

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

1950-51

(in three volumes)

VOLUME II

**FOURTH  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**DIVISION OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**State House, Augusta, Maine  
June 30, 1951**



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ANNUAL REPORT**

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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HONORABLE FREDERICK G. PAYNE  
Governor of the State of Maine  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Governor Payne:

In compliance with Chapter 386 of the Public Laws of 1947 there is submitted herewith the Fourth Annual Report of the Division of Veterans Affairs, covering the period from June 30th, 1950 to July 1, 1951, together with the recommendations of the Director.

Respectfully yours,

FRED W. ROWELL  
*Director*

## GENERAL STATEMENT

During the period covered by this report, many significant changes have taken place in matters of concern to veterans. Despite the death of many veterans of the Spanish American War, and of World War I, the veteran population of our state has increased. Although the official closing date of World War II, for the purpose of defining a veteran of that war under State Law, is December 31, 1946, many servicemen and women who were on active duty prior to that date have been discharged during the past year, thus adding to the roster of World War II veterans. It is estimated, also, that as of the date of this report approximately 1200 veterans of the Korean Campaign have been discharged and returned to Maine. With over 16,000 young men and women from Maine in the armed forces (as of June 30, 1951), both the number of Korean veterans and the number on active duty will, of course, be greatly increased by the time this report is published.

A situation, therefore, arises which is a real challenge to all persons and organizations who are concerned with the welfare of veterans and their dependents. At a time when our efforts to re-establish the World War II veteran in civilian life are just beginning to bear visible fruit, we find a vast new category of veterans in the making. At a time when the wounds of the world's greatest war have hardly begun to heal, we find ourselves engaged in vicious combat overseas and straining every resource to build up huge protective forces on the opposite side of the earth. The numbers which may be required and the length of time they may have to serve, no man can say.

For those whose business it is to heal the physical, mental and economic wounds of war, a still greater tragedy presents itself. With one huge task not yet fully accomplished and with another of unknown proportions facing us, it is almost unbelievable that public apathy could now begin to manifest itself. In spite of the fact that the economic advantages of a well-planned veterans program have been thoroughly demonstrated following World War II, and in spite of the fact that the cost of veterans rehabilitation has always been considered by the American people as a part of the cost of war, we now find an increasing number of persons who would have it otherwise. This small, but very vocal, minority would ask our young men and women to defend our country on the field of battle and in service installations all over the world, and then, when the job is done, to bear the burden of their own rehabilitation and re-integration into civilian life. This trend is manifesting itself not only through inadequate appropria-

tions by the Congress for veterans programs but by an insidious advocacy of placing the veteran and his problems under the bureaucratic control of a greatly enlarged social security program. This trend and the apathy with which it is being met must be vigorously fought by every person who is interested in the veteran and his welfare, and indeed by every person who has the welfare of his country at heart.

Here in Maine, the picture is about the same as elsewhere throughout the states. Most of the young men and women who undertook education and training under the G. I. Bill have completed their studies and are now employed at higher economic levels than would otherwise have been possible. With the deadline for entering training for most veterans coming up next month (July 25, 1951) there is now a last-minute rush on the part of late applicants to meet this deadline. Except for those who enlisted or re-enlisted between October 6, 1945 and October 6, 1946, all G. I. Training must be completed by July 25, 1956. After the entrance deadline (July 25, 1951) a veteran's privilege of interrupting or changing his course of study or training will be greatly reduced, so that the program from now on will be one of intensive training for a rapidly diminishing number. Even a casual study of the results of G. I. Training will convince anyone of its worth. It has been expensive, but far less costly than an economic depression like that of 1921, following World War I.

The demands upon the Veterans Administration for hospitalization, claims for pension and compensation and other services have shown little decline and as the time lapse since the close of the war increases, hospital treatment and adjudication of claims becomes more difficult. Many residuals of war-time service are only now beginning to show up. With each passing year, it requires more study and development to show service-connection for these disabilities. The Veterans Administration, under the guidance of Malcolm Stoddard, is doing a splendid job under increasingly difficult circumstances.

## CONTACTS

The number of persons seeking the assistance of the Division at our State Office and our Field Offices continues to increase, and the problems which they present to us continue to be more complex and difficult. A comparison of contacts by fiscal years is as follows:

Year ending	Number of Contacts
June 30, 1948	9,820
June 30, 1949	12,504
June 30, 1950	13,415
June 30, 1951	16,050



The closing of certain contact offices by the Veterans Administration and the elimination of itinerant service from those remaining, due to reduction in federal funds available, has contributed to the increased business of our Division. Another contributing factor has been the wider knowledge on the part of the veteran population of the services available from our Division and the satisfactory nature of the results accomplished.

## CLAIMS AND RECOVERIES

In October 1950 John S. Lowe, Jr. was relieved of his duties as Field Representative at the Caribou office and assigned as a full-time Claims Representative at the Veterans Administration Center at Togus. Streamlining this service has been largely responsible for an increase in the number of claims handled and in the amount of money recovered from the federal government for Maine veterans and their dependents. Last year's report showed recoveries of \$544,278, as compared with \$760,918 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1951. With further improvement in technique and with a full calendar year of operation, it is expected that substantial gains over our present figure will be shown next year.

## FINANCES

Due to better economic conditions and continued improvement in control of grants by our field representatives, we were able, at the close of the present fiscal year, to return to the general fund \$13,008.75 from our World War Assistance appropriation and \$3,632 from money appropriated for General Law Pensions. Total expenditures for World War Assistance were \$27,123.09 less than for the previous year, and for General Law Pensions \$4,667.25 less. In this connection, it is interesting to note that, despite the fact that some of our cases are of a permanent nature, the average length of time each World War Assistance grant was in effect was only 3.7 months. Once more the Division has operated well within its appropriation. It has aided more people for shorter periods of time than ever before, thus securing the maximum benefits for the greatest number possible with the resources made available. Administrative expense was \$3,628.99 higher than for the previous year. This increase was brought about by increased cost of supplies, travel and salaries, as well as by the fact that an extra field representative was hired to replace our claims representative.

## LEGISLATION

Among the recommendations made by the Director in his report of last year, was one that "all legislation granting State Benefits to veterans of World War I and World War II be amended to include veterans of the Korean Campaign." This item was covered by the Governor in his message to the Legislature. A bill (L.D. 45) was introduced by Representative Jennings of Strong and was referred to the Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs. It received the unanimous report "ought to pass" by that committee and was enacted and signed by the Governor as Chapter 157 of the Public Laws of 1951.

This law makes the following provisions:

- 1) Includes Korean Veterans among those whose dependents may qualify for World War Assistance.
- 2) Defines the Korean Campaign as "that period between June 25, 1950 and the date on which hostilities are declared to have ended, either by proclamation of the President or by joint resolution of Congress."
- 3) Makes the children of Korean veterans eligible for educational aid under the War Orphans Educational Assistance Law.
- 4) Permits Banks, Trust Companies and Building and Loan Associations to invest in G. I. Loans for Korean veterans when such provision is made by Congress.
- 5) Waives the minority restrictions of Korean veterans in negotiating such loans.
- 6) Extends to Korean veterans preference in State employment.
- 7) Permits cities and towns to raise money for rehabilitation of and memorial for Korean veterans.
- 8) Extends tax exemptions to Korean veterans under the same terms and conditions as veterans of World Wars I and II.
- 9) Prohibits a Korean veteran from being considered as a pauper if he becomes dependent upon any town.
- 10) Waives the preliminary educational requirements for taking Bar examinations in the case of Korean veterans.
- 11) Provides for legal finding of death in the case of persons serving in the Korean campaign who are declared missing in action and presumed dead.
- 12) Permits acknowledgement of legal documents by persons in the armed forces "when a state of emer-

gency has been proclaimed by the President" by a lieutenant of the army, ensign of the navy or any officer of senior grade.

- 13) Waives the requirement of paying fee for motor vehicle operator's license for persons in the armed forces in time of war or "national emergency."
- 14) Extends re-employment rights to state employees who enter the armed forces during the Korean campaign.

For several years the Director has recommended that the veterans organizations sponsor revision of the tax exemption laws as they pertain to veterans. There is a feeling on the part of certain municipal officers that the law as presently written is inequitable and holds real danger to the tax structure of the state. As a result of this feeling, a bill was introduced by Representative Perry of Chelsea which would have defeated the entire purpose for which tax exemptions were originally extended to veterans.

As originally drawn, the Perry Bill (L.D. 194) would have denied the \$3500 real and personal property exemption to veterans of World Wars I and II who had reached the age of 62 years or who were drawing pension for total non-service-connected disability. It would also have denied this exemption to the widow of a veteran who died after reaching the age of 62. The bill would have made such exemption as remained applicable only to the "residence" of the veteran instead of to his estate.

The Perry Bill was considerably watered down by amendments before reaching its final form, but was eventually passed by both branches of the legislature and sent to the Governor for his signature. During the closing hours of the session, the Governor returned the bill without his approval and his veto was overwhelmingly sustained by the House of Representatives. Both the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, at their June conventions, passed resolutions commending the Governor for his action, and both organizations have pledged themselves to work with the Legislative Research Committee in an effort to present to the next legislature a tax exemption bill which will be acceptable to all concerned. A conference for this purpose will be arranged by the Director between the Research Committee and representatives of the Legion and the V.F.W.

Following is the text of the Governor's veto message:

"May 21, 1951

To the Honorable Senate and  
House of Representatives  
95th Legislature

There is returned herewith, without my approval, Legislative Document No. 194, "An Act Relating to Exemption from Taxation."

This is a veto of an amendment to chapter 81, section 6, paragraph X taking away certain tax exemptions provided for by preceding legislatures.

Prior to 1919 the sole tax exemption provided for veterans applied to poll taxes for Civil War Veterans. The veterans of World War I were mainly interested in exemptions for the older veterans at first and as economic conditions arose the field was broadened to cover cases where veterans reached the age of 62 years or were totally disabled.

In the large majority of our states special tax exemptions for veterans have been in order for many years. So, Maine is no exception.

It would seem that if the legislature in times past, with full knowledge of the facts, provided certain tax exemptions for veterans, that, while within the realm of potential action, a succeeding legislature should be slow to effect a change in a law having an origin of patriotic motives.

I am withholding my approval of this Act for the following specific reasons:

1. The Act denies exemption on all property other than "residences."
2. There is reason for grave doubt as to whether the widow of a man who was killed in action would be exempt under this Act.
3. Section X-B of the bill obligates the State to spend money on refunds to the towns and cities in 1953 for which there are now no funds in sight. It also sets a precedent for the towns and cities to ask for refunds on exemptions granted to benevolent and charitable institutions, literary and scientific institutions, property owned by the veterans organizations, chambers of commerce, the American Red Cross, church property and the estates of all Indians.
4. With approximately 16,000 young men and women from Maine now in the armed forces either in combat or in training, some of whom may today be called upon to make the supreme sacrifice, it does not seem like an appropriate time to take away benefits previously granted to our veterans.

I have confidence that where veterans have so unselfishly looked after the welfare of their own needy and disabled comrades, and where their representatives have so well guided the thoughts of state and federal legislative bodies on veterans' problems for so many years, these same veterans and their leaders will in due course solve what may be considered a current problem relating to tax exemptions, if there is any. In my opinion this subject is not in the problem stage yet, and when it is I feel it will be faced squarely.

I therefore do not approve this Act.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERICK G. PAYNE

Governor of Maine"

FGP:N

Another law having to do with tax exemptions was enacted by the 95th Legislature. Chapter 160 of the Public Laws of 1951 provides that in order to secure such exemptions the veteran (or widow) shall "on or before the 1st day of April, notify in writing the assessors of the city, town or plantation in which he or she resides, and furnish proof of entitlement, and thereafter said assessors shall grant such exemption while so qualified until such year as said person, on or before the 1st day of April, notifies in writing such assessors of his or her desire to pay said tax. . . . ."

This law makes it incumbent upon the veteran or widow to make application in writing before the first day of April, 1952, for any exemption to which he or she may be entitled and to furnish proof of entitlement. Once having done so, it is presumed that exemption will be granted until the assessors have reason to believe that entitlement no longer exists. All veterans and widows now receiving exemption, or who believe themselves entitled to same, are warned that they should make timely contact with their local assessors, and see that written application is made and whatever proof may be required is submitted. Persons seeking exemption should also discuss with the local assessors their policy with respect to continuance of exemptions, once entitlement is established.

Other laws of interest to veterans enacted by the 95th legislature were as follows:

PUBLIC LAWS OF INTEREST TO VETERANS  
Enacted by the 95th Legislature—1951

Joint Resolution Rescinding Proposal for Considering a Constitutional Convention of the United States or Amendments to the Constitution of the United States Relating to Strengthening the United Nations and limited World Federal Government.

S. P. 205      L. D. 460

*Emergency*—An Act Enacting the Sabotage Prevention Act.

H. P. 1316      L. D. 852      Chap. 381

An Act to Include World War I Veterans in Maine State Retirement System

H. P. 783      L. D. 464      Chap. 357

An Act Relating to Prevention of Subversive Activity

H. P. 1315      L. D. 851      Chap. 376

An Act Relating to Qualifications for Lobster Licenses for Veterans

S. P. 443      L. D. 1006      Chap. 257

- Emergency*—An Act Relating to Licenses to Hunt or Fish for Members of the Armed Services of the United States  
H. P. 1696 L. D. 1276 Chap. 238
- An Act Relating to Requests for Tax Exemptions  
H. P. 333 L. D. 192 Chap. 160
- An Act Adding Korean Veterans to Laws Relating to Veterans  
H. P. 98 L. D. 45 Chap. 157
- An Act Exempting Navy Clubs from Taxation  
S. P. 419 L. D. 979 Chap. 141
- An Act Relating to Sale of Liquor Near Togus Hospital  
H. P. 1485 L. D. 1092 Chap. 129
- An Act Permitting Incorporation of Veterans of Foreign War Posts Under General Law  
H. P. 1428 L. D. 1034 Chap. 143
- An Act Relating to Licenses of Buildings for Dancing Purposes  
H. P. 1020 L. D. 599 Chap. 60
- Emergency*—An Act to Revise the State Civil Defense Law  
H. P. 152 L. D. 84 Chap. 273

RESOLVES OF INTEREST TO VETERANS  
PASSED BY THE 95TH LEGISLATURE—1951

- Resolve, in Favor of Marking the Unmarked Graves of Veterans of the Spanish American War  
H. P. 36 L. D. 797
- Resolve, in Favor of State Military Defense Commission  
H. P. 871 L. D. 519
- Resolve, in Favor of the Block House at Fort Kent  
H. P. 402 L. D. 246
- Emergency*—Resolve, Providing Pensions for Soldiers and Sailors and Dependents and other Needy Persons  
S. P. 582 L. D. 1389
- Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution relating to Voting by Citizens in the Armed Forces and Others Absent or Physically Incapacitated  
H. P. 1813 L. D. 1393

Resolve, Designating New Bridge in Augusta as "Augusta Memorial Bridge"  
H. P. 1801

Resolve, Designating Bridge at Burnham as "Burnham Memorial Bridge"  
H. P. 1611 L. D. 1171

VETOED BY GOVERNOR AND VETO SUSTAINED

(Bill Defeated)

An Act Relating to Exemption from Taxation (Perry Bill)  
H. P. 336 L. D. 194

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

At the annual conference of State Directors held at Colorado Springs in June 1950, the Maine Director extended an invitation for the Association to hold its next conference in Maine. This invitation was followed up and accepted at a meeting of the executive committee of the Association in Washington, D. C., in February of this year.

Accordingly, the Maine Director had the honor of acting as host to the annual conference at the Hotel Bar Harbor, June 26th through June 29th, 1951, at which were present the following directors and their assistants:

C. Clarence Horton, Alabama  
William N. Rice, Colorado  
Raymond V. Pollard, Florida  
William K. Barrett, Georgia  
Peter Wheeler, Georgia  
Garland T. Byrd, Georgia  
A. R. Kays, Illinois  
M. G. Moore, Illinois  
Clinton Green, Indiana  
Paul Adrian, Kansas  
Joseph L. Golsan, Louisiana  
Fred W. Rowell, Maine  
G. Raymond Nichols, Maine  
Harry A. Whitney, Maine  
Richard F. Tobin, Massachusetts  
Lawrence J. LaLone, Michigan  
William E. Revier, Minnesota  
James E. Cates, Missouri  
W. A. McDaniel, Missouri  
E. J. Callaghan, Montana  
Harold B. Trombley, New Hampshire  
Leo V. Lanning, New York  
George R. Wilkes, New York  
James M. Caldwell, North Carolina  
R. B. Edmundson, North Carolina  
Floyd E. Henderson, North Dakota  
William B. Haines, Ohio  
Don Davis, Oklahoma  
Ernest A. Jones, South Dakota  
Alexander J. Smith, Vermont  
Brig. Gen. Murdock Campbell, Vermont  
Robert Moran, West Virginia  
Gordon A. Huseby, Wisconsin

The conference was also a means of bringing together the top-flight personalities of veterans affairs at the national level. Among those addressing the conference and participating in the panel discussions were:

Oliver Meadows, Staff Director, House Select Committee to Investigate the Educational, Training & Loan Guaranty Programs under the G. I. Bill, Washington, D. C.



Dr. Hyman Shapiro, Chief Medical Consultant, National Rehabilitation Commission, The American Legion, Washington, D. C.

T. O. Kraabel, Director, National Rehabilitation Commission, The American Legion, Washington, D. C.

Cicero F. Hogan, National Director of Claims, Disabled American Veterans, Washington, D. C.

Omar Ketchum, National Legislative Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Washington, D. C.

Harold Russell, National Commander, American Veterans of World War II, Washington, D. C.

Robert K. Salyers, Director, Bureau of Veterans' Re-employment Rights, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Walker Daly, U. S. Department of Labor, Massachusetts.

The delegates and their guests were welcomed to Maine by Colonel Malcolm Stoddard, Manager of the Veterans Administration Center at Togus; Colonel James V. Day, Department Commander of the American Legion, and Colonel John E. Tucker, Department Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Governor Payne was unable to be present due to unfavorable flying weather, but a message of greetings from him was read to the conference.

Others in attendance representing Maine veterans organizations were:

Joseph M. Siciliano, Service Officer, Maine Department, The American Legion

Homidas A. Mininni, Commander, Maine Department, American Veterans of World War II

Ralph A. Nadeau, Adjutant, Maine Department, American Veterans of World War II

John McPherson, Service Officer, Maine Department, Disabled American Veterans

As entertainment features of the conference, the Directors, their wives and guests (many of whom were in Maine for the first time) were taken on a bus tour of Arcadia National Park and on a sea cruise of Frenchman's Bay. They were also treated to a State-of-Maine Clambake prepared and served by State Senator Joseph W. Larabee of West Bath.

The management and staff of the Hotel Bar Harbor handled the conference in the very best tradition of Maine hospitality. Publicity and public relations were in charge of Earl Doucette of the Maine Development Commission.

As would be expected from the caliber of those participating, the conference was most instructive and helpful. The veterans of Maine, and indeed of the Nation, are deeply indebted to President Bill Rice of Colorado and Secretary Clinton Green of Indiana for bringing together such a distinguished and truly representative group for a down-to-earth discussion of common problems and interests.

The Maine Director was, of course, deeply appreciative of the opportunity to act as host and, incidentally by so doing, to make some small contribution to the Maine Development program. He acknowledges with thanks the wholehearted cooperation of the Governor's Office, the Maine Development Commission, the Maine Publicity Bureau, and the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries.

### STATISTICAL REPORT

<i>Type of Contacts</i>	<i>Contacts</i>	
	<i>No. of Contacts</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
World War Assistance	4208	26.219
Claims		
Service-connected	567	
Non-Service connected	352	
Dependency	667	9.882
Public Assistance and related		
State programs	867	5.401
Educational & On-the-job Training	540	3.365
Hospitalization	499	3.109
Insurance	481	2.997
General Law Pensions	414	2.580
Loans	374	2.331
Employment	323	2.017
Out Patient Treatment	300	1.869
VA Representation (P-22)	108	.672
Miscellaneous	6350	39.558
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	16,050	100.000%

<i>Recoveries</i>	
Compensation	\$106,091
Pension	83,436
Widow's Claims	45,460
Parents' Claims	10,656
Insurance (Government & Civilian)	415,275
	<hr/>
Total	\$760,918

The above figures do not show the full picture of actual recoveries which our field staff was instrumental in procuring. In addition to above, many thousands of dollars were received by veterans and their dependents thru the media of subsistence allowance from the Vet-

erans Administration while taking advantage of the educational benefits provided by the G. I. Bill, many more thousands were received from the Social Security Administration either as lump sum death settlements, or monthly payments to widows and children; sickness insurance benefits from employers; industrial accident payments and other similar benefits were followed thru by our field staff with resulting financial gain to the veterans and their families. No records of these types of recoveries are kept.

### CASE LOAD SUMMARY WORLD WAR ASSISTANCE

Number of Active cases by months:

1950	July	394
	August	378
	September	351
	October	347
	November	384
	December	388
1951	January	392
	February	381
	March	406
	April	388
	May	377
	June	399

Average number of active cases throughout the year	382
Applications pending beginning of year	22
Number of new applications received throughout the year	1252
Number of applications granted throughout the year	924
Number of applications denied	330

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING AID DURING THE YEAR	3398
Average amount of grants (monthly)	\$59.32
Number of pending applications at end of year	20

#### *Case Load Summary General Law Pensions*

Number of Active cases at the end of each month

1950	July	232
	August	229
	September	225
	October	209
	November	199
	December	196
	January	192
	February	192

March	196
April	197
May	194
June	195

Average number of active cases throughout the year	204
Number of new applications received during the year	48
Number of applications granted	31
Number of applications denied	17
Average amount of grants (monthly)	\$11.14
Cases closed during the year	68

FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
*Analysis of Expenses — July 1, 1950-June 30, 1951*  
*Administrative Expense*

	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Salaries .....	\$57,278.50	\$57,203.01	\$ 75.49
Other Expenses .....	13,164.34	**12,788.02	376.32
	<u>*\$70,442.84</u>	<u>\$69,991.03</u>	<u>\$451.81****</u>
*Appropriation by Legislature .....	\$65,661.00		
Transfer from Surplus for Salary Increases .....	3,352.00		
Purchase Orders and Accounts Payable Carried Forward .....	429.84		
Transferred from General Law .....	1,000.00		
	<u>\$70,442.84</u>		
** <i>Analysis of Other Expenses</i>			
Travel Expenses .....	\$ 6,924.69		
Misc. Professional Fees .....	10.00		
Telephone, Telegrams and Electricity .....	1,224.30		
Rent (Field Offices) .....	1,200.00		
Repairs to Equipment .....	76.78		
Postage .....	1,043.53		
Printing .....	178.25		
Dues .....	100.00		
Office Supplies .....	762.94		
***Misc. Supplies and Expense .....	273.96		
Office Equipment .....	693.57		
Misc. Grants (Stipend for Educ. Leave) .....	300.00		
	<u>\$12,788.02</u>		
***Includes subscriptions, periodicals, moving field office furniture, express on supplies, etc.			
<i>World War Assistance Grants</i>			
Grants of WWA .....	<i>Appropriation</i> \$285,000.00	<i>Expenditures</i> \$271,911.25	<i>Balance</i>
Physical Examinations for Veterans .....		80.00	
Total .....	<u>\$285,000.00</u>	<u>\$271,991.25</u>	<u>\$13,008.75</u>
<i>General Law Pensions</i>			
	\$ 32,000.00		
Transferred to Administrative Expense .....	(1,000.00)		
Grants .....	<u>31,000.00</u>	27,368.00	3,632.00
GRAND TOTAL .....	<u>\$386,442.84</u>	<u>\$369,350.28</u>	<u>\$17,092.56</u>

\*\*\*\*Of this amount \$10. is covered by purchase orders

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*Employment* In his report of June 30, 1950 the Director mentioned the formation of the Governor's Committee on Employment and recommendations made by this committee. He also reported on resolutions passed by the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars advocating the establishment of a State Research and Development fund. Although the outbreak of war in Korea seemed to obviate the necessity of immediate action along these lines, it was recommended that stand-by legislation be enacted which would enable the Governor and Council to activate the necessary program at the proper time. A final meeting of the Governor's Committee on Employment was held just before the convening of the ninety-fifth legislature, at which time it was felt that there was insufficient time in which to frame an adequate law, and some doubt was expressed as to whether steps should be taken at that time or further developments should be awaited.

It is recommended that the Governor's Committee be called together again immediately following election of officers by the Veterans Organizations in June 1952, and that this subject be once more thoroughly discussed so that if the committee still feels that a Research and Development fund is the answer, appropriate legislation may be drafted before the 96th legislature convenes.

*Tax Exemptions* In an earlier section of this report, attention was called to action taken by the 95th legislature with respect to tax exemptions for veterans, their widows and minor children. It was also stated that the Director is to arrange for a conference of the Legislative Research Committee and representatives of the Veterans Organizations shortly after the Legion and V. F. W. conventions to frame satisfactory legislation on this subject. It is recommended that this meeting be well attended, and that sufficient intelligent thought be given to the subject so that it may be wisely disposed of once and for all.

*Local Veterans Service Committees* During demobilization of World War II forces, it was found necessary by the Veterans Service Committee of Maine to establish over 125 local service committees throughout the State and to set up twenty-five local information and service centers. It is not expected that there will be any large-scale demobilization following the Korean Campaign. Nevertheless steps should be taken to assure adequate service to Korean veterans returning to Maine. It is recommended that early in 1952 a meeting of the veterans organizations and other interested agencies be called with view to establishing a program which will meet these needs.

*National Trends* In the "General Statement" at the beginning of this report the Director has called attention to a nation-wide trend toward forgetting the obligation of our citizens to those who have served us in time of war (our veterans). It is generally recognized that there is being conducted an active campaign, not only to reduce all veterans' benefits, but even to change our historical concept of obligations to our veterans. There are powerful forces at work on this program of destruction, such as the committee on Federal Tax Policy, the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and others. It is recommended that every veteran keep himself informed as to the activities of these groups and be ready to take steps to counteract their influence.

## ROSTER OF FIELD OFFICES

(As of Oct. 8, 1951)

The names of the field representatives of the Division, their addresses and territory covered are as follows:

MISS MARY P. MORAN, 79 Exchange St., Portland  
(Cumberland and York Counties, and the following towns in Oxford County: Lovell, Stow, Sweden, Fryeburg, Denmark, Brownfield, Hiram and Porter)

MR. ROLAND A. TARDIFF, 14 Lisbon Street, Lewiston  
(Androscoggin, Oxford (except as above) and Franklin Counties)

MR. PHILIP H. NEWBERT, 356 Main Street, Rockland  
(Knox, Lincoln, Waldo (except Burnham) and Sagadahoc Counties)

MR. JOHN E. FLYNN, 96 Harlow Street, Bangor  
(Penobscot (except Patten & Stacyville) and Piscataquis Counties)

MR. WALTER B. HALL, State House, Augusta  
(Kennebec and Somerset Counties and Burnham in Waldo County)

MR. HARRY A. WHITNEY, P. O. Building, Machias  
(Washington and Hancock Counties)

MR. FRED W. SKINNER, 14 Sweden Street, Caribou  
(Aroostook County, and Patten and Stacyville in Penobscot)

MR. JOHN S. LOWE, JR., Veterans Administration  
Center, Togus  
(Claims Representative)