February 4, 1958

SPECIAL TO DEPARTMENT ADJUTANTS!

National Emblem Sales has now topped the 400,000 mark in sales of The American Legion story in cartoon format - "SAVED BY THE BELL!"

Depending on how you look at it, this is either pretty good - or it's lousy. It's good from the standpoint that a completely new public relations device has in a matter of three months found wide enough acceptance so that departments and posts have spent more than $10,000 of their own money to buy copies. It's not so good when you consider the potential distribution and the potential good this little booklet can do for The American Legion. The ideal distribution would include every household in the United States - and we hear there are about 45 million families.

In order to remind Post Commanders that "SAVED BY THE BELL!" is still available for their use, we have mailed to all of them a cartoon book and a copy of the enclosed brochure.

This mailing started on about January 14 so that by the time you get this memo all of your post commanders should have received theirs.

If you agree with the many letters we've received saying that "SAVED BY THE BELL!" is the best thing we've ever had to tell The American Legion story to a mass audience, will you follow up the distribution of the brochure with further reminders from your Department Headquarters about making full use of the cartoon book in every community?

Experts on direct mail selling tell us that it takes at least three contacts to do the job. We had our first contact in the printing of "SAVED BY THE BELL!" in The American Legion Magazine last fall. The distribution of the brochure and booklet to post commanders was the second contact. Will you provide the third contact - and just as a suggestion, perhaps tie the use of "SAVED BY THE BELL!" into the 1958 American Legion Birthday observance, March 15 to 17?

NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION
..OPEN THEIR EYES..

WITH......
so let's get th' ball a-rollin'...

an' discuss SAVED BY THE BELL at our next Post meeting!

-caus' I'd had a bath of

there's room on th' back to print th' name of a sponsor....

and to think we can buy 'em for only pennies! WOW-EE

this will give everyone a real understandin' of our American Legion Post!
if we whole
of copies...

...we could put
one in every
home in town!

we could hand 'em to
our friends - an' maybe
the milkman would
leave one with every
customer!

Let's buy enough
to cover th' town -
right now!

Rush Order
National Emblem Sales
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis 6, Indiana

Please rush ___ copies of Saved by the Bell
Enclosed is $____

Prices: 1-50, 10¢ ea. 51-100, 5¢ ea.
101-1000, 3¢ ea. 1000 plus 2¢ ea.
Plus 10% of total for handling postaage

Name

Address
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

2/7/58

The American Legion has raised the strongest possible objection to a proposed 70,000-man cut in National Guard and Army Reserve strength.

The American Legion National Rehabilitation Conference Feb. 25 through 28 will bring to the Nation's Capital some 700 state, district and local service officers and other Legionnaires interested in rehabilitation of disabled veterans.

Kinescopes (films) of The American Legion's "For God and Country" ABC network telecast on Feb. 1 may be purchased by departments and posts for $60 to bring to local TV audiences and civic groups the story of the Legion's "Back to God" program.

National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., has called a special meeting of the National Executive Committee in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 22.

An American Legion Birthday Citation will go to posts which, by the time of the 39th Legion birthday March 15 to 17, have enrolled as many members as they had in all 1957, provided the post is also certified as having staged an appropriate anniversary celebration and also as having sent some additional membership cards to department headquarters during the anniversary period.

Winners of three membership awards have been announced by National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore of The American Legion: the John G. Emery trophy by North Dakota; the Alvin M. Owsley trophy by Louisiana; and the Hanford MacNider trophy by Wisconsin.

South Dakota was the second department of The American Legion to reach its 1958 membership quota.

Final official membership of The American Legion for 1957 was 2,749,778.

Because of changes in mailing procedures, some VA benefit checks may reach veterans and other beneficiaries a day or two later than they have in the past, the VA has announced.
Washington, D. C.—(ALNS)—National Security took the center of The American Legion stage in mid-February as the world’s largest veteran organization spoke from the experience of its 2,800,000 war-veteran members on the defense needs of the nation.

In a telegram to members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., said, "The American Legion raises the strongest possible protest to the 1959 budget reduction in funds for maintenance of the National Guard and the Army Reserve. It would be dangerous economy at this time to reduce strength of existing effective ground forces which the National Guard represents.

"We are confident that you will not permit emasculation or any weakening of the National Guard or Army Reserve, and we will fully support you to that end."

Saying that this segment of defense has been the deciding element in armed strength ever since the Revolution, Commander Gleason stated that instead of cutting reserve strength, we should be building it up so that "every unit, man and machine eliminated from the regular establishment should be replaced by a unit, man and machine in the ready reserve, adequately trained, prepared and organized into units."

Proposed budgetary cuts in 1959 would drop 40,000 fully-trained and integrated guardsmen and another 30,000 Army reservists. This would drop the total reserve strength to 630,000 - 70,000 less than the minimum of 700,000 urged by The American Legion.

Echoing this same warning, Robert H. Bush, chairman of the Legion’s National Security Commission, said that in spite of increasing emphasis on guided missiles and other weapons of tomorrow, the reserve forces still constitute a necessary part of the nation’s deterrent capability. Bush addressed Auxiliary members attending the Woman’s Forum on National Security in Washington Feb. 6.

In Nashville, Tenn., Past National Commander Dan Daniel, substituting for Commander Gleason at the Mid-Winter Conference of the Tennessee American Legion, said that the successful launching of the American satellite was a "time for relief but not for relaxation or elation." He added, "the need for preventing war transcends the need for winning it."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--(ALNS)--Approximately 700 state, district and post service officers of The American Legion and other Legionnaires interested in rehabilitation will attend the annual National Rehabilitation Conference at the Hotel Statler in the Nation's Capital, Tuesday, Feb. 25, through Friday, Feb. 28.

Departing from the custom of previous years, Chairman Robert M. McCurdy, of Pasadena, California, will officially open the conference on Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., following a meeting on Capitol Hill that morning, when National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., is scheduled to present the Legion's legislative program to the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Rehab conferees have been invited to attend the Congressional hearing, which opens at 10:00 a.m. in the Old House Office Building.

Vice Chairman Dr. R. N. Booher of Indianapolis, Ind., will preside over the medical and hospital services panel on Tuesday afternoon. Participating in this session will be Dr. William S. Middleton, chief VA medical director, and several American Legion department service officers.

The second day will be devoted to veterans and dependents' claims, appeals and survivor benefits, with Vice Chairman C. C. Horton of Montgomery, Ala., and J. Ross Foust of Greensburg, Penn., presiding. George W. Rulon, Legion director of membership and post activities, will address the Wednesday morning session.

Insurance, rehabilitation in community service, and the VA Voluntary Service program will be discussed Thursday morning with Vice Chairman F. Clinton Knight of Alexandria, Va., in the chair. During the afternoon, a special report on Social Security will be presented, followed by a panel of the Legion's National Economic Commission.

Highlights of the four-day conference include an address by National Commander Gleason at the annual rehabilitation banquet, Thursday evening, and remarks by the new Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Sumner G. Whittier, at the Friday morning session. The conference will conclude with a panel on vocational rehabilitation and the report of the conference committee on recommendations, headed by Lester R. Benston of Chicago, Ill.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—The American Legion's telecast - "For God and Country" - carried over the American Broadcasting Company network Saturday night, Feb. 1, (8:00 to 8:30 p.m. EST) gave a nationwide audience an insight into the Legion's "Back to God" program.

It was touch and go whether National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., who had re-entered the hospital on Jan. 26 for further treatment of a phlebitis condition, would be able to appear on the program. However, by Saturday his condition had improved sufficiently to permit him to fly to Washington.

Appearing briefly on the program he declared that if America is to overcome the power and evil of Communism, "it needs all of the spiritual strength which only a God-fearing, prayerful people can offer." Immediately following the telecast, Commander Gleason returned to Chicago to resume treatment at St. Francis Hospital, Evanston.

Ably narrated by Thomas E. Paradine, past national vice commander of the Legion and assistant to the president of the Coca Cola Company in New York, the program unfolded with simplicity and dignity befitting the occasion. The audience was reminded that recognition of God and adherence to His Law are the full-time responsibility of every individual, young and old alike.

Kinescopes Available

Prior to the telecast, National Chaplain Feltham S. James, in night letters to all department chaplains, had announced that kinescopes (films) of the program would be available at $60 each but that orders would have to be received by Feb. 5. Further arrangements have now been made to provide the kinescopes at the same price for departments and posts which were unable to get their orders in by the Feb. 5 deadline.

Widest possible use of the kinescope has been urged to bring the Legion's message of spiritual strength to all Americans. Potential users of the film include (More)
local television stations, American Legion gatherings of all kinds, church groups, schools and civic meetings. Orders for the film, with payment, should be sent to National Headquarters, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind.

**Youth Leaders Speak**

Messages of inspiration were heard from representative Americans. Lou Brissie, former major league pitching star who now heads The American Legion junior baseball program, explained the value of citizenship training in providing the moral and spiritual courage to meet the challenges confronting the youth of America.

Nineteen-year-old Tom Peake of Norton, Va., 1957 president of The American Legion's Boys' Nation, said that the 20,000 youths who participate annually in the Legion's citizenship education programs "not only believe in God but practice this belief, through prayer, through church attendance and through daily, personal effort to keep His commandments."

Speaking as the Legion's top-spiritual advisor, National Chaplain James stated, "America can find and fulfill its role only by realizing that its political actions must be inspired by the supreme values that belong to the Kingdom of God."

**McElroy is Participant**

Bringing to the program participation by the federal government, Secretary of Defense Neil H. McElroy asserted that if Americans follow the commandments of justice and mercy among our neighbors here and abroad, we can contribute to the strength of our nation and secure the foundation of peace for the whole world - under God.

Calling upon Americans to build upon a rock of regular family worship, Auxiliary National President Mrs. J. Pat Kelly said that you "will have found a strength that is outward flowing" - from your home eventually to the whole world.

Morris Cafritz, civic leader of the nation's capital, expressed the hope that Americans in all walks of life would follow the path of their church or synagogue as urged in The American Legion Back to God program.

The telecast, held in honor of four World War II chaplains who sacrificed their lives that others might survive in the sinking of the World War II troopship Dorchester, originated in the auditorium of the Legion's impressive Washington Office.
CRANSTON, R.I.--(ALNS)--Frank J. Calcagni, department Americanism chairman of the Rhode Island American Legion, has been elected to receive the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and of his home city of Cranston, R.I.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--Reinstatement of American Legion Post Membership Birthday Citations has been authorized by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr. The attractive citations, suitable for framing, will be issued to all posts certified by the department adjutant as having: (1) reached by the Legion's 39th birthday, Mar. 15 to 17, a 1958 membership equal to or surpassing the entire 1957 membership; (2) held an appropriate observance of the Legion birthday, and (3) sent additional membership cards to department headquarters during the anniversary period.

KINGSTON, Tenn.--(ALNS)--John W. Brown, Jr., District II adjutant of the Tennessee American Legion, has received a top award from the non-partisan Foreign Policy Association for his "Great Decisions ...1957" program in Kingston, Tenn. Brown initiated a pilot project of world affairs discussion groups in his home town, involving key members of the Legion, Lions, Rotary and other community groups.

At a Waldorf-Astoria luncheon in New York City where eight top NBC foreign correspondents helped launch the Foreign Policy Association's 1958 program, Brown described his work in Kingston as basic Americanism, "because it makes Americans think about the things that are most important to our survival."

LOS ANGELES, Calif.--(ALNS)--The American Legion takes on an international flavor Feb. 22 as General F. T. Ward Post 1 of Shanghai, China, (now operating in exile) joins with American Chinese Post 628 of Los Angeles to celebrate the Chinese New Year in Hong Kong Low Restaurant in Los Angeles' New Chinatown. Past National Commander Lewis K. Gough was slated to be toastmaster.

WASHINGTON, D.C.--(ALNS)--A special meeting of The American Legion's National Executive Committee in Washington, D.C., Feb. 22 has been called by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr. Purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of a special insurance committee appointed by Commander Gleason to investigate a possible life insurance tie-in with Legion membership.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2/7/58

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore has announced the winners of three American Legion membership awards for 1958. The Department of North Dakota is the winner of the John G. Emery trophy by enrolling by Jan. 31 the highest percentage of membership for 1958 as compared with the average membership of the four preceding years. North Dakota on that date had 93.09 percent of its average membership for the four previous years.

The Alvin M. Owsley trophy, awarded to the department which on Dec. 31 has enrolled the highest percentage of members for the coming year compared with the previous 10 year average, has gone to Louisiana. Louisiana on the last day of 1957 had enrolled for 1958 92.21 percent of its average for the past 10 years.

Wisconsin is the winner of the Hanford MacNider trophy. This award goes to the department which between Oct. 20 and Dec. 31 submits the highest percentage of members for the coming year compared with the previous years total. Wisconsin registered a 73.75 percent turn in.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—South Dakota became the second quota-breaking department of The American Legion for 1958 when on Jan. 30 it reported a membership of 21,111 against its quota of 22,177. North Dakota was the first department to make its '58 quota.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—Don't get upset if your VA check is a day or two late in arriving. Because of administrative economies, the VA is now mailing all benefit checks on the last working day of the month. Previously checks were mailed in advance to veterans and beneficiaries living some distance from Washington.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.---(ALNS)---Here are final membership figures for 1957 as reported by The American Legion and its three affiliated organizations:

The American Legion 2,749,778
American Legion Auxiliary 977,765
Forty and Eight 99,000
Eight and Forty 24,920

WASHINGTON, D. C.---(ALNS)---Jack Havey, a staff member of The American Legion National Public Relations Division in Washington since April 1, 1957, resigned effective Feb. 7 to return to his home state of Maine, where he has accepted a position with the State Department of Economic Development.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.---(ALNS)---Charlottesville (Va.) merchants were urged to fly the American flag on the birthday of Gen. Robert E. Lee, Jan. 19, by Post 74 of The American Legion. The post pointed out that the famed Confederate general was a commissioned officer in the United States Army before the Civil War.

PORTLAND, Me.---(ALNS)---James H. Page, Americanism officer of Harold T. Andrews Post 17 of The American Legion in Portland (Me.), has demonstrated that you can't lose by giving credit where credit is due.

In a letter to the editor of the Portland Evening Express, Page praised the Christmas toy repair and distribution program of the Marine Corps Reserve 2nd Engineer Battalion of Portland. Publication of the letter resulted in two members of the reserve unit enrolling in the Legion post.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION BIRTHDAY AND MEMORIAL SPEECHES AVAILABLE

Suggested talks for the use of American Legion speakers on Memorial Day and the Legion Birthday, Mar. 15 to 17, 1958, are available upon request from National Public Relations Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind.

CORRECTION

A release in the ALNS of 1/31/58 stated that Massachusetts Governor Foster M. Furcolo is a member of Agawan Post of The American Legion. Steve Humphrey, editor of The Wollaston Legionnaire, has informed us that the correct spelling is Agawam.

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

William S. Campbell of Boise who is Idaho's representative on the National Rehabilitation Commission of The American Legion, has been given the local Jaycees' award as the city's "Outstanding Young Man" of 1957 and with it Ada County's 1958 license plate No. 1 for his car.

The annual midwinter conference of the Wisconsin American Legion at Fond du Lac, February 9 and 10, was punctuated with an unscheduled climax when an early morning hotel fire drove some 250 partly-clad Legionnaires including Assistant National Adjutant Robert E. Lyngh from their beds into 12 below zero weather.

A total of 197 veterans of World War I turned out for a mass meeting sponsored by The American Legion at Topeka, Kansas, for a briefing on the rights and benefits they are entitled to under existing laws.

A summary of job opportunities for students 18 years or older in summer employment in national park areas has been made available to American Legion Department Education and Scholarship Chairman by the National Child Welfare Division.

The 11th District Indiana American Legion has purchased a double-page spread in The Indianapolis Sunday Star to present the verbatim testimony on international Communism presented before the House Un-American Activities Committee by Dr. Frederick Charles Schwartz, executive director of The Christian Anti-Communist Crusade.
Nut Shell (continued)

The new attorney general of the State of Rhode Island is J. Joseph Nugent of Providence, a member of the Roger Williams Post 35 of The American Legion there and veteran of World War II.

A new mental health play entitled "Which Way Out?" dealing with emotional problems of teenagers has been made available by the National Association for Mental Health under a special grant to finance this project from the National Child Welfare Foundation of The American Legion.

The District of Columbia American Legion will sponsor its own Boys State for the first time this year on the campus of Georgetown University in Washington, June 15 to 21, under the direction of Department Director of Publicity Nicholas R. Beltrante.

The National Rehabilitation Division of The American Legion in Washington, D.C., reports that more than 2,300 veterans have been released from liability to the government on their GI home loans under a 1956 law according to latest VA records.

As an incentive to encourage teen-age interest in the Space Age know-how, the Brooks-Doll-Ebeling Post 33 of The American Legion at Bellefonte, Pa., has posted cash awards for local 1958 high school graduates of both sexes who show the greatest proficiency in mathematical-science courses.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Legion News Service (ALNS) is pleased to reproduce a syndicated editorial commenting on the 1958 "Back to God" telecast which was aired over the coast-to-coast ABC-TV Network on February 1. This editorial which appeared in numerous daily and weekly newspapers is an excellent review of this annual American Legion Telecast. It follows:

PRAYERFUL ANNIVERSARY

In the seventh annual observance of its "BACK TO GOD" program, presented in a nationwide telecast from the Washington Headquarters on Feb. 1, The American Legion deliberately avoided any suggestion of saber-rattling.

Past National Vice-Commander Thomas E. Paradine, narrator of the half-hour show over the ABC Network, took cognizance of the first American satellite—then beginning its circumnavigations in the nothingness above us—reminded the nation that godless Khruschev could not participate in such an occasion as this but in Mr. Paradine's remarks and the addresses that followed there was no vain glory, braggadocio or arrogance. The ceremony—highlighted by the brief prayer of National Legion Chaplain Feltham S. James—remained, as it should, an humble dedication of all Americans who cared to participate, to the service of "GOD AND COUNTRY."

National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., who took leave of his hospital bed for the occasion, declared that America needs "the moral might of a people close to God," that if this nation is to conquer the power and evil of communism, "it needs all of the spiritual strength which only a God-fearing, prayerful people can offer."

Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy, speaking from the Pentagon, urged his fellow Americans to follow the commandments of justice and mercy in building the strength of the nation and in laying a secure foundation for the peace of the world.

Most encouraging were the words of 19-year old Tom Peake, of Norton, Va., President of American Legion Boys Nation for 1957, who brought to the oldsters of the nation a message of hope and faith from the 20,000 boys who take part each year in the Legion's Education for Citizenship Program. These youngsters, he said, are representative of American youth who "not only believe in God but practice this belief through prayer, church attendance and a daily, personal effort to keep his commandments."

Once more The American Legion has reminded America to "praise the Lord and pass the ammunition." And it has solemnly memorialized the fifteenth anniversary of the sinking of the transport Dorchester, when the four Chaplains—a Catholic, a Jew and two Protestants—gave their lifejackets to others and arm-in-arm went back to God.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOPEKA, Kans---(ALNS)---By actual count a total of 197 veterans of World War I turned out for a mass meeting called at the home of Capitol Post I here by The American Legion for a discussion of what younger Legionnaires can do for their older fellow veterans.

American Legion speakers - spokesmen of the younger veterans that now make up 80 percent of the membership - reviewed all the rights and benefits that are now available under existing laws for these oldsters. The discussion included service and non-service-connected disabilities, pensions, hospitalization, insurance, burial benefits, widow entitlements, Social Security payments and other pertinent matters.

There was a question and answer panel discussion. Most of the questions were about Social Security and retirement income.

**Claims Initiated**

A number of the older veterans were found eligible for filing claims. Powers of attorney were secured and the claims were initiated. Numerous appointments were made for future filings.

Lasting hours, the meeting was such a success that the Department of Kansas has started plans for similar mass meetings of World War I veterans in other sections of the state.

Commenting on the inspirational aspect of this meeting, one observer commented:

"These were the great fighters of World War I in that global struggle and later the great fighters in The American Legion.

"In war they fought to win to make the world safe for democracy - which did not pan out."

**Morale Builder**

"In peace they fought with equal zest to make the post World War II world safe for the younger veterans - and succeeded in enacting their GI Bills of World War II and of the Korean War which did so much to remove the rehabilitation heartaches from the lives of their younger comrades.

"They did a far better job for the younger veterans than they ever did for themselves. Now they have retired from their arenas of the battles of war and peace. For many of them their sunset days have become days of economic worry and bitter struggle for existence made more poignant by a belief they have become the forgotten men - and women - of The American Legion.

"This Topeka meeting was a great morale builder for them. It demonstrated the youth of The American Legion has not forgotten them!"
FOND du LAC, Wis.—(ALNS)—The Mid-Winter conference of the Wisconsin American Legion here, February 8 and 9, reached an exciting and unscheduled climax with an early Sunday morning hotel fire that drove 250 partially-clad Legionnaires from their beds into 12 below zero weather. Fortunately no one was hurt.

The sudden evacuation gave Assistant National Adjutant Robert E. Lynch of Indianapolis and Denver, Colorado, an unforgettable and thrilling experience. He was bedded down on the seventh floor of the Hotel Retlaw when he was awakened shortly after 6 a.m. by a violent pounding on his door. At the same time he became aware of the clangor of fire equipment outside. He jumped into his trousers, threw on his overcoat, grabbed his American Legion cap and wallet and joined in the dash for safety down a rear stairway.

The fire had started on the second floor which was gutted. Many Legionnaires housed on that floor suffered more or less from losses of their personal effects.

Past National Commander Erle Cocke, Jr., who had spoken at the annual banquet on Saturday night, left for home at 3 a.m. Sunday, narrowly missing the big evacuation.

It took the firemen some time to subdue the flames. But the Wisconsin Legionnaires are a hardy type. When the excitement was over and the hotel ballroom was found undamaged, they re-assembled to wind up their conference.

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DENVER, Colo.—(ALNS)—The world's largest American Legion Post here - the Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1 - now lays claim to an additional honor.

It claims to have in its ranks the youngest Legionnaire who holds a 40-year continuous American Legion membership card!

He is Russell M. Riggle, a World War I Veteran, who will be 88 on May 31, 1958. He got his 40-year card in January of this year.

Which of the 16,999 other American Legion Posts can beat this claim?
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO, Ill.--(ALNS)--National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr. of the American Legion reported at the annual law and order dinner here that the greatest danger America faces today is the international, criminal conspiracy of Communism, and the "threatening indifference of our citizens to this seditious evil."

Appearing before an American Legion audience attending the banquet sponsored by the Chicago Police Post 207, Commander Gleason said that those Americans who assume that the recent decline in membership of the Communist Party in the United States means a decline in the subversive strength and dedication of Communism, have misread the signs of the times. "They do themselves and our nation a disservice if they interpret the suspension of publication of The Daily Worker as further proof of the failing appeal and danger of Communism in America," he said.

"The Communist conspiracy in America needs no help from us to endanger our security and survival. It is already a real and present danger that nourishes itself and grows on indifference and complacency. It is up to you and me, to The American Legion and to other patriotic Americans to keep our fellow-citizens alert to the insidious, destructive evil in our midst," Commander Gleason declared.

Because of the timeliness of Commander Gleason's address, copies of the text have been reproduced for use at post meetings, before civic groups and other appropriate occasions. Requests for copies should be addressed to the National Public Relations Division, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C.---(ALNS)---Among the recommended changes in the Servicemen's and Veterans' Survivor Benefits Act (P.L. 88-1 - 84th Congress) which The American Legion has sent to Capitol Hill is a proposal to eliminate the present ceiling imposed on the amounts a widow with children may receive from the Veterans Administration.

The present law does not provide for additional VA death payments to widows with multiple children, and The American Legion seeks to remove the ceiling and have the law amended to authorize specific amounts for each additional child.

Resolution No. 46 of the May 1957 National Executive Committee meeting authorized the National Rehabilitation Commission to continue its studies of P.L. 88-1 and to prepare desired amendatory legislation. A preliminary study just completed has been transmitted by the National Legislative Commission to the former members of the House Select Committee which considered the basic legislation and to all members of the House Veteran Affairs Committee.

Other recommendations call for modifying the law governing death payments to the parents. Under the new law many of the dependent parents are deprived of death compensation payments.

The American Legion at the Miami National Convention in 1955 gave qualified approval to this legislation and reserved the right to come back to Congress with recommendations to erase inequities that remained in the act.

John C. Vivine, former governor of Colorado, past national American Legion executive committeeman, and one of the originators of the National Rehabilitation Commission, has been honored in Denver with the annual Good Citizenship Medal and Citation of the Colorado Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

An informative set of two articles in the current strategy of the Communist apparatus in the United States refers to the American hopes to destroy the country's internal security system. Available from the American Legion News Service, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

The Cincinnati Redlegs have signed Third Baseman Fred Fox and Outfielder Harry Panaro of the 1957 national championship American Legion Junior Baseball team sponsored by Ohio's Bentley Post 50 to play in 1958 on their farm club at Palatka of the Class D. Florida State League.

Third Baseman Fred Fox signed by the Redlegs was the 1957 American Legion Junior Baseball Player of the Year with a booming batting average of .412 in interstate tournament play which helped the Bentley Post entry win the national title.

Her host of friends was saddened February 13 by the death due to a heart attack of Mrs. Verna Grimm at Munster, Ind., where she went to live with a daughter after retiring October 1st 1957 upon completion of 34 years of outstanding service as national librarian of The American Legion.

Philip W. Collins, 66, president of The American Legion 1958 National Convention Corporation of Chicago and for many years a nationally-prominent Legionnaire, died there February 13.

Dr. Leonard G. Rowntree, of Miami, Fla., assistant chief medical adviser of The American Legion, was honored on February 3rd with an honorary degree of doctor of letters by the University of Miami.

The national championship band of The American Legion sponsored by the Charles Carey Post 56 of Salem, Ohio, has just received a double honor attesting to its high community standing. The Salem Chamber of Commerce set up a committee to raise funds so the band can defend its national title in Chicago next September, while the Salem JAYCEES presented their distinguished service award to the Band Director Chester M. Brautigan.

John C. Vivian, former governor of Colorado, past national American Legion executive committeeman and one of the organizers of the National Rehabilitation Commission, has been honored in Denver with the annual Good Citizenship Medal and Citation of the Colorado Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

An informative set of four articles on the current strategy of the Communist apparatus in the United States designed to use American dupes to destroy the country's internal security system, is available from The American Legion News Service, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Indiana.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2/21/58

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., ---(ALNS)---The suggestion to all American Legion Posts to invite eligible veterans - and to include the wives of such prospective members to their 1958 birthday parties in March has been advanced by George Rulon, new national membership director.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to have the eligible veteran and his wife at your party to let them both realize that The American Legion is a family institution," Director Rulon said. "In most American Legion Posts we have a remarkable family teamwork operation in carrying out our programs. Most of our posts have their Auxiliary Units. Many posts and units have joint meetings. At all time the Auxiliary Units work closely with their American Legion Posts. So the wife can share in The American Legion's bid for the interest and activity of every eligible veteran who is married."

An American Legion Post birthday party is an ideal opportunity to acquaint eligible veterans with all the fine aspects of the activities of Legionnaires including their accomplishments and current objectives, according to Rulon.

DENVER, Colo.---(ALNS)---John C. Vivian, former governor of Colorado, a past National Executive Committeeman of The American Legion and one of the organizers of the National Rehabilitation Commission has just been the recipient of a high honor.

He has been awarded the Good Citizenship Medal and Citation by the Colorado Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The presentation was made at the Society's annual George Washington Dinner on February 22.

Vivian served as department commander of the Colorado American Legion in 1924-25, as national rehabilitation vice chairman in 1932-33, as a member of the National Legislative Commission in 1946-47 and as NEC member in 1947-48. He was on the National Rehabilitation Commission for Area "E" from 1923 to 1936.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CINCINNATI, Ohio—(ALNS)—The Cincinnati Reds have signed two members of the 1957 national American Legion Junior Baseball championship team sponsored by Bentley Post 50 here. One of them is The American Legion Junior Baseball Player of the Year.

The two youths are Third Baseman Fred Fox and Outfielder Harry Panaro. Young Fox was the 1957 "Player of the Year" in American Legion Junior Baseball. His name has been inscribed at Baseball's Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N. Y.

Both youths were given contracts with the Redlegs' Palatka, Florida, farm club of the Class D Florida State League.

Cincinnati fans of young Fox call him the "Cinderella Boy of Baseball."

Overcoming physical obstacles, the 5-foot, 155-pound slugger contributed a booming .412 batting average in the interstate tournaments to help the Bentley team to the national title. It won for him the Hillerich and Bradsby Batting Trophy.

SALEM, Ohio—(ALNS)—The value of the national championship Quaker City American Legion Band as a community asset has just been acknowledged doubly by local business leaders.

On the same day that a local Chamber of Commerce Committee was named to raise funds so that the Salem Band could defend its national title at the 40th national convention of The American Legion in Chicago, Ill., next September, there another testimonial.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce of Salem presented its distinguished award to Chester M. Brautigam, the director of the championship American Legion Band. The JAYCEES honored the director both for his services with the band and for his promotion of American Legion Junior Baseball here.

Director Brautigam is principal of an elementary school. Despite the fact he is ineligible for membership in the Charles Carey Post 56 of The American Legion which sponsors the title-winning band, he has devoted many years to working in Legion programs.
NOTE TO EDITORS:

Hereewith is a series of four articles on the current Communist conspiracy in the United States. They can be carried under the by-lines of your department or post chairman of Americanism or Counter-subversive Activities. Such by-lined articles can also be used as post releases for hometown newspapers.

NO. 1

The American Legion herewith presents a factual summary of current developments on the Red Firing Line that have brought into sharp new focus the dimensions and the 1958 grand strategy of the Communist conspiracy within the United States.

The picture began to develop with an alert on February 10th by Vice President Richard N. Nixon of the United States that coincided with a simultaneous new report of the House Committee on Un-American Activities released by Chairman Francis E. Walter, Democrat of Pennsylvania. The Committee is making its annual report in seven sections this year, the first being released on February 10.

Nixon's Warning

Vice President Nixon, himself a Legionnaire of long affiliation, in a press interview warned solemnly that America's greatest danger today is "not war, but losing to Soviet Russia without a war!"

Obviously he had in mind that the ideological clash today between Freedom and Communism was a struggle for the control of the minds of men everywhere. In this struggle the greatest Communist prize would be the capture of the American mind!

Nixon said he fears history will "look back on this period and record that we were properly alerted to the military danger, but not adequately aware of the far greater peril of Soviet non-military penetration."

Congressional Report

Chairman Walter's first installment of his Committee's annual report, took up where Vice President Nixon left off. It bared a 1958 Kremlin-hatched and directed nationwide campaign of political subversion in the United States which he asserted "may emerge as the most successful technique thus far devised by the Soviet apparatus in this country!"

He charged that more than one million Americans have been enlisted by the Kremlin in this political subversion campaign designed to destroy the United States security system. This massive use of "American dupes" he emphasized resulted from a new strategy developed by the Reds of penetrating non-Communist organizations whose activities they could exploit.

Exhaustive investigations and hearings conducted by his Committee, Chairman Walter reported, uncovered "new areas of Communist infiltration of industry and the arts." He said his Committee "brought to light Communist penetration of the communications systems of key government agencies and the deluge of Communist propaganda through various pipelines to minority and nationality groups in the United States."
He emphasized that as the formal party structure receded from view, it was being replaced by a widespread underground apparatus.

Legal Weapons Blunted

The Red Fifth Column has been enjoying a field day in the United States since last June when the Supreme Court decided several appeals of convicted Communists in their favor on the grounds of fine legal technicalities. These decisions virtually nullified the Smith Act and other laws and placed other technical roadblocks in the way of prosecuting Communists.

The immediate effect was the release of at least 59 known leaders of the Communist conspiracy in the United States. The Department of Justice considers these 59 Communists among the worst enemies of America. They are free today to continue their plotting to overthrow our government by force or violence or through the technique of infiltration, while the hands of government law enforcement agencies are tied by the adverse court rulings that blunted our legal weapons.

Criticizing the court decisions is like crying over spilled milk. It serves no good purpose. The milk has to be replaced and put into tilt-proof containers. This means that since the highest court found our laws defective under a hair-splitting scrutiny, the job that must be done without delay is to forge new legal weapons -- laws that will stand up under the most exacting technical dissection. This takes time. Meanwhile the fight against Communism has been set back 20 years.

Hoover's Warning

All these late developments support the warning delivered by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover before the 39th national convention of The American Legion in Atlantic City last September.

The FBI Chief asserted that a "twin-headed monster of subversion and lawlessness" endangered the nation's survival as never before. He charged this twin-headed monster found a favorable climate in an alarming growth of public apathy. He deplor ed an increasing nationwide "softness toward all wrongdoing."

Co-Existence Conditioning

On the world front, Moscow and every Red satellite currently are waging intensive propaganda campaigns to condition human minds to the "virtues" of co-existence. The air waves over the United States on virtually all low-frequency radio lengths every night are filled with Communist broadsides from Radio Moscow, Radio Warsaw, Radio Prague, Radio Budapest, Radio Sophia and other channels, all selling "co-existence!" Any short wave set will receive these programs - any night.

The American Legion asks "how can you co-exist with those who don't want you to exist?" It is on par with emptying all of our prisons and asylums to "co-exist" with killers and lunatics!

At home Americans also are being sold on the "virtues" of "summit talks." This "rush act" ignores utterly that America has nothing to gain unless she agrees to the "wetting of all her powder" in exchange for a Soviet "promise!" Every realistic Legionnaire knows that something very essential is missing at any Soviet conference table - the vital element of integrity and honor! Its absence makes any Russian agreements worthless because the first tenet of Communism is that any means justify the end! The Soviet record of violating every one of 69 solemn treaties, pacts, agreements and guarantees since World War II speaks eloquently for itself. If any security and preparedness concessions are made at any "summit talk" it will mean only another Communist triumph in the "cold war" to add to its long list!
Destruction of the entire internal security system of the United States is the objective of a Kremlin-hatched and directed nationwide campaign of political subversion launched in this country by the Communist Party.

The first breach in American internal security is to be emasculation or repeal of the Immigration and Nationality Act in the shaping of which The American Legion played a vital role.

The American Legion has a 1957 national convention mandate to resist all attacks on this basic internal security law. It thus comes into a headlong collision with this nationwide political subversion campaign of the Communist Party on the 1958 legislative front.

The nature and dimension of this vast and ambitious new strategy of the Communist apparatus was bared on February 10 in the first of seven installments of the annual report of the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Committee Chairman Francis E. Walter, Democrat of Pennsylvania, charged the Kremlin had enrolled more than a million Americans in its fantastic new nationwide campaign of political subversion. He called this a conservative estimate. The participation of these Americans in this vast campaign ranged from membership in a far-flung network of Communist-front organization to the signing of Communist-sponsored petitions and substantial financial contributions.

"It is fair to say that many of these people would be aghast if they understood the full import of their activities and the extent to which they benefit the Communist conspiracy," he emphasized.

Blueprints Red Plan

"The clear objective of this campaign is the destruction of the entire security system of the United States," Chairman Walter warned. "More immediately it seeks to cripple the anti-subversive programs of the Executive Department and the Congress, to shackle or abolish the Committee on Un-American Activities and to discredit the FBI and its Director J. Edgar Hoover."

His Committee, the chairman said, obtained evidence which confirms these conclusions:

1 - Political subversion has become a paramount instrument of the Communist Party's program for conquest of the United States.

2 - The Communist Party, through affiliate organizations, has mobilized all its resources to render ineffective the Immigration and Nationality Act and other legislation bearing upon the security of this nation.

3 - By disguising its real purpose, the Communist Party, through affiliate organizations, succeeded in duping a great number of well-intentioned citizens into collaborating with the Party.

4 - The spearhead of an overall drive to mutilate the Immigration and Nationality Act and other security legislation is the Communist Party and its affiliates.
5 - The Communist Party, through camouflaged instruments, has subjected the platform committees of both major political parties, state legislatures and the Congress to letters, petitions and personal appeals designed to fabricate the impression "that a broad, popular sentiment exists for deliberating the nation's immigration and security systems."

6 - Many proposals made in Congress for major changes in the Immigration and Nationality Act and other security measures coincide with expressed objectives of the Communist Party.

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Red Front Masks

The Reds have pumped new life into their "front" organizations and added a few new twists. But in keeping with their basic strategy all of these groups masquerade under names that have a traditional appeal to Americans.

The American Legion repeatedly has warned that the favorite masks under which Communist front organizations hide include titles that are linked with peace, culture, rehabilitation, disaster relief, brotherhood, the arts and sciences, "uplift" movements, ethics, education, economics, religion, cooperation, - in fact every kind of a cause that sounds decent and rings a bell in decent hearts.

The new Red wrinkle according to Chairman Walter now is the taking over of organizations that appear to be independent and autonomous and gaining control. The strategy lies in making the "dupe" work hard for what they think to be "noble ends" without realizing they are cat's paws in the overall Communist strategy.

What To Do!

To protect himself - or herself - against immeasurable possible future embarrassment, every American citizen approached to join any group should "Investigate Before You Affiliate!"

The American Legion in its National Americanism Offices in Indianapolis and Washington, D. C., has an amazing record of front organizations and of individuals who have been active in organizing such groups. Any citizen can address an inquiry to these American Legion Offices and get honest and authenticated information.

There is just no excuse today NOT to "Investigate Before You Affiliate!"

Don't ever be misled by fancy letter-heads with a lot of known names listed as sponsors. The Reds have a habit to printing up such letter-heads without even the knowledge of such notables.

Don't ever be persuaded to permit the adding of your name to any such list. You may wind up by becoming the first real sucker on a phony list!
"Investigate before you affiliate!"

This age-old American Legion warning has acquired new and fresh force with the 1958 Congressional Report that a million American "dupes" had been enrolled in more than 200 new or re-activated Communist front organizations designed to provide manpower and funds for a grand Kremlin-directed campaign to take over America with non-military penetration.

In the first installment of a 7-section annual report of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Chairman Francis E. Walter on February 10th flatly charged that millions of dollars collected from well-intentioned but "duped" Americans were financing what he termed a Kremlin-directed national campaign of political subversion in the United States. Its chief purpose is the destruction of the internal security system of the United States with the immediate object of doing away with the McCarran-Walter Act, otherwise known as the Immigration and Nationality Act.

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Don't ever be persuaded to permit the adding of your name to any such list. You may wind up by becoming the first real sucker on a phony list!
Catholic Archbishop RICHARD J. CUSHING of Boston, Mass., has come out with a very timely list of 10 "SINS AGAINST CITIZENSHIP" which every American should know because the Communists count on them to help them take this nation over.

Here is the list. CLIP IT! DISPLAY IT! PUBLICIZE IT!

INDIFFERENCE: "I'm not interested in politics."

LAZINESS: "I'm too busy."

GREED: "I'm doing o. k. as things are."

PREJUDICE: "I'll vote for him because he's one of our kind."

FALSE PRIDE: "I'm not going to get mixed up in dirty politics."

CYNICISM: "My one vote won't make any difference."

HAPLESS: "Pressure groups run the show."

INELIGIBLE: "I didn't register."

WHY BOTHER?: "Politicians are all alike."

COWARDICE: "I don't want my character assailed."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — (press) — (press) — The American Legion has received firm assurance that the second session of the 85th Congress will "not take one dime from a veteran."

Congress is in no mood to "take one dime from a veteran" was the word received from the House Veterans Affairs Committee Feb. 25 at the opening of The American Legion National Rehabilitation Conference in the Nation's Capitol.

The national Sunday newspaper supplement Parade carried to a mass audience of 8,000,000 families a hard-hitting statement by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion on why American youth must be taught the truth about Communism.

The American Legion has won a $1,000 award from Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Penn., for its Americanism and youth training programs.

All Americans have been urged to donate life-giving blood to the American Red Cross through community blood banks by Robert M. McCurdy, national rehabilitation chairman of The American Legion.

The American Legion has opened offices in preparation for its 40th National Convention at 8 South Dearborn St., Room 1012, Chicago, Ill.

The American Legion has urged Congress to adopt the Cordiner military pay plan.

Army Times saluted the National Rehabilitation Conference of The American Legion, Feb. 25 to 28, with a special four-page rehabilitation supplement.

The American Legion of North Dakota has won the Gen. John J. Pershing membership award for 1958.

The Iowa American Legion was the third department to pass its 1958 membership quota.
WASHINGTON, D.C.--(ALNS)--The American Legion has received firm assurance that the second session of the 85th Congress will "not take one dime from a veteran."

These words climaxed a dramatic hearing held by the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Feb. 25, in Washington, D.C., to receive American Legion testimony and views on 1958 veteran legislation and the future of the entire VA hospital and medical program.

The words were those of Olin E. Teague of Texas, chairman of the committee, after National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., and National Rehabilitation chairman Robert M. McCurdy had completed a two-hour joint presentation on behalf of The American Legion.

It was a jammed, standing-room-only session with more than 500 American Legion department and post service officers and rehabilitation leaders from all parts of the country attending.

"You have nothing to fear from this session of the Congress," Chairman Teague declared. "This committee is very sympathetic. You need have no fear as to what will happen to the veteran program." This assurance was greeted with prolonged applause from the assembled Legionnaires.

Other Assurances

Chairman Teague's declaration was supported by statements of members of his committee.

Rep. James A. Haley of Florida stated, "I think The American Legion can stop worrying about the Bradley report. I don't think it will get anywhere in this Congress - and it shouldn't."

Congressman John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania said, "Putting the dollar sign on disabled veterans is the last thing this committee wants." He expressed the committee's concern over what he called the "daily violation of two major presumptions to which veterans are entitled."

The first presumption, he pointed out, is that a man or woman taken into service who passed the medical examination of induction is supposed to have entered the service in a fit condition.

MORE
The second presumption is that every veteran in presenting a claim is entitled to have any reasonable doubt resolved in his favor.

Representative Saylor also asserted it is not the intention of Congress that veteran pensions should be deducted from Social Security benefits. "Social Security is something you have paid for," he said. "A pension is something you have earned."

Gleason's Presentation

Commander Gleason said Congressional action this year will involve:

1 - Legislation to improve existing programs and correct existing inequities.

2 - Defense of the present program of veteran benefits, including hospital and medical care, against attacks from without and within the government, designed to curtail or eliminate essential elements of this program.

He asked the committee to accomplish these objectives:

1 - Revitalization and effective operation of the home loan guaranty program.

2 - Action to assure that funds appropriated by the Congress for the VA hospital and medical program, including construction and maintenance of hospitals and medical facilities, are fully used.

McCurdy's Review

Rehabilitation Chairman McCurdy outlined to the committee in simple but forceful language how the program of hospital and medical care and veteran benefits was being whittled away by some who were usurping the committee's powers and thwarting the will of Congress.

He sketched delays by the Bureau of the Budget in putting into use funds appropriated by the Congress for VA hospital construction and maintenance.

He hit at the present review of compensation cases and disability ratings by boards "down whose necks somebody was breathing" to reverse former decisions, to slash ratings and payments and to violate the presumption that every veteran was entitled to have a reasonable doubt resolved in his favor.

He exposed the penny-wise, pound-foolish and health-imperiling policy of cutting down on TB beds and care at a time when the "incidence of this white plague was on the rise." He emphasized the local cost that ensued of caring for patients with only arrested cases.

He deplored the "cold-war" which administration sources have been waging against the entire veteran program with vicious rumors of evil things to come.
FOR RELEASE MARCH 3, 1958, OR LATER 2/28/58

NEW YORK, N.Y.--(ALNS)--In a straight-from-the-shoulder message beamed to
8,000,000 homes through the Sunday news magazine PARADE, National Commander John S.
Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion has told why "young America must learn to know
the enemy."

The by-lined article by Commander Gleason published on Mar. 2 explains the
action of The American Legion's National Executive Committee last November in urging
"that children in every U. S. public and private secondary school should be taught
about Communism, its history and its vast fallacies."

"Know your enemy," Commander Gleason says, "is the oldest military maxim in the
world." He adds that it is not enough to know his military strength, weapons and
tactics. "It is vital to know the mind of the enemy, his history, his fears and am¬
bitions, his form of government, his national character, his strengths and weaknesses,"
the Legion chief points out.

Calling attention to the fact that President Eisenhower has bluntly stated that
Russian leaders are waging "total cold war" against the West, Commander Gleason as¬
serts that young people of the United States have generally not been prepared to under¬
stand and deal with this world threat to our way of life.

"If I were an educator," he wrote, "I could not sleep nights if I were not
doing everything in my power to see that our children - the citizens and leaders of
tomorrow - know all that they can know about Communism. They must escape its entrap¬
ments and learn to deal with it realistically."

The statement by The American Legion head received featured treatment by PARADE
magazine, appearing on page 6, along with a picture of Commander and Mrs. Gleason and
their six sons in their Winnetka, Ill., home.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2/28/58

VALLEY FORGE, Penn.-(ALNS)--Top awards of the independent, non-profit Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Penn., have been won by The American Legion.

The Legion was selected to receive one of three Americana Awards of $1,000 and an encased George Washington Honor Medal for its youth work, including Boys State and Nation, oratorical contest, junior baseball, flag education, and delinquency prevention work.

The American Legion Auxiliary was announced winner of a George Washington Honor Medal for its citizenship training work. In the "Community Programs" category, The American Legion, Department of Tennessee also received a George Washington Honor Medal for its "Back to God Program."

The still picture captioned "It's Your Flag, Fly It Proudly," used in The American Legion's flag education work, also earned a George Washington Honor Medal. The photograph was made for The American Legion by W. H. Bass of Indianapolis.

William J. Toth, one of the four finalists in The American Legion's 1957 National High School Oratorical Contest, earned a similar medal in the youth public address category for his speech at Lancaster, Penn., entitled "U.S.A.-Haven of Exiles."

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(ALNS)--Roscoe Turner, colorful chairman of The American Legion's National Aeronautics Committee, has urged Congress to adopt the Cordier military pay plan to avoid the excessive and critical turnover of military personnel.

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(ALNS)--In a salute to The American Legion National Rehabilitation Conference, Feb. 25 to 28, Army Times issued a special four-page rehabilitation supplement.

ROOSEVELT, Utah---(ALNS)--Basin Post 64 of The American Legion claims to be the first Utah Post and the first organization of any kind in the Uintah Basin to purchase U. S. Government Series E Bonds under a recent Treasury ruling making patriotic and civic groups eligible to buy E or H bonds.

* PR ASSIST NEEDED *

* Appearing elsewhere in this week's ALNS is a release on Commander Gleason's article in Parade of Mar. 2, 1958. You can help demonstrate the value of this * article by sending a word of thanks to Jess Gorkin, Editor, PARADE, 285 Madison * Ave., New York 17, N. Y. *
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2-28-58

WASHINGTON, D.C.--(ALNS)--An appeal for all Americans to donate life-giving blood through their community blood banks has been made by Robert M. McCurdy, chairman of The American Legion's National Rehabilitation Commission.

At a meeting of the Legion's Medical Advisory Board on Feb. 24, McCurdy urged citizens of all ages to give blood now to replenish supplies throughout the nation to meet possible future emergencies.

"Many Legionnaires know the importance of the American Red Cross program from first-hand knowledge gained on the battlefield. That is why the Legion through its National Security Commission has supported this program. However, the giving of blood is only half the support this program needs. Collecting, processing, packing and distributing blood and blood products are supported solely by voluntary contributions to the Red Cross," McCurdy said.

"To meet the rising cost of processing blood and blood products, it is imperative that the Red Cross be fully supported in this vital and most important program. I feel sure that the citizens of America will be proud to help," he added, suggesting that where it was impossible to give blood, an extra $1.00 be added to the contribution to the 1958 Red Cross drive.

"The blood program which we of The American Legion wholeheartedly support is certainly one in the spirit of the preamble to the constitution of our great organization, which states 'to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation ... and to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness,'" the Legion rehabilitation chairman concluded.

CHICAGO, Ill.--(ALNS)--In preparation for the 40th National Convention of The American Legion to be held here Aug. 30 to Sept. 4, 1958, offices for the convention corporation have been established at 8 South Dearborn St., Room 1012, Chicago Ill. On duty are Miss Edith Shutters, convention coordinator, and William H. Miller, assistant convention director.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DES MOINES, Iowa---(ALNS)---The Iowa American Legion became the third department to top its 1958 membership quota when on Feb. 20 it reported a membership of 83,634 against its quota of 82,961, for a percentage of 100.81. Previous quota-breaking departments were North Dakota, which stood at 143.94 percent of quota at latest count, and South Dakota with 110.89 percent.

SAN JUAN, P. R.---(ALNS)---A dream has come true for The American Legion Department of Puerto Rico, which has acquired a permanent headquarters. The new offices are in a spacious three-story mansion on a quarter of an acre atop a hill facing a beautiful lagoon and surrounded by colorful gardens.

Department Commander Oscar Romero reports that the present membership of Puerto Rico has surpassed 7,000 and anticipates a record-breaking year of expansion. The department is distributing 10,000 copies of the Legion publication "Saved by the Bell" to non-member veterans throughout the island.

FARGO, N. D.---(ALNS)---The North Dakota American Legion, which is famous for winning membership awards, has earned the Gen. John J. Pershing Honor Award for the first time. The award goes to the department which on Dec. 31 has the highest percentage of posts with 100 percent or more of the previous year's membership. By that date 91 of North Dakota's 238 posts (38.24 percent) had enrolled for 1958 as many members as they had in 1957.

CHICAGO, Ill.---(ALNS)---The American Legion Press Association of Chicago has presented awards for outstanding coverage of Legion affairs to three staff members of the Chicago American - City Editor Wesley Hartzell and writers Norman Glubok and Charles Trowbridge.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following editorial appeared in The Army Times of March 1, 1958:

SERVICE TO THE VETERAN

The American Legion's national rehabilitation service has been in operation for more than 35 years and has helped countless thousands of veterans and their dependents in gaining those benefits to which they were entitled under law.

The word "rehabilitate" as defined by Webster means to "restore to efficiency, to solvency, to fit to make one's livelihood again, and to reinstate."

But the work of The American Legion in this department cannot be solely described as falling within these literal definitions of the word that identifies the mission.

Much of the department's efforts have been concentrated on details related to--but apart from--actual rehabilitation. These efforts, however, have always been aimed at helping the veteran. And the going hasn't always been easy.

Many people believe the term rehabilitation applies only to the disabled, those veterans who returned from the wars with physical impairments that often made it necessary for them to adapt to an entire new mode of life. This interpretation is true as far as it goes, but it gives only a partial understanding of the full meaning of rehabilitation.

The veteran who returns uninjured also must be rehabilitated--must be aided in making a smooth readjustment to the civilian society he left to enter the military. This double responsibility, first to the disabled and then to the uninjured veteran, makes rehabilitation a program of vast scope, one that eventually touches almost every ex-GI.

As the veteran population grows, and more laws covering benefits are added to the books, so the Legion's rehabilitation service grows. This paper is pleased to devote a special section of this issue to a service which always stands ready to assist those who served the nation.