

March 29, 1979

LB 271

in section 80-401.01 and those are the Disabled American Veterans, the World War I Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the Director of Veteran Affairs. The past commanders of those groups get to sit as the Board of Inquiry. What the bill did as written, however, was to cut off any future veterans organizations from applying and become members of the Board of Inquiry. It simply lifted those particular organizations and said their representatives will constitute the Board of Inquiry. Existing law, however, allows for additional organizations to spring up and to be placed on the Board of Inquiry. They have to meet a number of criteria that are laid out in the provision I mentioned, 80-401.01. Those criteria include being chartered by Congress. They must maintain a fully staffed state headquarters and they shall have at least 10% of the veterans of that particular war, either World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War or others or 10% of the disabled American veterans in Nebraska. Those are the criteria to become a recognized veterans organization. The concern of the committee was that by knocking out any future organizations being included on the Board of Inquiry, you foreclose the possibility of American Vietnam veterans from organizing, meeting the criteria of 80-401.01 and then serving on the Board of Inquiry. If this would not be allowed we would be locking ourselves into decision makers that had a relationship with either World War I or World War II or perhaps the Korean War but we would have no representatives that would represent veteran groups from the Vietnam War. Therefore, the committee amendments simply say that the existing formula, the existing criteria for the kinds of organizations that can sit on the Board of Inquiry will continue in force. We will not limit it to only those organizations that now qualify but will keep it open and whenever new organizations appear, meet the criteria and become recognized, they too, will be able to participate in the Board of Inquiry. The committee was very approving of the notion that Senator Hefner brought in the form of LB 271. They are strongly in favor of the concept of the bill. They just simply wanted to remain open to question and to allow veterans organizations to qualify under the criteria mentioned in 80-401.01. I approve of the committee amendments and I would urge their adoption.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 271. Senator Fitzgerald, do you...

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Mr. Speaker, can I ask Mr. Landis a few questions?