEM IN VICTORIA

MOTION 10 NEW MOTION RE: VICE PRESIDENT

MOVED J PRINTZ (VIC) SECONDED : J THOMPSON (QLD)

AS THE NOTICE OF MOTION PUT BY VICTORIA WAS REQUIRED TO BE MOVED SO AS TO ALLOW
DISCUSSION ON THE FORMING OF A POSITION OF NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT IT WAS
MOVED THAT THREE VICE PRESIDENTS POSITIONS BE INSTITUTED

AMMENDMENT

MOVED : M ALLWRIGHT (TAS) SECONDED : P WELLS (SA)

THAT THE VVAA HAVE ONE NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT MAKING THE OFFICE BEARERS OF
THE NATIONAL BODY

1. NATIONAL PRESIDENT
2. NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
3. NATIONAL SECRETARY
4. NATIONAL TREASURER

THE AMMENDMANT WAS MOVED AND CARRIED

THE AMMENDMENT BECAME THE MOTION , WAS MOVED AND CARRIED

MOTION 11 RATIFICATION NAME CHANGE

MOVED C EVANS (WA) SECONDED : M SCRASE (NSW)

THAT THE RESOLUTION CARRIED AT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN SA IN DEC TO
CHANGE THE NAME OF THE WA STATE BRANCH TO READ "THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIA-
TION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH) BE RATIFIED

CARRIED

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 87/88

MOVED : J THOMPSON (QLD) SECONDED : J DELACCA (VIC)

THAT THE ELECTIONS FOR OFFICE BEARERS BE A SECRET ,EXHUSTIVE VOTE

CARRIED

MOTION 13 NOMINATION OF RETURNING OFFICER

MOVED : J PRINTZ (VIC) SECONDED : C BRUCE (ACT)

THAT MR DAMIEN LEY FROM THE UN AFFILIATED BODY THE MURRAY BORDER ASSOCIATION
BE APPOINTED RETURNING OFFICER

CARRIED

IT WAS DECIDED TO HOLD THE ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AFTER LUNCH TO ALLOW
THE RETURNING OFFICER TIME TO PREPARE

MOTION 14

SETTING OF CAPITATION FEES

MOVED : C EVANS (WA)

SECONDED : P WELLS (SA)

THAT THE CONGRESS RAISE THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PER MEMBER TO THE SUM OF \$15 AND THAT FROM THAT SUM \$5 BE PAID TO THE NATIONAL BODY AS CAPITATION PER MEMBER

LOST

MOTION 15

SETTING OF CAPITATION FEES

MOVED : J PRINTZ (VIC)

SECONDED : C BRUCE (ACT)

THAT THE CAPITATION FEE PER MEMBER BE \$5 AND THAT THE STATES HAVE THE ABILITY TO SET THEIR OWN STATE SUBSCRIPTION

LOST

AS THERE WERE NO FURTHER MOTIONS THE STATE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND NATIONAL CAPITATION REMAIN THE SAME AS LAST YEAR

MOTION 16

MISUSE OF HEALTH FUNDS BY DVA

MOVED : C EVANS (WA)

SECONDED : J THOMPSON (QLD)

THAT THE VVAA OPPOSE THE USE OF PRIVATE HEALTH FUNDS IN THE REPATRIATION SYSTEM AND THAT WE ADVISE OUR MEMBERS NOT TO DISCLOSE THEIR PRIVATE HEALTH / HOSPITAL FUND TO THE REPATRIATION SYSTEM FOR WHICH HOSPITALISATION OR TREATMENT IS DEDUCTED FROM THOSE PRIVATE FUNDS FOR WHICH THE MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THROUGH THE REPATRIATION FINANCIAL SYSTEM AS AUTHORISED BY THE DVA

CARRIED

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DVA TO USE THE PROPER METHODS, CASES PAID FOR BY THE MEMBERS PRIVATE HEALTH FUND LEADS TO INCORRECT STATISTICAL INFORMATION WHICH COULD LEAD TO A DOWN GRADING OF DVA BENEFITS. SECONDLY THE IMPROPER USE OF HEALTH FUND COULD LEAD TO HIGHER PREMIUMS BEING CHARGED BY PRIVATE HEALTH FUNDS

MOTION 17

ACTION TO FACILITATE MOTION 16

MOVED : C EVANS (WA)

SECONDED : J THOMPSON (QLD)

THAT THE VVAA OBJECT STRONGLY TO THE MINISTER FOR VETERAN AFFAIRS ABOUT THE MIS USE OF OF HEALTH FUNDS BY DVA AND SEEK HIS SUPPORT TO ABOLISH THE PRACTISE

MOTION 17A

THAT THE VVAA SEEK THE SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO ABOLISH THE PRACTISE AND THAT THEY GIVE A WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT IF ELECTED TO GOVERNMENT THEY WILL ABOLISH THIS PRACTISE

MOTION 17B

THAT THE VVAA SEEK THE SUPPORT OF OTHER EX SERVICE ORGANISATIONS TO ABOLISH THE PRACTISE

ALL MOTIONS CARRIED

MOTION 18

EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE IN FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

MOVED : J THOMPSON (QLD)

SECONDED : C EVANS (WA)

THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSIST THE EMPLOYMENT OF VIETNAM VETERANS IN THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE BY GIVING PREFERENCE TO THEM WHEN ALL OTHER QUALIFICATIONS ARE EQUAL

CARRIED

THE NATIONAL SECRETARY TO INVESTIGATE AND ENSURE THIS IS NOT ALREADY IN VOUGE IN THE CASE THAT THIS IS ALREADY IN VOUGE THIS MOTION IS TO BE NOT ACTED ON

DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER OF SUPPORT FOR US MARINE DESERTERS WAS HELD WITH STANDING ORDERS BEING RECINDED TO ALLOW AN ADDRESS FROM A MEMBER OF THE GEELONG SUB BRANCH WHOSE CORRESPONDENCE INSTIGATED THE SUBJECT

DRAFT POLICY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA RE: DESERTERS

MOTION 19 CIRCULATION OF DRAFT POLICY

MOVED : C EVANS (WA) SECONDED : P WELLS (SA)

THAT THE DRAFT OF THE VVAA POLICY ON US DESERTERS BE CIRCULATED FOR GRASS ROOTS MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION AND FEED BACK TO NATIONAL BRANCH FOR FINAL DRAFT CIRCULATION AND RATIFICATION AT THE NEXT NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

CARRIED

DRAFT

1. EACH CASE MUST BE DEALT WITH ON ITS MERITS
2. THE VVAA GIVES NO SUPPORT FOR THE BREACHING OF MILITARY LAW
3. INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO NATURAL JUSTICE AND ACCORDINGLY INDIVIDUALS MUST NOT BE DEPORTED UNTIL EACH CASE HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE APPROPRIATE AUSTRALIAN LEGAL AUTHORITIES
4. OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS ARE NOT EMPOWERED TO PERMIT THE ASSOCIATION TO GIVE FINANCIAL , MORAL OR OTHER SUPPORT IN SUCH CASES
5. OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS ARE NOT TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON ANY SUCH CASES EXCEPT TO STATE THE ASSOCIATION POLICY

DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER PUT FORWARD BY THE UN AFFILIATED MURRAY BORDER ASSOC RE: REGIONALIZATION WAS HELD WITH STANDING ORDERS RECINDED TO ALLOW THE SECRETARY MR DAMIEN LEY TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

MOTION 20 MEETING WITH MURRAY BORDER ASSOCIATION

MOVED : J HAINES (NSW) SECONDED : J THOMPSON (QLD)

THAT THIS MATTER BE DEFERRED AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE NSW BRANCH, THE VICTORIA REGIONAL BRANCH AND THE MURRAY BORDER ASSOCIATION TAKE PLACE TO COME TO SOME MUTUAL INPUT TO STATE ADMINISTRATION AND THAT WE WELCOME THE APPROACH TO THE VVAA AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO AFFILIATE .

CARRIED

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

RETURNING OFFICER DAMIEN LEY

<u>NOMINATION</u>		<u>FIRST BALLOT</u>	<u>SECOND BALLOT</u>
DON WILSON	NSW	4	7
COL EVANS	WA	6	6
KEVIN GILL	ACT	3	
ABSTAIN/INFORMAL		1	1

MR DON WILSON ELECTED NATIONAL PRESIDENT

GRANT COLLINS	SA	WITHDRAWN
JOHN HAINES	NSW	3
COL EVANS	WA	WITHDRAWN
KEVIN GILL	ACT	11

MR KEVIN GILL ELECTED NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

TIM MCCOMBE NATIONAL WITHDRAWN

THE POSITION(S) WERE NOT FILLED 1. SECRETARY 2. TREASURER

IT WAS RESOLVED TO FILL THE POSITIONS VACANT AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH TIM MCCOMBE AND DEALT WITH AT A NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN CONFERENCE AS TO ACTION TO BE TAKEN

DON WILSON ADDRESSED THE CONGRESS AND THANKED IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT KEVIN GILL AND RETURNING OFFICER DAMIEN LEY

MOTION : 21 RECEIVING OF RETURNING OFFICERS REPORT

/MOVED : KEVIN GILL

MOVED : KEVIN GILL (NATIONAL) SECONDED : (Undistinguishable)
THAT THE RETURNING OFFICERS REPORT BE RECIEVED

CARRIED

MOTION 22 LIFE MEMBERSHIP TIM McCOOMBE

MOVED: L IRVINE (WA) SECONDED : J THOMPSON (QLD)
THAT LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE VVAA BE CONFERRED ON MR TIM McCOOMBE FOR HIS
DEDICATION AND SERVICE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE NORMAL IN HIS SERVICE TO THE VVAA
AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION AND FOR HIS SERVICES IN THE VVAAS CASE
IN THE ROYAL COMMISSION AND AFTER.

CARRIED

MOTION 23 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

MOVED : M SCRASE (NSW) SECONDED : (unreadable due to background
noise)

THAT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE INVESTIGATE ALL ASPECTS OF A NATIONAL MEMORIAL
, TO LIASE WITH OTHER VV GROUPS AND REPORT BACK TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

CARRIED

MOTION 24. PHIL THOMPSON MEMORIAL TRUST

MOVED : J THOMPSON (QLD) SECONDED J PRINTZ (VIC)

THAT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE INVESTIGATE AND REPORT TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
ALL ASPECTS AND OBJECTS OF ESTABLISHING THE TRUST FUND SO AS TO ASSIST
WITH THE EDUCATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS CHILDREN

CARRIED

MOTION 25 NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS BUSINESS

MOVED : J PRINTZ (VIC) SECONDED : J THOMPSON (QLD)

THAT ALL MOTION OF NOTICE , NOMINATIONS , FEES BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY
BY 31ST MARCH EACH YEAR IN WRITING

THIS MOTION WAS NOT PUT AS AMMENDMENTS OF THE 7TH NATIONAL CONGRESS COVER
THESE POINTS

MOTION 26 MOTION OF THANKS

MOVED : J HAINES (NSW) SECONDED : P WELLS (SA)

THAT THANKS TO JOHN PRINTZ , THE VIC REGIONAL BRANCH , MELBOURNE LEGACY
AND THE VIC BRANCH OF THE RSL BE TENDED FOR THE HELP AND ORGANISATION OF
THE CONGRESS

CARRIED

MEETING CLOSED AT 4.05 PM



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL OFFICE

CNR. BLAXCELL & WILLIAM STREETS, GRANVILLE 2142 (P.O. BOX 369, PARRAMATTA 2150) PHONE: (02) 682 1788

National Patron:
Mr. J.H. Greenwood OBE

April 15, 1987

State Presidents,

Please find herewithin motions for the National Congress from the Western Australian and the Victorian Regional Branches.

For your consideration.

Tim McCombe

TIM McCOMBE
SECRETARY/TREASURER

A matter of trust

AUSTRALIANS are naturally trusting of their Government. Recent history shows that Governments lose office when people no longer trust them either in the wider sense of their ability to manage the nation's affairs or in a more narrow way which involves perceptions of moral conditions such as probity, integrity, rectitude and good faith most of which can be summed up in the Australian "fair go" principle.

The 105,000 Government occupational superannuation pensioners together with the 400,000 contributors to such schemes have seen the abrogation of this "fair go" principle with the recent 2% reduction in the CPI increase to their pensions applied from July 1, 1986.

Apart from the 400,000 contributors to Commonwealth Government Occupational Superannuation Schemes there are a vast number of Australians involved with a range of private occupational superannuation schemes. In general both the employee member and employer contribute to these schemes and its detailed operation is subject to a deed of trust which lays down the conditions under which the scheme operates. All parties know their rights and responsibilities and the conditions are enforceable at law. Government's quite rightly have legislated to ensure the proper oversight of private superannuation schemes.

In the case of the Commonwealth schemes there is no trust deed. Contributions quite reasonably and understandably look on the legislation regulating those schemes as a de facto trust deed. They perceive the legislation to be a binding contract between them and the Government, in short they put their trust in the Government to keep its part of the deal.

In return for compulsory contributions for their pay (5.5% from members of the Defence Force and 5% from other Commonwealth employees) the Government insures the contributor and their dependants against invalidity or death and provides an annuity on retirement which is to be adjusted for upward movement in the CPI. All this is clearly stated in legislation and has been taken on trust over many years by the hundreds of thousands of contributors as a condition of their service in Commonwealth employment.

In private superannuation schemes the trust deed provides for alteration of conditions after due consideration and discussion with contributors. In the case of Commonwealth schemes there is no trust deed as such, the conditions are included in legislation and no provision is made for change other than by the inherent right of Governments to alter provisions as they see fit.

In the past this right of change has been exercised

by the Governments only after a process of examination by a committee of Parliament or by other expert examination, e.g. the Jess Committee, the Pollard Report. This process has fairly considered the rights and views of pensioners, contributors, dependants, economic effects and a host of other factors. Contributors and pensioners have put their trust in Governments to ensure this process gives them a fair go.

Quite apart from a number of practical and unforeseen effects in Commonwealth superannuation schemes the decision to reduce the CPI pension increase by 2% raises issues of principle and credibility:

- should the Government renege on rights already purchased by pensioners?
- where does the established principle of no detriment now stand?
- has a precedent been established to vary other payments made under the authority of a Special Appropriation Act?
- was the 2% discount intended to apply to pensions from now until the death of pensioners and their dependants?
- will the Government allow similar action to be taken by employers in relation to specific firm entitlements embodied in Occupational Superannuation Trust Deeds?
- is there a firm intention to build on the nexus between wages and pensions which has now been established?
- will the Government embody similar provisions in the Parliamentary pension scheme?
- will future changes involving issues of principle be made without full and public investigation?
- will the Government include in legislation a clause to the effect that they reserve the right to change the legislation without consultation and public examination?

These and other questions need to be examined and answered. As it now stands, pensioners and contributors to Commonwealth Superannuation Schemes perceive the Government to have broken their contract with them.

J. Whitelaw

CLAYTON'S CONTRACT: PART 2

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I refer to an article in the November 1986 edition of 'Camaraderie' headed "A Clayton's Contract". The first information I had about the proposed reduction of 2% in our annual CPI rise in our DFRDB pension was on reading a very pertinent letter in the Sydney Sun/Herald of September 7, written by Major W. B. Fegon. (N.B. Copy attached.)

No doubt readers will be aware of the contents of this letter, which I wholeheartedly agreed with. I immediately wrote to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Australian Democrats voicing my concern over the proposed cut in our pension.

I received a reply dated October 14 from Senator Janine Haines advising that the Democrats voted against the legislation, which however was passed through the Senate on September 25 as a result of the Opposition voting with the Government. I then received a letter dated November 19 from John Brown as Minister assisting the Minister for Defence and a letter dated December 22 from Ken Aldred MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition.

I attach copies of these two letters which you might perhaps care to publish in 'Camaraderie' as I think the contents would be of interest to all members of the RDF, WA. It will be interesting to see what percentage reduction will be made to our annual CPI rise in July 1987 and in subsequent years.

Richard (Dick) K. Gorman

COALITION RESPONSE

Dear Major Gorman,

Thank you for your letter to John Howard of September 12, 1986, expressing concern about the Hawke Government's decision to discount CPI-related increases in DFRB and DFRDB pensions by two per cent in 1986-87. Mr Howard has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

The views expressed in your letter have been noted.

This is the latest attack by the Hawke Government upon the service and ex-service communities. The assets test and the increased tax on lump sum super-

Government reneges on Service pensions

It appears that the present Federal Government is about to commit another stupid and dishonourable act in its constant campaign against ex-servicemen and their widows.

...Not content with the trouble caused by the sudden changes made to the Repatriation Act in its May 1985 mini-budget, it is now proposing in the 1986 Budget to reduce the existing pensions paid as Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits with a 2% cut to take effect from October 23.

Many of the Service families to be affected by this proposal paid dearly for these retirement and death benefits in cash contributions which they could ill afford and also in years of service, including family separations during wars and postings to operational areas in South-East Asia and in peace-keeping operations in Africa and the Middle East.

In return they received a contract from the Government that the pensions paid to these veterans and widows would be proportional to the years of service rendered and that the value of the pension would be maintained by annual adjustments in accordance with changes in the Consumer Price Index.

This contract is set out in an Act of the Federal Parliament.

Now this contract is to be dishonoured by the Government.

Changes to the legislation will be pushed through Parliament under cover of the Budget program.

Many of the ex-servicemen and widows to be affected by this change receive pensions of such a low value that they have to be supplemented by small payments from Social Security or Veterans' Affairs to bring them up to the value of the normal age pension.

The Government will save very little money if any from this operation but its effect on many aged veterans and widows will be profound.

W. B. FEGAN,
President, ACT Branch,
Regular Defence Force Welfare Association.

annuation payments have severely affected the retirement benefits of members of the Defence Forces.

The Coalition is strongly opposed to this discriminatory measure, its retrospective character and its imposition without consultation. It reflects the Hawke Government's failure to make substantial real spending cuts and its inability to clamp down on waste and extravagance.

This measure forms part of the Government's Budget. We have taken a decision on overall economic grounds not to block the Government's Budget. On this basis the Coalition did not think it appropriate to vote against the measure.

The Opposition has called for a full inquiry by the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal into pay and conditions in the ADF compared with those in the private and public sectors. If the Hawke Government does not agree to this inquiry it will be a priority of the next Coalition Government. Its terms would include the adequacy of the DFRB scheme.

You can be assured of the Coalition's commitment to provide to the service community the most generous benefits responsible government can afford.

Ken Aldred MP,
Parliamentary Secretary

MINISTER ASSISTING

Dear Major Gorman,

I refer to your letter of September 12, 1986, to the Prime Minister concerning discounting of Defence

Force Retirement Benefits (DFRB)/Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) pensions.

I trust there is no misunderstanding about the nature and extent of the adjustment. Since 1976, Commonwealth and Defence Force superannuation pensions have been updated in July each year by the full amount of the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

In accordance with its 1986 Budget decisions, the Government has now legislated to reduce the percentage by which Commonwealth Superannuation and DFRB/DFRDB pensions were updated in July. These pensions, which were increased by 9.2 per cent, were reassessed on and from pension payday, October 23, 1986 as if the increase had been 7.2 per cent. The legislation applies only to the 1986 annual pension adjustment and there will be no retrospective application to July this year.

The Government believes that the current need for income restraint should be shared across all sections of the community. The present condition of the economy requires all members of the community to share the burden of reducing Government expenditure. Failure to achieve such restraint will severely affect the Government's capacity to stabilise and restore the country's economy.

In the context of sharing restraint in the manner announced in the Budget the position of superannuation recipients is not in any essential way different to that of wage and salary earners. The 2 per cent reduction in the 1986 pension updating will result in only a small reduction in pensions.

THE National and Liberal parties had a very difficult decision to make on Labor's legislation to discount DFRB and DFRDB pensions by 2 per cent in 1986-87.

We were — and are — very concerned at the injustice of the decision and its serious effects on service morale.

But the nation faces enormous economic problems.

For all its failures, the Government was trying to come at least partly to grips with these problems in the budget, by starting to curb its massive spending.

In his budget speech, the Treasurer did not just announce cuts to service pensions, but to Commonwealth superannuation and aged pensions.

The justice of the cause of retired servicemen and women was clear.

There were other groups, however, which suffered equally, or even more greatly: such as citrus fruit growers, for example, already battling to make a living and now facing a new 10% sales tax on their products.

Any decision we made had to be consistent and apply across the board.

The outcome was that we decided not to oppose any of the Government's budget measures.

To do otherwise would have made the country ungovernable at a time when it desperately needs leadership.

We made it clear we completely opposed the move, and we also moved an amendment, carried in the Senate, calling for a full inquiry into service pay and conditions.

That inquiry will be a priority for the next Coalition Government, and as part of it we will examine the adequacy and equity of DFRDB scheme.

I hope it will be possible to make up the lost 2%.

At the same time, however, the National and Liberal parties will have a major task putting the economy right after the next election; and maximum spending restraint will be vital.

Ian Sinclair,
Leader of National Party and
Shadow Minister for Defence

Also, it should be remembered that annual updating of superannuation pensions on the basis of the full increase in the CPI was introduced when wages and salaries also moved in general, by at least the full CPI movement. Wages and salaries have been subject to restraint and therefore a review of the level of updating of other forms of income such as superannuation pensions to equitably spread the restraint assumed by wage earners is only fair.

There has been no change to the Government's commitment to annual updating of pensions payable under the DFRB/DFRDB schemes. Only that the Government has decided that updating based on the full increase in the CPI should be modified in the light of current economic circumstances.

While the Government stands by and declares its intention to preserve the major elements of the DFRB and DFRDB schemes, the payment of DFRB and DFRDB pensions, and the method and frequency of their updating is not in the form of a contract between the Government and the recipient.

Payments are made from Consolidated Revenue as authorised by the provisions of the DFRB and DFRDB Acts. The relevant provisions can be amended by Parliament at any time, and for whatever

purpose Parliament considers appropriate at the time in the context of the normal activities of the Parliament. In this instance both Houses have accepted that the Government's intention that the increase for this financial year should be discounted should pass into law.

Annual pension updating has only been provided since 1976. In the 24 years the DFRB scheme operated, pensions were only updated on seven occasions, by two different methods. From 1972 to 1975 a series of annual increases occurred on a year by year basis. This also applied to the DFRDB scheme for the period to 1975.

From July 1976 both the DFRB and DFRDB Acts provided for annual pension updating based on the full CPI increase between the previous March quarters. It is therefore only for the last 10 of the 38 years that a Defence Force pension scheme has existed, that automatic annual pension updating has occurred. This was by executive decision of the Government of the day (the Whitlam Government) later prescribed by an Act of Parliament and not in the form of a contract between the Government and individual pensioners.

John Brown

Taking it to the top

THE Government's unpopular decision to discount Service superannuation payments by 2 per cent has created bitter and emotional debate. A former Flight Sergeant felt he had to take his protest to the top. Published here is a copy of his letter to the Prime Minister.

Dear Sir,

I guess this letter will be dealt with by one of your staff and you will never get to see it; however, I feel I must write and express my concern that the Australian Government has seen fit to break a contract with me. A contract I made in 1955 as a young "Rookie Airman" in the Royal Australian Air Force.

In all my career from 1955 to 1976 I never considered my DFRB/DFRDB subscriptions as anything other than payments into a superannuation scheme. Those contributions were a big slice of my income and in the days before the established "Service Industry" criteria my civilian counterparts were getting much higher pay, they worked fewer and more regulated hours, but I could always say that my job prospects were protected by the Government and after 20 years' work I could commute some of my "superannuation" and draw an income tied to the C.P.I. which would be equal or better than my civilian counterpart.

Throughout my career I encouraged my sub-

ordinates to have a similar outlook. Even when I trained other young airmen I told them of the advantages of our superannuation.

I now draw my superannuation, conveniently called a "pension" by some. It forms a major part of my income. I find that I am "tightening my belt" every day.

The shopkeepers have loaded their prices to pass on the affects of taxes to the consumer for instance and having to accept a 2% cut in my income is attacking me, and others, from the opposite end as well. Soon I will have no belt left to tighten.

I couldn't now encourage young airmen to "soldier on" and to continue to pay 5.5% of their income for 20 years into a scheme that lacks the guarantees at first promised. Imagine how everyone involved, those serving and those now drawing their superannuation/pension, must feel now that the "umpire has changed the rules halfway through the game".

It's not my fault that previous Governments "mis-handled the Economy" or failed to invest my con-

tributions wisely over the period 1955 to 1976. Blaming the Fraser Government or the Whitlam Government is not the answer.

Given the opportunity I would have been better off to invest 5.5% of my wages over 21 years with a private financial institution. Given the same choice as ACTU members I could have been drawing a "pension" which the Government couldn't reduce by 2% when it suited.

I wish to voice my protest in the strongest possible terms. I feel let down and cheated by an administration that I have served and to which I have demonstrated my loyalty.

No wonder the Defence Forces are losing so many good people. They can no longer trust their employer.

Neil F. Gage (ex A217187 FSGT)
RAAF

Another protest

Yet another letter of protest, republished from The "Canberra Times".

FIDDLING WITH THE RULES

Received October 20

Sir, — All serving members, and young people considering a career in the Defence Force, should take particular note of the attitude of the Government to service personnel in its recent decision to reduce benefits payable under the DFRDB Act. This Act is binding upon the contributor, but obviously it can be amended as required to meet the particular needs of the Government of the day.

During my 30 years' service I had no option but to contribute 5.5 per cent of my salary to the DFRDB Fund. The stated benefits of such a contribution included a pension to be adjusted annually in accordance with the consumer-price index. There was no indication that a government could vary the benefits to suit itself, apply discounting to the CPI, or introduce ongoing reductions to pension entitlements.

Conditions of service in the Defence Force have in recent years been eroded to such an extent that service personnel are now at considerable disadvantage with their civilian counterparts. The Prime Minister's TV commercial aimed at increasing the Army Reserve may in time meet its objective, but surely of greater concern is the ever-increasing loss of highly trained and experienced members of the permanent force.

To review and improve conditions of service would be of greater benefit to service personnel and the country than the squeezing of extra dollars from already overtaxed Service pensioners by means of fiddling with the rules.

R. J. HANNAN
RAN (Retired)
Chapman

Pensions — the missing millions

SENATOR Peter Walsh (Letters, Dec. 8) accuses J.B. McDermott of misunderstanding the situation vis-a-vis service pensions and the extent to which they are backed by the taxpayer.

What Senator Walsh appears conveniently to forget is that when the scheme was updated in 1972, \$54 million of service personnel contributions disappeared into consolidated revenue. He also persists in calling what is rightfully a superannuation benefit a pension, thereby easing his conscience when assisting to bring down "amending legislation." Again, conveniently forgotten, is the fact that all service personnel contribute compulsorily to the scheme and expect the Government to honour its side of what is increasingly becoming seen as a bad bargain.

R. E. GAYNOR,
Frobisher Ave, Sorrento.

WEST AUSTRALIAN 13 DEC '86



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA
WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH

(09)4475585

National Patron:
Mr J.H. Greenwood OBE

I Acacia Way, Duncraig WA 6023

Reg. Charity No. 454

Mr Tim McCombe
National Secretary
V.V.A.A.
PO Box 369
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

9th April 1987

Dear Tim,

8th National Congress

2-3 May 1987

Apologies for late submission and trust this finds you well.
Western Australia propose to present the following motions at the above Congress in Melbourne.

Preamble;

In addition to the attached pages 9,17,19,21, and 23 from CAMARADERIE February 1987, we also submit, that again, service personnel have been treated as second class citizens by the Government, by the 2% discount. It is noted that no Parliamentary pensions, nor any other sector of the community superannuation pensions, have been discounted.

May we remind the Government that prior to the 1972 election of the Whitlam government the DFRDB pensions were managed by the DFRDB Fund. During that time contributions by serving personnel, and pensions received by qualified ex service personnel were managed by the authority with such expertise that the pensions were able to be paid at NO cost to the taxpayer. Indeed over the years there were surplus funds which were re-distributed to members.

With the advent of the Whitlam government the DFRDB fund was done away with and pension contributions and accumulated funds then went into the Federal treasury, because we believe it was a known money maker.

We argue that there were many millions of dollars surplus that will now never be seen by contributors and we are now in the ludicrous situation with the government now discounting our entitlement by 2% because "we all have to tighten the belt", and that the taxpayer cannot be expected to meet the "cost" of our pensions during these economic hard times.

We believe this is farcial-if the contributions and the "fund", is being administered in the same way now as it was prior to the Whitlam government, then DFRDB

pensions are NOT costing the taxpayer money, indeed they would be making money for the government. If on the other hand the contributions and pensions are not being administered now as they were during the "fund", then that is the governments poor administration, for which surely the pensioner should not be expected to pay.

Motion:

That the VVAA join with other ex service organizations and make strong representation to the Minister to have this unjust legislation rescinded and all back monies refunded to pensioners and an assurance that there will be no such legislation introduced in the future.

Motion:

That the VVAA seek the support of the opposition parties to assist us achieve the above and at the same time written assurances from them that in the event we are unsuccessful in achieving this with the current government, that they (the opposition parties) will rescind /abolish the legislation if they are re-elected to government, with a written guarantee that they will not reintroduce it in the future.

Note: To the above preamble should be added that the government (the employer) never paid a dollar for dollar or any other percentage figure to contributions paid, as is the case in civilian superannuation schemes. A further example of the then NIL cost to taxpayers.

Preamble:

Financial Institution Duty was introduced into WA by the Burke Labour government with effect 1 January 1984 at the rate of 5% (5 cents in the dollar) for all deposits at a financial institution. We believe that a similar duty was being charged by most other States in Australia, but at the rate of 3%. In June 1984 the Burke government reduced it's percentage rate to 3% thus in line with the other States of Australia.

This means that all Veterans Affairs, Repatriation pensions, eg: TP&I etc and general disability rate pensions are being charged the FID on deposit into a financial institution, and we understand that in all or most cases the pensions are paid direct into the nominated financial institution, which then automatically attracts the respective State Duty (no choice)

It should not be forgotten that these pensions are compensatory pensions and thus do not attract Federal or State taxation (for assessment of taxable annual income).

In addition Section 52(I) of the Repatriation Act 1920 stated:

Pensions, etc., absolutely inalienable

52.(I) Subject to this Act, a pension, an allowance under section 98A and an allowance under section 98AA shall be absolutely inalienable whether by way or in

consequence of sale, assignment, charge, execution, bankruptcy, or otherwise howsoever.

This Act of course is now no longer legal but its replacement, the Veterans Entitlement Act 1986 Section 125(I) states:

Pensions, &c absolutely inalienable

125.(I) Subject to this Act, a pension, allowance or other pecuniary benefit under this Act is absolutely inalienable, whether by way of, or in consequence of, sale, assignment, charge, execution, bankruptcy or otherwise.

We therefore believe that (and in accordance with our legal advice) to be charged, or a duty to be paid, is unconstitutional.

This State has made approaches to the Burke WA Government through Mr Graham Edwards MLC (Vietnam veteran) North Metropolitan Province, for a stop to this unconstitutional charge.

Mr Edwards has verbally advised that it is accepted that the charge is unconstitutional however "it doesn't amount to much", and that it would be too hard for the government to create administrative machinery to be able to identify those sorts of pensions being deposited and thus not be charged FID, and so it's left as it is, with veterans paying FID on compensatory pensions who can ill afford it, veterans who for various reasons are well below the poverty living line.

Is this callous "I'm right Jack" attitude of politicians acceptable? No.. veterans have paid dearly enough.

Motion:

- a. That the VVAA seek support from the Minister for Veterans Affairs in having the States abolish this unconstitutional charge against War veterans disability pension; and
- b. that if the Minister is unsuccessful in this endeavour that this Congress seek an assurance from the Opposition Parties that if they are elected to Federal Government they will endeavour to have the States abolish FID on Repatriation disability pensions; and
- c. that this Congress endorse and pledge to make every effort to have FID on disability pensions abolished, even if that includes supporting a test case in court of one of the States of Australia.

Preamble:

Inflation has caught and passed most of us as individuals or groups in the community. The VVAA is no exception. Indeed we've been strangled for the want of finance.

The National Office (Executive) really has no or very limited resources from which to raise funds, and thus has to rely on the States, to encourage larger membership for a number of reasons - one of them being an increase of funds

by way of capitation fees. Up to now this has been insufficient, and unless we make a move now we are going to find ourselves in a worse state. (If we can be any worse than we are financially at the moment)

And in view of the recent undated letter by Mr Don Wilson (NSW Branch) in which, inter alia, he explains the complexities of raffle fund raising (to which I voiced reservations on the 13/14 Dec 1986) we believe that the most practical solution is to consider the raising of our annual membership/capitation fees to be the most practical solution to the problem of financing the National Office. In the short term anyway. Keep in mind that if this move is approved it will be another seven (7) months at the very least before National Office will benefit.

Motion:

That this Congress agree to raise the annual State ordinary membership fee to the sum of \$15.00 and the capitation fee to \$5.00. (States are left with same as before, but can generate their own fund raising)

Motion:

That this Congress ratify the status of the ACT as a State Branch.

Preamble:

For some time now we have become aware that Veterans Affairs have been recovering the cost of treatment provided to insured veterans and war widows from their private health funds for service related and Repat accepted illnesses/disabilities. On seeking treatment/hospitalisation, these people have been asked for their private insurance details. Subsequently private insurance was billed. We believe this is wrong. Most health funds limit the number of days in any one year for which cover is provided and should a veteran or war widow require a further period of hospitalisation after the cover is exhausted, that person could be disadvantaged under the arrangements implemented by the Government. These arrangements will also inevitably lead to increases in premiums charged by private health funds.

Motion:

That the VVAA oppose the use of private health funds in the Repatriation system and that we should advise our members NOT to disclose their membership with a private hospital/medical fund for hospitalisation or treatment to which they are entitled to receive, or is authorised, by DVA.

Motion:

That the VVAA object strongly to the Minister for Veterans Affairs about this legislation or practise and seek his support in having it abolished.

Motion:

That the VVAA seek the support of the Federal Opposition Parties and a written

assurance that if they are elected to government they will abolish this legislation/practise if it is still being used.

Motion:

That the VVAA seek the support of, or voice their support to other ex service organisations in the attempt to achieve the above motions.


Motion:

Western Australia wish to make nominations for the following positions on the National Executive:

National President: Colin Evans (WA)
 National Vice President: Grant Collins (SA)
 National Secretary: Tim McCombe
 National Treasurer: Tim McCombe

Western Australia also submit that Congress review resolutions/motions passed at previous Congresses which have not yet been achieved but are still worthy of pursuing, and to ratify those and continue to strive for their achievement.

Yours sincerely,



C.G. Evans
 President.

Att:



Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia

VICTORIAN REGIONAL STATE BRANCH

P.O. BOX 902, SALE, VICTORIA, 3850

JOHN DELLACA
State President

JOHN PRINTZ
State Secretary

THE SECRETARY

National Branch VVA of A
New South Wales

Dear Tim,

RE: NOTICE OF MOTION FOR NATIONAL CONGRESS

Our state branch moves the following Notice of motion

1. THAT THE OFFICE BEARERS OF THE NATIONAL BODY BE :-
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT (1)
JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT (2)
NATIONAL SECRETARY
NATIONAL TREASURER

Note. THE THREE VICE PRESIDENTS ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE VARIOUS STATES ie. One in Queensland , One in Western Australia and the third based in the Southern states either Tasmania , Victoria or South Australia.

Note. THE SECRETARY AND TREASURERS POSITION MAY BE ONE IF THE CASE NEED BE

We feel that the motion speaks for itself but we outline the reasons for the spread of the Vice Presidents As the National President usually comes from NSW or the ACT we feel that a Vice president in the three areas noted will allow National representation over a wider area in cases of media coverage and local visitations to sub branch bases. This would help to overcome the perceived lack of national involvement and save on travel costs to national funds. It would also give better coverage to national aspects



National Patron:
Mr. J.H. Greenwood OBE

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL OFFICE

CNR. BLAXCELL & WILLIAM STREETS, GHANVILLE 2142 (P.O. BOX 369, PARRAMATTA 2150) PHONE: (02) 682 1788

APRIL 27, 1987

PRESS RELEASE

THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE 2ND/3RD MAY 1987. THE VENUE OF THIS MEETING WILL BE THE 2ND FLOOR, LEGACY HOUSE, 293 SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE.

THE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WILL FOCUS ON THE ROYAL COMMISSION AND OTHER ISSUES WHICH EFFECT VIETNAM VETERANS.

GUEST SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE, SENATOR THE HON. A. GIETZELT, MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS, TIM FISCHER, MHR, SHADOW MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS, MS. LESLEY VICK, PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR SENATOR JANINE HAINES, REPRESENTING THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS.

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED, A COPY OF THE TIMETABLE FOR THE CONGRESS.

TIM McCOMBE
NATIONAL SECRETARY

OFFICE 02 3495552
HOME 02 631 3343

KEVIN GILL
PRESIDENT

062 881766

JOHN PRINCE
SECRETARY VICTORIA BRANCH

051 486246

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

8TH NATIONAL CONGRESS

2ND FLOOR, LEGACY HOUSE, 293 SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE
SATURDAY, 2ND OF MAY 1987

09.25	Opening Address	Kevin Gill President VVAA
09.30	Address	Senator the Hon. A.T. Gietzelt Minister for Veterans' Affairs
10.00	Address	Mr. Tim Fischer, MHR, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs
10.30	Address	Ms. Lesley Vick Principal Private Secretary to Senator Janine Haines, Representing the Australian Democrats
11.00	Morning Tea	
11.30	Address	General Alan Morrison Representing the Repatriation Commission
12.00	Lunch	
1.00	Address	Mr. Brian Flynn Representing the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, Victoria.
1.30	Address	Colin Bannister, past President of Legacy Representing the Victorian Branch of Legacy.
2.00	Address	Ruth Perkins Director of Counselling VVCS Victoria.

2.30	Address	Ric Marshall, National Director, VVCS
3.00	Summary of meeting	Chairman
3.05	Working session	
5.00	Meeting adjourned.	

* * * *



MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

22 JUN 1987

Dear Mr McCombe,

Thank you for the audited financial statements of the Federal Executive Account of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia for 1985/86 and the six-month period ended 31 December 1986 and your reply to my Department's letter of 12 August 1986.

As stated in the Department's letter of 12 August 1986, the 1984/85 grant did not appear to be fully expended in accordance with the indicative costs outlined in your application of 31 December 1983. However, it would appear from your financial statements that the grant was expended consistent with the actual terms of the grant on "general expenses".

It would appear from your 1985/86 audited financial statements that this grant was fully expended in accordance with your application of 15 January 1985.

Consequently, no further action is needed in respect of the 1984/85 grant.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A.T. Gietzelt', written over a light-colored background.

(A.T. GIETZELT)

Mr T. McCombe,
Secretary/Treasurer,
Vietnam Veterans Association
of Australia,
P.O. Box 369,
PARRAMATTA. N.S.W. 2150

S. L. TAGG & CO.
Chartered Accountant

Registered
Tax Agent

NO 1

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
ROYAL COMMISSION PUBLIC APPEAL TRUST FUND

We have examined the statement of income and expenditure of the Trust for the year ended 30th June 1986.

In our opinion the aforementioned statement presents a true and fair view of the cash transactions of the Trust for the year ended 30th June 1986 and is in accordance with the books of account of the Trust and the information furnished to us.

S. L. Tagg & Co.

S. L. TAGG & CO.
Chartered Accountant

Sydney, 29th April 1987

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

ROYAL COMMISSION
PUBLIC APPEAL TRUST FUND

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1986

Income:

Proceeds of sales of book "Politics of Agent Orange"	587.08
Interest on bank account and bonus deposit	<u>2,387.79</u>
	2,974.87

Less Expenditure:

Printing of Repatriation Claim Booklet	1,579.60	
Critique of the Report of the Royal Commission		
- legal consultant	1,000.00	
- typing	250.00	
- printing	1,615.20	
Travelling expenses and allowances	1,688.20	
Office rent	2,000.00	
Electricity and gas	1,314.25	
Telephone	7,109.18	
Purchase of typewriter	395.00	
Typing charges	1,900.00	
Stationery and photocopying	1,618.36	
Postage and courier	699.53	
Accountancy and audit fees	865.00	
Bank charges	<u>18.23</u>	
		22,052.55
Deficit for the year ended 30th June 1986		<u>\$ 19,077.68</u>

Represented by:

Bank balances as at 1st July 1985		
Commonwealth Trading Bank	4,076.32	
Westpac Bonus Deposit	<u>15,000.00</u>	
		19,076.32
Less Deficit for the year		<u>19,077.68</u>
Bank balance as at 30th June 1986		
Commonwealth Trading Bank - overdraft		<u>\$ 1.36</u>



National Patron:
Mr. J.H.Greenwood OBE

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL OFFICE

CNR. BLAXCELL & WILLIAM STREETS, GRANVILLE 2142 (P.O. BOX 369, PARRAMATTA 2150) PHONE: (02) 682 1788

April 10, 1987

State Presidents.

Please find herewithin the following financial statements.

1. Audited Federal Executive Account for the years 85/86.
2. Audited Federal Executive Account for the periods between June '86 to December '86.
3. Unaudited Financial statement for the Federal Executive from January '87 to April '87.
4. A statement of financial liabilities for the Federal Executive.

Tim McCombe

TIM McCOMBE
SECRETARY/TREASURER