

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

August 27th, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt list several "unforgettable characters" they have met over the years. In the following segment, ER interviews Millard W. Rice, Executive Secretary of the Disabled American Veteran Service Foundation.

Participants: ER, Elliott Roosevelt, Millard Rice

[ER:] This is Eleanor Roosevelt speaking. Our program is coming to you from my living room here at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. I'm very happy to have this little while with you each day, and I hope you'll enjoy the guests we've invited to be with us today. And now, for a moment, I'm going to turn this program over to Elliott.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] It is almost thirty-three years since World War I began and more than 5 years since World War II came to an end, but in Veterans Hospitals and in private homes, these wars endure for the nation and almost two million disabled men. To hear what the Disabled American Veteran Service Foundation is doing for these veterans, Mrs. Roosevelt has as her guest today the DAV Executive Secretary Mr. Millard W. Rice. We will hear from Mr. Rice just as soon as Mrs. Roosevelt and I discuss a rather interesting problem. Now here is our announcer with a few words for us. (1:04).

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Rather than a question today one of our listeners would like to hear a story from you, Mother.

[ER:] [unclear term]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mrs. Elizabeth Armor of Long Island writes, "In Readers Digest they always have a story about the most unforgettable character I've met. I'm sure Mrs. Roosevelt, that with the hundreds and hundreds of people you've met in your lifetime, there must be at least one or two we'd all like to hear about." Now, uh I know that's rather a tall order for you to select one or two of the many thousands of people that you've met, uh, to select as an unforgettable character, but I think it might be

[ER laughs]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] a lot of fun just for you to say well in the last five years, who are uh the most unforgettable personalities that you've come in contact with.

[ER:] Good heavens. Uh, I think it would be much easier for you as belonging to the younger generation to tell me among the various people that you have met through--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Through you.

[ER:] Through me, who you think um is a character that you would find it difficult to forget. Now I don't mean you to jump upon--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] and then you discuss that character, is that it?

[ER:] Yes, I don't mean you to jump upon some of my old friends and tell me you'll never forget them because they bore you so.

[Elliott Roosevelt and ER laugh]

[ER:] But I would like you to know, I would like you to say, what uh, what has impressed you as being interesting unforgettable characters. (2:53)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I'd, I'd start off by saying first of all because of the various groups that you know, uh it's very difficult to select one or two, but we'll select for instance the two Americans that I think are the most unforgettable people, that through you I have been fortunate enough to know them and to-- uh get to know them and feel that they have had tremendous contribution to make toward all the people they ever meet. Number one would be Bernard Baruch; number two would be John Goldman.

[ER:] My goodness, you have chosen two-- they happen to be friends-- um [ER coughs] they happen to be friends of very long standing. They have um been friends ever since they were young men, and um let's begin with Mr. Baruch.

I think that Mr. Baruch is first of all one of the most uh patriotic people I have ever known. um He is devoted to his country's interest, and that has come about largely because he has been given the privilege of serving his country um many times and, therefore, beginning with his service in World War I um through um to my husband's administration, and even now in many ways uh [ER coughs] I think he is um a very able person particularly of course in his own field of endeavor which is the financial world. He is shrewd. He is uh careful. He um is not easily um-- he can be moved emotionally and has been influenced I think sometimes in things he's done through his emotions, but also when he makes up his mind that something is worth doing he will not allow any emotional appeals to deter him from putting that through. (5:34)

In the later part of his life he's given most of his time to doing things that he feels um of value to people as a whole. For instance, he helped in memory of his father and because his father's interest, to develop Saratoga Springs, and still it weighs on his mind that it's only available to people with a great deal of money and he keeps coming back to the thought that sometime he should go back to that and make it available to a great many more people. And um [cough] then of course his great interest in the last few years has been in physiotherapy work and in the development of this hospital which Dr. Rusk has been um at the back of for rehabilitation here in New York, and [cough] that is done in memory of his father, who was very much interested in that. He has a great reverence and love for both his father and mother and um, I think, is a man of uh great family feelings; he always speaks of his wife uh with great respect and devotion, and I, I think that his um perhaps, his sentimental side is shown up by um the love he has for his place in South Carolina and for all the people who've lived there for a long while, and then I always felt that he had been emotionally touched um on the trip, the first trip he went on with me to see what could be done in the homestead in Arthurdale. He helped us and with never flagging interest um in that effort to help, the living standards of miners in that area in the bad days of the depression. He did everything that he could do and I always remember that he said to me that the thing that had touched him was the way in which the people um were willing to struggle to achieve some little change in the bad conditions in which they had lived, and [cough] but ordinarily you find that he is um, when he makes up his mind what needs to be done, he's just going to be non-sentimental, practical, and stick to getting the thing that he has in hand achieved and finish one thing before he starts another, and that I think is the secret of the success of a great many people who've been great philanthropists and great men in [Elliott Roosevelt: mhm, mhm.] different ways. (8:58)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] What about John Goldman?

[ER:] He's he has, um I think he has wisdom, which I-I'm still talking about Mr. Baruch, I think he has wisdom which is even better sometimes than knowledge of people. He knows how to handle people. He has weaknesses and he has um uh failings. We all have, but I find him one of the finest people that I've known.

Now to come to John Goldman, who's quite a different kind of person, but in his way, just as great a person. Uh He knows his business in [ER Laughs] exactly the same way that Mr. Baruch knew his, when he talks about the show business he talks with authority and he knows what he's talking about. He's a very good friend and a most thoughtful, kind person. I think he was inclined to be at times a little more easily moved emotionally, but then that's because he's got something-- good deal of the artist in him, and the artists are more easily moved emotionally. I'm sure that he's probably um done more things just because he felt a surge of sympathy or- or um, pity for someone um then um most of us do in our lives, but that's part of the world in which he has moved. I think he has um great artistic sense and great artistic uh ability, and now of course his interest in giving young actors a chance, and his all the work that he has done uh in the last few years in the helping to establish the city center and just helping the theater. He-he wants to see the theater uh go on and live and be of value and um I think both men show um qualities that make people good citizens. He's done an enormous amount for purely patriotic purposes during every war um I don't think um that I know anyone who's given more leadership to things that would benefit the soldiers, [Elliott Roosevelt: mhm.] for instance, when they came to New York City in the way of good entertainment [Elliott Roosevelt: yes.] and so forth. So, I think both men are really good examples of how um you can really be a good citizen. And John Goldman does one thing which I think deserves a great deal of-of um applause, that is that he manages in his own community to do a great deal for the community and to uh help to destroy any barriers that might grow up because of differences in race or creed. [Elliott Roosevelt: mhm.] He gets together all the churches on his place once a year for a choral festival and uh he has all the children in the neighborhood playing baseball on his field. (12:20)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yes.

[ER:] And I think that's something we should all give good deal of attention to because--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] It brings his citizenship down to his local community.

[ER:] Down to his own local community level, which is very important.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, uh I see that we don't have enough time to go into this subject as far as I'd like, so I'd like to take it up on our next broadcast, but I-I would like to ask you before we go off the air: are there other unforgettable characters who uh when in your White House years or your governorship years in Albany or before that, uh you feel made a more indelible impression upon you than any other people, leaving aside your own family relations?

[ER:] Well yes, uh there are a great many people that I feel. I think Governor Smith was an unforgettable character. I think um

[Elliott Roosevelt All right, let's talk about Governor Smith

[ER:] I think General Marshall is a character that none of us will ever forget.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] General Marshall. And I'd like to talk about those two on our next broadcast if I may.

[ER:] All right.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Because now we have to go on to another part of the program and very quickly we come to our interview today. (13:43)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] The Korean Conflict has made it necessary for the Disabled American Veteran Service Foundation to expand its thirty-year-old services in order to aid the newest casualties as well as continuing its established work for veterans of past wars. To hear what the services of this organization are, Mrs. Roosevelt has with her today its Executive Director. Now here is Mrs. Roosevelt to introduce her guest. (14:20)

[ER:] Thank you, Elliott. I'm very pleased to present to you the executive director of the Disabled American Veteran Service Foundation: Mr. Millard W. Rice.

[Millard W. Rice:] Thank you very much, Mrs. Roosevelt.

[ER:] I'm very glad to have you here; it seems to me that I have met you before Mr. Rice.

[Millard W. Rice:] Yes Mrs. Roosevelt, I had the pleasure of meeting you several different times in the White House when you, on several different occasions, acted as the hostess for a group of, from thirty to forty handicapped veterans of World War II who were then attending classes at the American University as part of a course of vocational training under the provisions of Public law number 16 toward the objective of becoming full time, paid, national service officers for the DAV, that is the Disabled American Veterans.

[ER:] I remember that very well Sir. Uh, I was impressed with the great sincerity of the young men and young women in those classes. It was the first time I'd ever heard of such a service and I was very much interested in asking them questions. They seemed really to have a very serious desire to render service to the less well informed and less experienced disabled veterans. I was impressed by the unselfishness of their attitude and I um have always hoped that that program turned out well. What did happen, Mr. Rice?

[Millard W. Rice:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, the program was real successful. There were some four hundred can-- four hundred handicapped veterans of World War II who were trained in successive classes each lasting for two thirteen week periods at the American University in Washington, followed up by six months of on the job, placement training under each of three full time old experienced service officers of the DAV and then thereafter they were declared rehabilitated and became full time employees as service officers of the DAV.

[ER:] Well that uh sounds as though you've been doing uh quite a good deal of work. Where are these people now located?

[Millard W. Rice:] They are located in the various regional offices of the Veterans Administration some sixty-seven of them plus the thirteen district offices and the central office in Washington, DC from one to twelve in each one of these offices.

[ER:] Well, that's very interesting. Ah just what does a DAV national service officer do? I think people would be very much interested.

[Millard W. Rice:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, it is a common assumption, on the part of too many American citizens that the government automatically takes care of the claims of all disabled veterans, but that's by no means true. The average disabled veteran needs to be informed as to what he is entitled to under certain circumstances under one or more of the some nine hundred laws that are administrated by the

Veteran's Administration, and then after that he needs to be advised and assisted to prove legal and technical entitlement to the benefits to which he may be lawfully and equitably entitled under certain circumstances. (17:15)

[ER:] And you help his dependents too don't you?

[Millard W. Rice:] Oh yes indeed, of course.

[ER:] You help, uh, his, uh, family in whatever way is necessary.

[Millard W. Rice:] But, primarily we see to it that the government uh helps the dependents under the laws that are provided for by congress.

[ER:] Well of course this sounds to me quite complicated and I must say also that I realize fully how much this service is needed because I get the most complicated questions every now and then ER [laughs] in letters that come to me.

[Millard W. Rice:] Well Mrs. Roosevelt, we'd be very happy if you just refer them to our staff of national service officers. And incidentally it is very complicated. It can't help but be complicated in view of the hodge-podge created by some nine-hundred laws that have been enacted by congress since 1917.

[ER:] Well, uh I-I would like to, uh, inquire why do you think congress has to enact so many different laws?

[Millard W. Rice:] [Millard Rice laughs] That-that really is, uh, rather complicated, too. Uh-uh But there hasn't been a single session of congress since 1917 but what it has enacted some legislation effecting disabled veterans and/or their dependents. Now why has that been true? Well, first because of the fact that there were several different congressional committees that had jurisdiction concerning the various classifications of disabled veterans and their dependents and second because of the fact that the congressional committee ordinarily considers proposed legislation concerning only one phase of a particular general problem. And then a third probably because legislation is never enacted the way it is originally proposed. There are always a series of compromises along the way. Fourth, uh, probably because of the fact that legislation on behalf of a particular group uh results in additional inequalities which in turn necessitate further amendments to the law. And then fifth because of the fact that there are changes in the requests on the part of the DAV and other veteran organizations which uh in turn, sixth are caused by the changing economic conditions such as our greater specialization in the ways of making a living, our increases in the cost of living, and so forth and so forth and so forth.

[ER:] Well [laughs] I feel nearly every step taken is interrelated with all of the steps that have previously been taken or that have contemplated for the future. I've noticed that that happens in the relations between nations in our efforts within the United Nations. You mentioned the subject in-- of the increase in the cost of living. Um, I can quite well see what that would do to the veteran um and I can uh see that it perhaps would necessitate changes in legislation but just what kind of changes would it require?

[Millard W. Rice:] I'm very glad that you asked that question, Mrs. Roosevelt. If a totally disabled veteran has no other source of income than the disability compensation which he has been awarded, then obviously, whenever the cost of living is increased, he must proportionately decrease his standard of living. A past national commander of the DAV, a retired former civil service uh commission executive secretary, whom you probably p-uh, personally know, told me several years ago that since his retirement he had had the opportunity to study this question and that he had ascertained by a carefully study uh of the statistics concerning the cost of living and the purchasing power of our dollars that there has been a-a-an

increase in the cost of living that has about doubled every 25 years. Now, prior to WWI, only \$30 per month was payable to a totally disabled veteran whose disability was caused by his military service. In 1920 that amount was, uh, raised, finally, realistically, to a hundred dollars per month. Then in 1944 to a hundred and fifteen. In 1946 to a hundred and thirty-eight, and in 1948 to 1950. But these increases have not kept up to the increases in the cost of living. Relatively, although we've made some progress, apparently, we have not kept up proportionately with the increases in the cost of living, or conversely with the decreased purchasing power of the dollar, which has necessitated a decrease in the standard of living for the average totally disabled veteran.(21:23)

[ER:] Well, now you mean that in 1948, a veteran got a hundred and, uh-it was legislated that he would get, if he was totally disabled, a hundred and fifty dollars. Um and um that uh that of course, is nowhere near the increase which has come about in the actual cost of living in proportion, that's really what, um, what you, what you were trying to explain [Millard W. Rice: Exactly correct, Mrs. Roosevelt.] to people. Well it's very interesting, um, and I-I would have said, uh, that with all the veterans, um, there would be a consciousness of what happened on this level to the disabled veteran. But, um I imagine that these disabled veterans, uh, do not have the kind of-of cohesive bargaining power that a labor union, for instance, has. (22:33)

[Millard W. Rice:] That's a very apt comparison, Mrs. Roosevelt. The labor unions have been much more successful in getting increases in wages somewhat proportionate to the increase in the cost of living.

[ER:] Because they say that they haven't, that they don't have anything like [Millard W. Rice: Mhm.] [Millard W. Rice laughs] what would really be adequate.

[Millard W. Rice:] Maybe not-not.

[ER:] And so as long as-as uh as you- um you mention that it must mean that the veteran has even less proportion.

[Millard W. Rice:] Correct. There's been an increase in the cost of living about 76% or so since 1940, whereas the rates, the basic rates for disabled veterans, has increased by only 50%. So proportionately we've lost ground-- uh that's very unfortunate. Uh, but we can't have any check-off system, you see with the Veterans Administration and we can't have any collective bargaining power except through congress. And unfortunately not all of the disabled veterans are members of the DAV or of any other veteran organization.

[ER:] Well is that because you don't have a complete um list of the veterans? I mean, does the Veterans Administration not furnish you with a list so that you could, uh, get this complete membership together?

[Millard W. Rice:] [laughs] We've been trying for years to persuade the Veterans Administration to furnish us with such a list, but they will not do so because it is the veteran's own individual affair as to whether not he is getting disability compensation and he doesn't want to be branded, necessarily, before the public as a disabled veteran. So the Veterans Administration will not furnish us with such a list.

[ER:] Would you mind telling me why it's-- uh um why you've-why you've used the word branded? [Rice chuckles] Is it a disgrace to have been disabled in the veteran's service.

[Millard W. Rice:] I'm pleased that you've asked that question. Unfortunately if it's a handicapped employ-uh, uh, a handicapped civilian, it isn't known necessarily that he is handicapped because he doesn't get any disability compensation for it. But a disabled veteran who has proven up a claim gets

disability compensation and is thereby, in effect, branded as being a handicapped person, and the employers are therefore put on notice to that effect.

[ER:] Oh, well I hadn't realized that and uh hadn't realized what effect it would have but I'm very glad you brought that out because um that means that we need more education, it seems to me, of the employers. It ought not to um uh it ought not to upset them that they have a- um a person who is uh has certain um disabilities, because very often those people are-are more useful in many ways. They are steadier, and I-I should think it was um I-I should think there was room there uh for, um, a good deal of um education um of the public in general. Now I see that our time is running out and when we come back I have a very important question to ask you but for just a minute, our announcer must have a word.

[Break: 25:26-25:32]

[ER:] Now we come back to our interview with Mr. Millard W. Rice of the Disabled Veterans Foundation and um I want to ask you something Mr. Rice. How many disabled veterans are receiving disability compensation?

[Millard W. Rice:] There are about two million three hundred thousand actually receiving disability compensation payments, Mrs. Roosevelt, although I estimate that there are probably another six or seven hundred thousand that are potentially entitled if they were to prosecute their claims to establish the legal service connection of their disabilities. A survey as to the statistics of WWI veterans showed that ordinarily, the veterans of WWI did not prosecute their claims for disability compensation until they were driven by economic necessity to do so.

[ER:] Now, what do you mean by that?

[Millard W. Rice:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, I mean that the average disabled veteran does not wish to be dependent upon Uncle Sam, and that he is apt to put uh-in a claim for disability compensation and submit the necessary fact-giving affidavit evidence as to the service origin of his disability in the event that the official records fail to do so, only if economic necessity impels him to do so. The average di-partially disabled veteran, if not also the totally disabled veteran, would infinitely pr-pr-prefer to be self-sustaining. They want to be useful civilians making their own living.

[ER:] Well, uh they certainly deserve to have that opportunity though I think um they should not hesitate to ask for um disability payments, because um after all, they were uh disabled in the service of their country and it should be no-nothing it-sh-- certainly not militate against them. Um I wonder if their-- if you are right uh-- and if I am right in thinking um that their opportunity for useful and gainful employment if uh they're only partially disabled should be um available at all times.

[Millard W. Rice:] Well I most certainly agree with you. About ninety-three percent of our compensated disabled veterans are less than totally disabled and they must obviously supplement their disability compensation income with income from some other source, and preferably that should from suitable gainful employment that utilizes their remaining abilities. But uh they have less opportunity for getting uh suitable employment does-- that does fit into their remaining abilities and consequently not quite as much opportunity.

[ER:] Well I suppose that's a more-- uh uh it shows up more when um the labor market is-is tight. I mean, when there's full employment um they have less chance of getting a job. But when- uh when um it's harder to get people uh the employer will find ways of using the handicapped.

[Millard W. Rice:] Yes, the employer always use-utilizes the-the so-called "marginal employables," and right now, most of the employable disabled veterans are suitably employed.

[ER:] Well that, of course, is proof that they could be at all times.

[Millard W. Rice:] Definitely so.

[ER:] um, Now do you find, uh, there is real discrimination by employers against the employment of disabled veterans.

[Millard W. Rice:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, uh, discrimination is a rather harsh word. But, very frankly, it must be confessed that a disabled veteran can fit into a lesser number of available jobs. Uh But if he's properly placed into a job which ru-utilizes his remaining abilities then he can and does establish a record of production and service which is, on the average, better than the uh- the other average employers. And, as you said, he's more dependable, he's more appreciative, he is less-he's more steady and he loses less time because of indisposition or illness because he appreciates the job and wants to hold on to it. (29:29)

[ER:] Well also he has to learn to take care of himself and keep himself well, which um is a matter of discipline in a way, too.

[Millard W. Rice:] Sure, he acquires uh other characteristics that tend to compensate for the handicap of his physical disability.

[ER:] It seems to me that if a disabled veteran or another handicapped employable is to get an equalized opportunity for useful employment such handicapped employable must be accorded some specialized opportunity to fit into the jobs for which he possesses the required abilities. Now, the question really is: is he getting that?

[Millard W. Rice:] No. He isn't quite getting it, but you stated the problem precisely. We wish he were getting it in instances and all the time.

[ER:] Uh, now is that the purpose of the President's Committee on National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, which is headed up by Dr. McIntyre?

[Millard W. Rice:] Yes indeed, Mrs. Roosevelt, that is precisely the purpose. But it needs emphasis all the year round, rather than just doing the first week in October of each year.

[ER:] Well, I'm sure that um it's important that uh it should be and-is your organization interested in the activities of the president's committee?

[Millard W. Rice:] Oh indeed we are. Recently, I relinquished the chairmanship of the Disabled Veterans Committee of the president's committee, and was succeeded in that capacity by Captain Kenneth C. Bradley, the national employment director f-uh of employment of the DAV. Shortly after that I was uh appointed as the finance uh-uh committee chairman of the president's committee uh, which s-uh-needs to solicit help from outside organizations and individuals to p-to supply some of the incidental funds that the president's committee needs for the awards of prizes in our national essay contest for the publication of some information giving pamphlets and for the expenses of bringing to Washington DC the winners of the president's trophy and-and so forth and so forth.

[ER:] Well I understand such essay prize awards and trophy award and pamphlet publications and so forth is to be arranged for through the president's committee but that no part of its congressional appropriation can be used for that purpose, is that correct?

[Millard W. Rice:] That is correct, Mrs. Roosevelt, we need some volunteers to come forward in that respect. Would you be a member of that committee, Mrs. Roosevelt?

[ER:] [ER laughs] I'm afraid I couldn't take out any more work at the present time. I wish I could though, because I think this committee is an important committee. And your mention of financial needs for the president's committee on National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week reminds me to ask you as to how the Disabled American Veterans finances its program of maintaining its national service officers throughout the country.

[Millard W. Rice:] Well because we were unable to do it adequately we-- and to increase their salaries proportionately to the increase in the cost of living 'we've lost about forty percent of these trained service officers. Trained at the considerable expense jointly by the 'Veteran's Administration and the DAV.

[ER:] Well, I'm afraid that's due to the high cost of living, isn't it? When we remember when OPA [Office of Price Administration] and its price controls were discontinued during that period?

[Millard W. Rice:] Well that's very correct, Mrs. Roosevelt

[ER:] Well, does that mean that the DVA--DAV will take an official stand concerning the matter of price controls at the present time?

[Millard W. Rice:] Well, no, Mrs. Roosevelt, the DAV intends to stick to its knitting and to concentrate on matters pertaining directly to disabled veterans. Definitely, disabled veterans want no further inflation, it's definitely against their interest, because it necessitates decrease in their standard of living. But, the DAV does not intend to pose in as an expert and try to tell members of congress how to prevent further increases in the cost of living. If further increases in the cost of living do occur, then monetary benefits to disabled veterans ought to be increased accordingly.

[ER:] Well, we-- everything seems to go together if you get uh uh if it becomes more expensive to live then you have to pay higher wages then you have to pay higher benefits and so forth, so let's get back to the methods used by the DAV to enable it to maintain its nationwide service setup. Just how has this been done?

[Millard W. Rice:] Well, first of all through its own members. We have about 165,000 of them, representing less than seven percent of the total number who are eligible. Their membership dues do not go so very far and so for, therefore, during the last ten years we have had to supplement uh uh that by uh by selling out miniature automobile license tags, the distribution of which by the way has resulted in the nationwide key insurance and results in the fact that the DAV returns about 5,000 sets of keys per month to their owners.

[ER and Millard Rice overlap]

[ER:] Good heavens!

[Millard W. Rice:] There's the tag.

[ER:] [ER laughs] Yes, I know, I know. That doesn't speak very well for our care in keeping our keys, does it?

[Millard W. Rice:] No!

[ER:] But I wonder if all the recipients of such miniature automobile license tags return payments therefore.

[Millard W. Rice:] [Millard W. Rice laughs] I wish that were the case because if everyone who received one of those idento-tags were to return a donation of fifty cents or more we wouldn't have any financial problems whatsoever. But, as a matter of fact, only about twenty five percent of them do so, they just forget about it.

[ER:] Well then, what else do you do to supplement with other means, uh what you--

[Millard W. Rice:] Well not being very successful in the orthodox methods of raising funds because of the general assumption that the government does the job, we decided to go onto the unorthodox methods and we conducted a word-values puzzle contest that we advertised in the various newspapers and magazines and resulted in very substantial income. Uh As a result of which, uh allocations were made to the DAV to supplement its own c-income to take care of uh the costs of maintaining its nationwide service setup.

[ER:] Well now, how much do you um figure the DAV needs annually-- adequately to provide for its service setup?

[Millard W. Rice:] The DAV ought to have about-an income of about two million, five hundred thousand dollars for its service purposes only. We'd be better off, of course, if we could raise a trust fund of about fifty million dollars, the principle and interest of which could then take care of the problem of maintaining service activities for America's disabled veterans for a considerable number of years into the future. And we're working toward that end now, of the establishment of such a trust fund in which all Americans can contribute.

[ER:] Well now, what methods have you devised to do this? (35:41)

[Millard W. Rice:] Well, within the last several months you may have heard several spot announcements relative to our plea that millions of Americans should be motivated to make at least a dollar donation as, uh, to support our sponsored service programs. We would like every American to donate at least a dollar toward the maintenance of that service program, to become one of the supporters of the Disabled American Veteran's service foundation.

[ER:] Well now how are you getting along in your campaign to enroll individual dollar supporters?

[Millard W. Rice:] Well it's another slow method because it takes some time to permeate into the consciousness of the average citizen that this is something that's really needed. But we've had some very excellent letters of endorsement and some very excellent cooperation from the various national labor and international labor unions and other fraternal organizations and the endorsements from high officials and therein we feel quite encouraged. We're hopeful that eventually, uh, hundreds of thousands uh, and then millions of Americans will support this program becoming individual dollar donor supporters of the Disabled American Veterans service foundation.

[ER:] Well now, just, would you explain to me in a word, what is the difference between the DAV and the DAV Service Foundation?

[Millard W. Rice:] The Disabled American Veterans is the thirty-one year old congressionally chartered membership organization, the operating service-giving organization, composed exclusively of America's war-wounded and disabled veterans, whereas, the Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation is its incorporated trusteeship.

[ER:] I see. Well now there's one question that's asked all the time and I'd like to ask it of you, though our time is running out. Does the DAV charge any fee to disabled veterans for rendering its services?

[Millard W. Rice:] The such services are absolutely free to any veteran who desires them or the dependants of any veteran. As a matter of fact, we insist that such services be freely given to our one eighteen hundred local officers and our some two hundred and fifty full time officers.

[ER:] Well now, uh, you have a board of trustees for your foundation, haven't you?

[Millard W. Rice:] Oh yes indeed, thirty trustees headed up by General uh, headed up by Miles Draper, an attorney down in Tampa, Florida, with General Vice, uh, General Phillips as the Vice-Chairman, General, um, Hines, a former administrator of Veterans Affairs is a member, Daniel Be-Bell, former Undersecretary of the Treasury is a member and others throughout the country. A very splendid group.

[ER:] Now you-you have, uh, an office in Washington DC?

[Millard W. Rice:] Yes we do, and one in New York as well.

[ER:] Well--

[Millard W. Rice:] Box 100, New York

[ER:] Box 100, New York, and in, so it's all very easy, it's made very easy for people who really want to get help, and it's also made very easy for people who want to help you to help, isn't it?

[Millard W. Rice:] Sure, send one dollar to Box 100, DAV, New York.

[ER:] And that helps uh start this fund for uh um that would really provide you with the income in the future that you need.

[Millard W. Rice:] Then we can really render the service that we ought to render to America's millions of disabled veterans.

[ER:] Well I hope you will be very successful and thank you very much for telling us this interesting story today.

[Millard W. Rice:] Thank you very much, Mrs. Roosevelt. (38:38)

[Ben Grauer:] This has been the *Eleanor Roosevelt Program*, recorded in Mrs. Roosevelt's living room in the Park Sheraton Hotel, on the corner of 55th Street and 7th Avenue in New York City. Today Mrs. Roosevelt's guest was the executive director of the Disabled American Veteran's Service Foundation, Millard W. Rice. Now we look at the guest list for the rest of the week and find that on tomorrow, Tuesday, Mrs. Roosevelt will interview--

(second track begins here) Rommie Colin and Dorothy Jackamara. Now Mr. Colin is national executive director of Junior Achievement, an organization in which young people operate their own small businesses, and Ms. Jackamara is president of JA. Also, interviewed tomorrow will be Archbishop Michael, the head of the Greek Orthodox Church in the western hemisphere. And on Wednesday, guest with Mrs. Roosevelt will be Joseph Gaer, author of The Lore of the Old Testament. Mrs. Roosevelt and Elliott Roosevelt will be with you again tomorrow and everyday, Monday through Friday, from 12:30 to 1:15 PM. Till tomorrow then, this is Ben Grower bidding you all good afternoon.

[Announcer:] (0:48) Friends, this is Ben Grower speaking. Vegetable soup without vegetables would be about as inspiring as apple pie without apples. Now when you serve Hammertan vegetable soup don't ever worry about finding vegetables. Every can of Hammertan vegetable soup is generously blessed with all kinds of plump, juicy garden favorites, oodles of them, and the broth is extra rich because it's made from the natural vegetable juices. Perfect seasoning, and slow simmering bring out the heavenly flavor of Hammertan vegetable soup. One good spoonful deserves another, and another, until your craving for good old-fashioned, home cooked soup is satisfied. Of course you'll enjoy just as much wonderful Hammertan Pea Soup, the genuine old French-Quebec style, pea soup and zesty, tangy Hammertan Onion Soup, gold and good, and a-swim with tender, juicy onion slices and pure meat broth. Whether you get the large family size or handy, small cans, you'll truly enjoy Hammertan Vegetable Soup, Hammertan Pea Soup, and Hammertan Onion Soup. Get Hammertan from your grocer in the yellow can. And now, here is Elliott. (1:57)

(Pause)

Announcer: (2:03) Right Elliott, but just before today's interview, may we take our regular look at the program listings for tonight on station WNBC. And as you know, Monday night is music night on NBC, starting off at 8 o'clock with 'The Railroad Hour.' The musical for tonight on 'The Railroad Hour' is *Danny Freel*, an Irish musical starring Gordon MacRae, and Dorothy Warenskjold, with Katie Lee. At 8:30 PM, 'The Voice of Firestone,' Jerome Hines, basso as guest, he'll sing the 'Mephisto Serenade,' and 'This Nearly was Mine,' the orchestra of course directed by Harold Barlow. At 9 o'clock, 'The Telephone Hour' presents an all Gershwin concert, featuring the famed American pianist and wit Oscar Levant, with Donald Voorhees, and the Bell Symphonic Orchestra. 'Summertime Listening' at 9:30 with the Band of America, featuring tonight, a salute to Detroit, which is celebrating its 250th anniversary, the band directed by Paul Lavalley, with the Green and White Quartet. And our music (**unclear term** (3:08) sounds like 'guys') concluded that 10 o'clock with the hour long concert by the Boston Pops Orchestra, Arthur Fiedler conducts in selections from 'Swan Lake,' 'Guys and Dolls,' music by, Beethoven, (**unclear term** (3:17) D'fier?), Wagner, and Lehar. There's the lineup for listening on WNBC tonight. And now to present our interview, here is Elliott. (3:29)

Announcer: (3:37) Yes Mrs. Roosevelt, we're at midway mark, and it's time for our regular station identification and brief announcement. This is WNBC AM and FM New York, and you're listening to *The Eleanor Roosevelt Program*, recorded in Mrs. Roosevelt's living room in the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York. Today Mrs. Roosevelt's guest is the executive director of the Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation, Millard W. Rice. We'll return to Mrs. Roosevelt and Mr. Rice in just a moment, but first I have an announcement, which should be of particular interest to the young ladies in our audience, it's from the Women's Army Corps. Let's face it, a woman is a good shopper, when she goes to buy a pair of shoes, she doesn't go, "I'll take that pair of blue shoes in the window;" she wants to know if they're practical, comfortable, and are designed in the latest style. In other words, she wants to be completely satisfied before she buys.

Now, if she's considering an enlistment in the Women's Army Corps, here are some of the practical things she wants to know: what qualifications must I have to enlist, what will happen to me if

I'm accepted, what kind of training will I get? "Well first of all," the WAC recruiting sergeant will tell her, "you must be at least 18 years of age, and not have reached your 35th birthday, unmarried, and be a high school graduate. The prospect of WAC must be in excellent health, and be able to present high character recommendations." The sergeant of WAC will also tell her, "You will like every other WAC, receive your basic training at Fort Lee in Virginia." The specialized training she will receive later on will depend on the results of her aptitude test. You see, the Women's Army Corps makes an all out effort to see that each woman is placed on the job for which she is best qualified. Now why not make it a point to visit the WAC/WAF recruiting office at 39 Whitehall Street in Manhattan? The friendly WAC recruiting sergeant will answer all your questions, and she'll show you there is a good career for you in the Women's Army Corps. Now to continue today's interview, here is Mrs. Roosevelt. (4:16)

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