AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 1735
OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title X, add the following:

1 SEC. 10.__. DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR USE OF
2 UNOFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION TO
3 DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND
4 FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES
5 FOR BENEFITS AND DECORATIONS WHEN
6 THE SERVICE RECORDS ARE INCOMPLETE
7 BECAUSE OF DAMAGE TO THE OFFICIAL
8 RECORD.
9
   (a) GUIDELINES REQUIRED.—The Secretary of De-
10 fense shall develop guidelines regarding the use by the
11 Secretaries of the military departments and the Secretary
12 of Veterans Affairs of unofficial sources of information,
13 including eyewitness statements, to determine the eligi-
14 bility of a member or former member of the Armed Forces
15 for benefits and decorations when the service records of
16 the member are incomplete because of damage to the
17 records as a result of the 1973 fire at the National Per-
18 sonnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, or any sub-
sequent incident while the records were in the possession of the Department of Defense.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall prepare the guidelines in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with respect to veterans benefits under title 38, United States Code, whose eligibility determinations depend on the use of service records maintained by the Department of Defense.

e) TIME FOR COMPLETION.—The Secretary of Defense shall complete development of the guidelines not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.