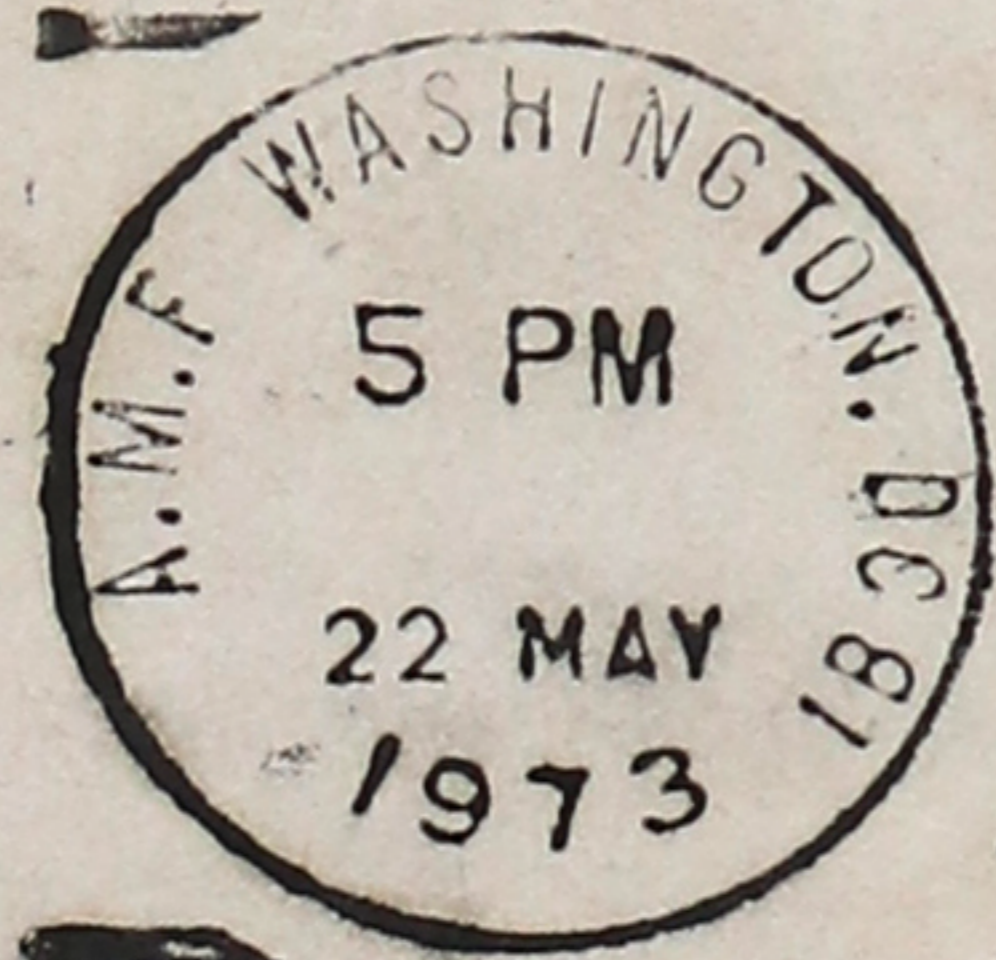


Washington DC 20005



AIR MAIL

Miss Kinii Feyu

Hayward, Ca 94544

AIR MAIL

Nixon administration announced a proposal to cut the disability compensation of many veterans, including a large number of Vietnam-era soldiers.

This action was immediately denounced in the Halls of Congress by many of us and by groups all over the country.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars planned a significant role in turning back this "cost saving" plan, not because they believe in excessive Government spending, but because they, like I, know that there is plenty of fat in the Federal budget which should be trimmed before the OMB bureaucrats cast their hungry eyes on veterans' pensions.

A constituent of mine, Mr. John Krostyne, gave me a copy of an article which appeared recently in the VFW magazine about the battle to save veterans' pensions.

I include this article in the RECORD at this time:

VFW BLOCKS VIETNAM DISABILITY CUT

Immediate action by the Veterans of Foreign Wars has halted an attempt by the Veterans Administration to slash disability compensation for Vietnam veterans.

The success of the V.F.W. in gaining President Nixon's intervention to force the VA to withdraw its proposed revised rating schedule is another reason American veterans needs the V.F.W. and the V.F.W. needs a vastly increased membership.

"Membership is the answer to attacks such as this one," said V.F.W. Commander-in-Chief Patrick E. Carr. "Everyone in government understands large membership. If we have more we can do more."

Commenting on President Nixon's order, Carr said:

"The President is to be commended for his speedy decision on this, once he was thoroughly informed of the implications for the Vietnam veterans of these new rating schedules. He has shown that he has compassion for the men who fought for our country in Vietnam. Our disabled Vietnam veteran is not a second-class citizen now that he has returned from the fight."

After thoroughly analyzing the implications of the proposed VA budget, Commander-in-Chief Carr and the V.F.W. Washington staff mobilized opinion on Capitol Hill and the White House against the discriminatory rating schedules.

Because of a statutory provision, World War I, World War II and most Korean veterans who have been receiving compensation for more than 20 years for service-connected disabilities are protected by law against slashes.

Feb. 9 Carr urged V.F.W. leadership to notify congressmen that the V.F.W. "does not tolerate this kind of treatment of our comrades who have been seriously wounded and disabled during the Vietnam War and that the proposed reduction in compensation payment be canceled."

The 1974 VA budget, Carr said, "shows a complete disregard for the needs of America's former fighting men, particularly the Vietnam veterans." Commenting in his letter on the proposed new disability rating schedule, claimed to be aimed at saving \$160 million a year, Carr said "this is most astounding and incredible. At a time when the Administration is trying to negotiate peace in Vietnam and bring the POWs home, the budget makers are recommending that \$160 million be saved at the expense of wounded and disabled Vietnam veterans, who have been doing the fighting in Southeast Asia.

"Even more incredible and shocking, it comes at a time when there are indications that more than \$1 billion in aid is being

considered for North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

"The helicopter and outstanding medical attention in the Vietnam War permitted much better care of the wounded than ever before and it returned more permanently disabled and wounded," he added. "These Vietnam veterans need at least as much compensation as their comrades of other wars."

Here are some examples of Vietnam veteran compensation slashes that would have gone into effect if the V.F.W. had not acted:

Amputation of a leg from the hip socket, currently carrying a 100% rating and \$275 a month, would have plummeted to 40% and \$106.

Loss of a hand, now a 70% disability and \$212 a month, would have been slashed to 40% and \$106.

Loss of an arm at the shoulder, a 90% disability now compensated at \$275, would have been reduced to 60% and \$179.

A complete hearing loss, currently an 80% disability with \$275 a month, would have been lowered to 30% and \$77.

Loss of speech, now a 100% disability and \$495 a month, would have dropped to 70% and \$212.

Certain internal injuries now rated at 100% and \$495 would have been cut in half to 50% and \$149, while another one that is now 100% would have been slashed to 40% and \$106. Cuts in payments to dependents also were planned.

The speed and effectiveness of the V.F.W. drew this comment from an unnamed Congressional source quoted in the *Washington Post*: "The V.F.W. came on strong against the cuts."

The same newspaper, which devoted extensive coverage to the proposed rating schedule, implied that among veterans organizations, "the V.F.W. takes the lead, some follow and others do nothing."

At the end of January, the VA's proposed slashes in compensation for disabled Vietnam veterans were detected by the V.F.W. Washington staff in a footnote to a chart included with the VA's figures. Carr said: "They appeared under the guise of 'certain refinements' in the amount of compensation to be paid for disabilities."

On Jan. 30 Carr called the proposed budget "inadequate and insulting" and said "at a time when additional staff and funding are desperately needed for medical care for this country's veterans, VA budget slashers have ignored the men and women who gave so much for their nation."

It was compensation and pensions that Carr found "most disturbing" because they would "take money out of the pocket of the veteran." He commented: "We cannot turn our backs on the veteran now that the guns of war no longer sound. This country has always realized its obligation to those who have served her well. False economy will not buy real savings. America may need her sons and daughters again."

Jan. 29, the day the VA budget proposals were sent to Congress, came to be known as "black Monday."

In the V.F.W. publication *Veterans Benefits News* issued in Washington, the organization attributed the VA budget to budget slashers "notwithstanding favorable Presidential statements."

Carr's reaction to the 1974 budget distributed on Jan. 30 was placed in the Senate record Jan. 31 during testimony of Francis W. Stover, V.F.W. National Legislative Service Director, before a Subcommittee on Health and Hospitals of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee conducting hearings on the Veterans Health Care Bill.

Events moved rapidly after Feb. 10 when Carr's view were made known to President Nixon, who, Sen. Vance Hartke (Ind.), Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, said, was misled on the issue by the bu-

reaucrats, and added that "the mere threat of doing this to people who have given their all" increases the need for remedial action.

Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt (Ark.), a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said, "I suppose the OMB was looking for places to cut and not looking on beyond the humanitarian side."

Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn (S.C.), Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and Hartke prepared two bills to stop the proposed rating schedule from taking effect and to freeze compensation for Vietnam Veterans as it is for veterans of previous wars.

Again the *Washington Post* noted that "No one caught the trend until the V.F.W." called it to the attention of Congressional and White House leaders.

The final act in this drama of discrimination against the Vietnam veteran came on Feb. 14 when President Nixon ordered the VA to withdraw its proposed rating schedule. Its successful outcome is clearly a victory for the V.F.W.

However, continued alertness, backed by a membership greater than the V.F.W.'s present 1.8 million, will be needed to prevent further moves by the budget slashers to imperil veterans benefits, for as Dorn and Hartke contend, this recent incident "is the tip of the iceberg."

HONORING KIMIKO "KIMI" FUJII

HON. DON EDWARDS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 1973

Mr. EDWARDS of California. Mr. Speaker, Kimiko "Kimi" Fujii of Hayward, Calif. was recently selected Hayward's distinguished citizen for 1972 by the Hayward Lions Club. Chosen because of her tireless effort to make our community a better place and her willingness to serve mankind by involvement. Miss Fujii is the fourth woman to receive this award since its inception in 1932 and the first woman to receive it since 1949. A personal friend for many years, I have seen first-hand the inspired and dedicated efforts she has devoted to all her activities. I certainly consider her one of Hayward's most outstanding people.

An article follows:

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN FOR 1972

Born and raised in Hayward, Miss Fujii is involved in the family wholesale nursery business, Fujii Co. Inc. and its retail outlet, Fujii's Florist, at [redacted].

During World War II, she and most of her family were placed in a concentration camp in Utah. After a year there, she gained admission to the University of Wisconsin, from which she graduated with majors in botany and art history. Miss Fujii's interests are varied. In private life they include cooking, writing Haiku poetry, attending art shows, concerts and plays, hiking and travel. She takes great pride and interest in her Japanese heritage.

As for her public life, she's been quoted as saying: "You can either sit at home and rot or you can get involved. And you'd better get involved."

She has. Like the 16 years she's spent as a member of the Hayward branch of the American Association of University Women.

Or having been president of the District Agricultural Association, which puts on the annual California Spring Garden Show.

Or becoming the first woman director on the AC Transit District board.

She is a board member of the Oakland-Southern Alameda County branch of the American Red Cross, a member of the Alameda County Commission for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, a charter member of the Hayward Area Historical Society, a 10-year member and past president of the Hayward Human Relations Commission, a member of the St. Rose Hospital advisory board and an executive board member of the Democratic State Central Committee.

In addition, she has been a member for 26 years of the Eden Township chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League and is active in the East Bay chapter of the San Francisco Ballet Guild. She is also a member of the American Carnation Society and the Northern California Carnation Growers Society.

NEW DIRECTIONS OF OEO ARE GOOD NEWS

HON. JOHN E. HUNT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 1973

Mr. HUNT. Mr. Speaker, one of the major questions concerning the restructuring of OEO is to how best define those individuals who are upset by such activities. The poor are certainly not disturbed because the poor never received any substantive benefits from OEO. The poverty bureaucrats are concerned but they are a very small group. Yet someone must be concerned because OEO has received a great deal of publicity in the past few months.

In the final analysis, after the above are removed from consideration, it appears the members of the press are most concerned. The reason for this is, of course, that when Howard Phillips took over the reins as Acting Director of OEO, the war in Vietnam was ending and the press needed some issue to take its place.

The time has come again to put the restructuring of OEO in its proper perspective. For those who have had the opportunity to study what Mr. Phillips is doing at OEO, they will realize that he is revitalizing aid to the poor by redirecting programs which have had a miserable history of failure.

Actually then, it would appear that Mr. Phillips is creating good news.

I submit the following article from the April issue of the Colorado Monthly Review for the RECORD:

FAT CATS SKINNED—SO WHO CARES?

(By Clarke Watson)

The OEO brouhaha is being fed and fanned by the press. Both national and local media have embarked upon a course whereby they alone are generating, indeed fomenting discontent. In the tradition of Hollywood they are writing the script, setting the stage and casting the roles of good guys and bad guys. But unlike Hollywood whose audiences are generally apathetic fantasy-seekers, the audience of the press is stimulated to action by what it sees and reads. Accusations and counteraccusations are lodged. Name calling and threats occur.

The Selling of the Pentagon was a prime example of how so-called innocent public relations was in fact a deliberate Defense Department mass communications effort to influence the American public. Yet the American press indulges in its own brand of

Pentagonism every day in order to urge people to buy its products and accept its legitimacy.

The press role in interpreting—or more accurately misinterpreting—facts and events concerning OEO is shocking, and its underlying motives appalling. Before we get into specifics let's look more closely at the motives: The war (Vietnam) has wound down and all the romanticism of apple-pie-faced POW's kissing God, the soil, and Nixon is still not enough to fill the void. Indeed it can't. The simple reason being you can't replace bad news with good news. Media moguls are starving for bad news, need it in the quantity it was being cranked out of Southeast Asia. Unfortunately downed airliners, the covert war in Laos and Cambodia, the money crisis and the usual glut of murder and mayhem just don't quite fill the pages left empty by the war's cessation.

Now for the specifics: OEO, given the press' way, is a godsend. The fire and brimstone of domestic discord, which sold so much copy in the '60s, just possibly could be fanned anew. (Perhaps *should* be—but that's another subject.) So in its desperation the press has seized upon OEO with all the fervor of a cheap Hollywood thriller. Howard Phillips is portrayed in the March 5 issue of *Newsweek* as "OEO chief and executioner" because of his role in phasing out OEO. On March 2 the *Denver Post* ran two pieces criticizing the OEO cutback, and one that supported it. And shame on *Straight Creek Journal*, the local "alternative" newspaper. They should know better. Nevertheless they ran two tear-jerking articles in successive February issues which, if anything, simply reflect their gross misunderstanding of poverty and what it's all about.

But alas, the actors are refusing to cooperate. A mere 20,000 people (OEO employees and relatives) descended on Washington to protest the poverty cuts as compared to the 400,000 (poor) of the good ol' Martin Luther King days. No one has shot Howard Phillips on the steps of the OEO building. The only things burning these days are half-finished condominiums (which is white-collar crime—hence scarcely news at all). Only the Indians are stimulating the media these days—but there just aren't enough Indians to go around to satiate the media's voracious appetite for violence and misery.

Let's look at the reasons why the dismantling of the war on poverty isn't news—at least not big news. It's very simple; it doesn't concern a hell of a lot of people. For sure it doesn't concern the poor. Whatever benefits the poor derived from OEO, if any, are so small as to defy measurement. It wasn't food; that came from the Department of Agriculture. Certainly not education, or health care; those dollars came from HEW. Jobs? According to one authoritative source, 25 per cent of the nation's Blacks still live at Roosevelt-era depression levels.

You can't stage a play without players. The would-be actors in this latest, Fourth Estate, Ltd., production are just too hip to go for it. They're not going to march so some poverty chieftain can continue to draw down \$30,000 annually while they can't get up thirty bucks to fend off the landlord. People aren't going to mobilize so some jive talkin' pre-OEO hustler can maintain blondes, Cadillacs and plastic high-rise apartments on poverty payroll checks. No way, since the homes of the poor are not safely ensconced behind chandeliered lobbies and braided doormen, and love, not blondes is important—indeed a factor of survival in the cold, impersonal world of the ghetto.

And that, fellow journalists, is the breaks. You can't have drama without *dramatis personae*. You're dealing with a tempest in a teapot which, in retrospect, is quite unfortunate since so many real, significant, heart-rendering problems still confront the nation. But apparently these problems are too sensitive for an "enlightened" press to perceive.

SHORTAGE OF FOOD

HON. WM. JENNINGS BRYAN DORN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 1973

Mr. DORN. Mr. Speaker, it is not too late to plant a garden and fight inflation and the high cost of food. I commend to the attention of my colleagues and to the American people my newsletter urging the planting of vegetables and flowers:

MAY 7, 1973.

FOOD SHORTAGE?

You can fight high food prices by planting a garden. We have had a cold, wet, late spring so now is a good time to plant beans, peas, corn, tomatoes, and other home-grown vegetables. Try some okra. There are over 300 known recipes for preparing okra. Clemson University has developed over 90 varieties of okra. It is not too late to set out onions. Two years ago we could buy onions for 12c a lb.—now onions are 39c a lb. and may not be available at all later this year due to a blight on onions in some sections of the country.

Tomatoes can be grown almost anywhere—even on the 39th floor of apartment buildings, next to sidewalks, vacant lots and near your shrubbery. Congressman Tom Steed of Oklahoma once grew 3½ bushels of tomatoes on one vine during one summer and fall—branches from this plant extended for 18 ft. on a trellis. Surplus tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, peas, butterbeans, etc., can be canned at home or frozen for winter consumption. Butterbeans, peas can be dried for winter food supply. My mother in depression days would soak dried peas overnight and cook slowly over fire in woodstove with hambone—nothing better on cold winter days with "crackling cornbread."

Dr. T. L. Senn, of Clemson University, recently said: "Everyone needs something to do, something to love and something to hope for." Clemson's "Garden for the Blind" is an inspiration to the handicapped, the lonely, the mentally ill, as well as to the elderly and the young. Blind children are employed to work in this garden—a blind man conducts tours of sightless people through the garden "showing" the sights through his own blind eyes. I was once thrilled to have blind children show me flowers and vegetables they had raised. If you are concerned about your health, plant a garden. If you are tense, plant a garden. Plant a garden of vegetables and flowers. It is the best mental and physical therapy known.

Last spring a friend from Alabama brought by truck thousands of tomato plants to Washington and gave them to city "folks." It was a thrill to stand with Mr. Jim Paulk and hear teenagers ask what the plants were and how to make them grow. One boy about 14 couldn't believe that these little green plants would grow and bear fruit like the red tomatoes in the supermarkets.

Demonstrations, boycotts and roll-back by government decree of meat prices is not the answer to high prices. Many farmers could be forced out of business (50,000 farms closed last year), and the consumer confronted with food rationing. The answer is increased production of food and fiber. I urge South Carolina farmers to plant more corn, silage, hay and grain to fight high costs and shortages of feed grains for cattle, poultry and hogs. I inspected flood damage yesterday in Mississippi Valley—10 million acres are still flooded. Even with the best of weather in May and June this will affect feed grain and food prices. We could be faced with a meat shortage, rationing and black market.

Mark on your calendar the annual South Carolina Festival of Flowers to be held in