AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle J of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 594. DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR USE OF UNOFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR BENEFITS AND DECORATIONS WHEN THE SERVICE RECORDS ARE INCOMPLETE BECAUSE OF DAMAGE TO THE OFFICIAL RECORD.

(a) GUIDELINES REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop guidelines regarding the use by the Secretaries of the military departments and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of unofficial sources of information, including eyewitness statements, to determine the eligibility of a member or former member of the Armed Forces for benefits and decorations when the service records of the member are incomplete because of damage to the records as a result of the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, or any sub-
(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.