The men who fathered the G. I. Bill of Rights will gather in Indianapolis, Ind., during The American Legion National Executive Committee meeting to begin the painstaking process of compiling a factual accounting of events surrounding the birth, growth and accomplishments of the most significant veterans' legislation of all time. Legion Past National Commander Warren Atherton of Stockton, Calif., has called a breakfast meeting of members of that select group for 8 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 19. As Legion chief in 1943-44, he appointed the Legion's Special Omnibus G. I. Bill of Rights Committee in Nov., 1943.

American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith of Beemer, Neb., was in South Vietnam Sept. 30-Oct. 4, during his current Far East fact-finding tour for the Legion.

An official of Free China has commended The American Legion for its latest action at the Boston National Convention in a long effort directed at opposition to the seating of representatives of Red China in the United Nations and the diplomatic recognition by the United States of the communist regime on mainland China.

The Maryland American Legion Department has joined the war on rats in Baltimore by providing a $1,000 grant toward the formation of a "Health Patrol" comprised of three college students. The aim of the effort is rodent eradication based on a thorough survey, direct attack and maintenance of a clean-up status.

A total of 37 graduates of The American Legion Baseball Program are eligible for participation in the 1967 World Series as the St. Louis Cardinals and the Boston Red Sox square off for the world championship. Eighteen men on the Cardinal roster, certified for competition by Baseball Commissioner William D. Eckert, and 19 members of the Red Sox aggregation are former Legion Baseball players.

The Minnesota National Guard will have a chapel at its Camp Ripley Training Center, and the Minnesota American Legion Department will have had a share in the worthy project. The department recently presented a $22,600 check toward its projected $25,000 contribution for the construction of the chapel to be used by over 45,000 Guardsmen.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—The men who fathered the G. I. Bill of Rights will gather here during The American Legion National Executive Committee's fall meeting to begin the painstaking process of compiling a factual accounting of events surrounding the birth, growth and accomplishments of the most significant veterans' legislation of all time.

Legion Past National Commander Warren Atherton of Stockton, Calif., who as Legion Chief in 1943-44, appointed The American Legion's Special Omnibus G.I. Bill of Rights Committee in Nov., 1943 with the approval of the National Executive Committee, has called a breakfast meeting of surviving members of that select group for 8 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Indianapolis Athletic Club.

Nearly 11 million American veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam have benefited from the educational provisions of the G.I. Bill alone, and additional millions have received invaluable assistance in making the transition back to productive civilian life following military service.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the G.I. Bill in 1964, it was calculated that the cost of the legislation had been repaid to the government in increased tax revenues from servicemen whose earning power had been enhanced by benefits derived from the Bill.

Addressing his letter of invitation to the men who authored this historic legislation to "Dear G.I. 'Bills,"' Mr. Atherton said, in part: "We were the team who conceived, developed, presented, fought for, and secured the passage of the G.I. Bill. Millions have benefited. They are operating businesses, practicing professions and living in homes acquired with G.I. aid. The Legion and Auxiliary have had very little recognition of the great service they rendered to the nation and the veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, through the self-help provisions of the G.I. Bill. Few beneficiaries know who made it possible for them to start a new life."

To establish the record, and the methods whereby it will be accomplished, is the purpose of the session scheduled here later this month.

Mr. Atherton's letter continued: "The purpose will be to hear your recollections of what happened and to receive your suggestions as to how to proceed. If you cannot be with us, please help us by sending any thoughts you have."

These men enlisted the time, talents and resources of literally thousands of other American Legionnaires in perfecting the Bill and bringing about its passage.

Surviving members of that historic group to whom invitations have been sent include:

MORE

Colmery, Waldrip, Rorex and McCurdy are the surviving members of the original five-man committee. The others served in an ex-officio, or advisory capacity. Cejnar, the only Indianapolis member of the group, is in St. Vincent's Hospital recuperating from a recent illness.

The late John Stelle, Past National Commander (1945-46) and former Governor of Illinois, McLeansboro, Ill.; was the fifth member of the committee proper.

The other ex-officio or advisory group members, now deceased, were:

INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—A special Gold Star Flag for use in funeral processions recently was made available through National Emblem Sales, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

The 12 by 18-inch flag of heavy weight nylon has a red border with a white center field and an embroidered gold star in the center. It is finished for use on the standard auto fender holder. The price is $5.95 each. A fender type flag holder also is available for it at $7.50 each.
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—"Something personal" from the loved ones at home topped the list of Christmas gifts preferred by servicemen overseas, according to a recently completed survey by American Red Cross workers serving with U. S. Forces around the world.

Family snapshots and portraits, voice tapes, hometown newspapers, and many more letters were the most frequent gift suggestions made by servicemen in Europe, Korea, Japan, Vietnam and at other military posts overseas. Another timely tip: for the folks back home was to use hometown newspapers as packing in holiday parcels to give the serviceman additional enjoyment as he catches up on the latest news from home.

Almost as important as the gifts themselves is the need to mail them in sufficient time for delivery before Christmas Day, the Red Cross said. U. S. Post Office deadlines for overseas mailings are Nov. 10, if by surface, or Dec. 10, if by airmail. Many families mail their gifts a week or two in advance of these dates.

Other gifts high on the list of preferred items include: paperback books, magazines, small puzzles and tabletop games, stationery with self-sealing envelopes, brand name articles known as the serviceman's preference, and even extra money for leaves or purchase of small items from foreign countries.

Home-baked foods as cake or cookies are always welcome, but such perishable gifts are usually not practical gifts for a serviceman in distant tropical areas like Southeast Asia. Individually wrapped hard candy and cookies in metal containers may arrive unspoiled, but even this is not certain.

Family gifts should vary according to a man's military location. Depending on climate, socks, sweaters and other articles of clothing will be welcome if the serviceman is in an area where he can wear civilian clothes when off duty.

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INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—A total of 37 graduates of The American Legion Baseball Program are eligible for participation in the 1967 World Series as the St. Louis Cardinals and the Boston Red Sox square off for the world championship.

Eighteen men on the Cardinal roster, certified for competition by the office of Baseball Commissioner William D. Eckert, and 19 members of the Red Sox aggregation are former American Legion Baseball players, according to Daniel J. O’Connor, Chairman of the Legion’s National Americanism Commission.

Members of the Cardinal team who played American Legion Baseball as a stepping stone to the major leagues are: Ed Bressoud, Nelson Briles, Steve Carlton, Curt Flood, Phil Gagliano, Bob Gibson, Dick Hughes and Larry Jaster.

Also, Alex Johnson, Tim McCarver, Roger Maris, Del Maxvill, Dave Ricketts, John Romano, Mike Shannon, Ray Washburn, Ron Willis and Hal Woodeshick.

The following Boston Red Sox players formerly played American Legion Baseball: Jerry Adair, Mike Andrews, Gary Bell, Darrell Brandon, Tony Conigliero, Ken Harrelson, Dalton Jones, Bill Landis, Jim Lomberg, and Al Lyle.

Also: Dave Morehead, Dan Osinski, Norm Siebern, Reggie Smith, Al Stang, Jerry Stephenson, George Thomas, John Wyatt and Carl Yastræmski.

ST. PAUL, MINN.—(ALNS)—The Minnesota National Guard will have a chapel at its Camp Ripley Training Center, and the Minnesota American Legion Department will have had a share in the worthy project.

Department Commander H. T. (Colby) Colbjornsen of Parkers Prairie, recently presented a $22,600 check to be used toward the construction of the chapel to Minnesota Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Chester J. Moeglein, and Lt. Col. Clinton G. Johnson, Minnesota National Guard Association treasurer.

The department hopes to raise a total of $25,000 toward the chapel which will serve the more than 45,000 Guardsmen who use the facilities of the center for summer and other training.

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CHICAGO, ILL.—(ALNS)—The first application for one of the new scholar¬ships to be awarded in 1968 under The American Legion Life Insurance Scholarship Program recently was received at the Legion's Chicago office.

First to make application is Susan Kay Hobbs, daughter of Jack J. Hobbs of 4650 E. 6th Place, Gary, Ind., and a senior at Horace Mann High School. The father, who is a teacher and coach, is a member of Gary's Post 100 of The American Legion. Susan's high school principal has verified her application.

Susan is hoping to be awarded one of 25 scholarships of $2,000 each which will be made during the Legion National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., May 1-2, 1968. The selection will be made by the drawing of lots starting with that NEC meeting and each spring thereafter.

Applications on which to apply for the scholarship are included with the renewable premium notices being mailed to policyholders as a reminder that the 1968 premium is due on or before Dec. 31, 1967. The number of the 1968 Legion membership card also must be submitted with the premium payment.

The scholarship applications contain detailed information on eligibility requirements and instructions for mailing them. Completed applications must be mailed prior to March 1, 1968, to The American Legion Life Insurance Scholarship Program, 13th Floor, 111 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

WICHITA, KAS. --- (ALNS) --- A new generation of war veterans at Wichita State University is finding out about the services available through The American Legion, thanks to the efforts of the Department of Kansas.

A contact service established by the department during the registration period for the fall semester resulted in contacts with 221 veterans of Vietnam Era. Department Service Office personnel, on duty at the registration site, completed or furnished for completion 16 powers of attorney, 25 educational applications, and 36 other miscellaneous forms.

This special service provided by the department not only conveyed to the veteran students the Legion's message of service but also impressed university officials with the effective manner with which The American Legion can handle the special problems and questions posed by veterans.

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WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—William F. Lenker, Chairman of The American Legion Rehabilitation Commission, accompanied by John J. Corcoran, Director, and Edward H. Golembieski, Deputy Director of the National Rehabilitation Commission, appeared before the Veterans' Advisory Commission meeting here this week.

The eleven-man commission, headed by Robert M. McCurdy, met in a three-day session which concluded a nationwide series of hearings in connection with comprehensive study of veterans programs in America.

The commission was established by President Johnson to study the veterans benefits program for the purpose of assuring that our tax dollars are being utilized most wisely and that our government is meeting fully its responsibilities to all veterans and their dependents.

Lenker pointed out that veterans benefits are not new either in theory or in practice. The man who offered his life and services in defense of his country during time of war has always been placed, by the nation he defended, in a distinct group. Special grants have been given veterans not as pay, but in token of his fellow citizens' appreciation.

"The American Legion," he states, "believes the veterans program ought to retain its characteristics as a veterans program, and would not develop into a general welfare plan in which the Veterans Administration attempts to be all things to all people."

Enumerating the concepts and principles that have served as guidelines to The American Legion for the past century, Lenker noted that the care of veterans is the obligation of the total population and should be handled through a single Federal agency decentralized to the greatest extent possible.

"Today, the scope of activities of the Veterans Administration is staggering," Lenker declared. It is the third largest employer among Federal agencies. Over

(More)
94-million persons are potentially eligible for veterans benefits. The VA operates the largest chain of hospitals in the country.

Lenker added: "We believe that the size and importance of the Veterans Administration argue forcefully that the agency should be a cabinet department."

"The American Legion believes the medical care of veterans should be second to none and sufficient funds should be provided to effectively and efficiently operate VA medical, hospital and nursing care programs," Lenker emphasized.

The Legion requests that burial allowance be increased from $250 to $350, and that there be developed and maintained an adequate system of National Cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Veterans Administration, Lenker pointed out.

Compensation and pension benefits to veterans and their dependents were extensively covered by the Legion representatives. It was contended that these economic assistance programs should insure that veterans and their dependents can live in decency and dignity.

Lenker recommended that consideration be given to increasing compensation for the totally disabled service-connected veteran to not less than $500 per month.

He also advocated that "monthly rates of disability bear the same ratio to that payable for 100 per cent disability as the percentages of disability bear to 100 per cent, and that death benefits to widows, children, and dependents be increased and liberalized realistically to meet the needs of dependents."

In the field of pension benefits the Legion urged that death and disability pension benefits for veterans and their widows be increased.

Lenker stated, "Because of increased cost of living, frequent adjustments in annual income limitation and monthly rates of pension need be made to carry out this obligation. Cost of living increases in the social security benefit area, proposed by the President and now receiving Congressional consideration, mandate that adjustments be made in the death and disability pension benefit program to avoid the situation where veterans or their widows will suffer a loss in gross income."

In view of this, we recommend:

A) Refinement of annual income limitation steps;
B) Increased rates of pension;
C) Increased annual income limitations.

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INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—The Department of the Navy has requested The American Legion Education and Scholarship Program to seek the support of Legionnaires in disseminating information on the 22nd Nationwide Annual Regular Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Program.

This program subsidizes a college education which will lead to a regular commission and a career in the naval service. Although you may not be eligible perhaps your neighbors have sons, relatives, or other friends who may be eligible to compete for the Regular NROTC Program.

Benefits including a four-year subsidized college education where the Navy pays tuition and associated fees, textbooks, uniforms and $50 per month to help defray the cost of board and room. Application forms for the 1968 program are now available and should reach potential applicants in time for them to qualify with the testing agency by Nov. 17, 1967. The Navy College Aptitude Test will be administered on Dec. 9, 1967.

The Regular NROTC trains and educates selected candidates at 52 leading colleges and universities for careers as officers in the Regular Navy and Marine Corps. Applicants must be high school seniors or graduates who are at least 17 but not over 21 years of age by June 30, 1968.

Complete details, including application forms are available from high school principals or counselors, at Navy Recruiting Stations, or they may be obtained by writing to the Chief of Naval Personnel, Pers-B6411, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C. 20370.

AUGUSTA, ME.—(ALNS)—Daniel E. Lambert of Orrington, vice commander of the Maine American Legion Department and a member of the Legion National Public Relations Commission, has been re-nominated by Gov. Kenneth Curtis to a third term on the Governor's Commission to Keep Maine Scenic. An original member of the state commission, Lambert is executive secretary of the Brewer Chamber of Commerce.

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WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—Each National Convention of The American Legion from 1950 forward has adopted strong resolutions in opposition to the seating of representatives of Red China in the United Nations and the diplomatic recognition by the United States of the communist regime on mainland China.

The recent Boston Convention added to this the Legion's opposition to any similar regime or regimes which might arise on mainland China as a result of the current power struggle there.

Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith was very pleased to receive the reaction of the Free Chinese to the Legion resolution in the form of a letter from the Hon. CHAO Tsu-yu, Chairman of Nationalist China's Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen. Chairman CHAO's government position is comparable to that of the U. S. Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

The text of Chairman CHAO's letter follows:

"I would like to extend to you our warmest congratulations on the success of your Convention in Boston, Massachusetts.

"I have read with considerable interest of your resolution reiterating the opposition of The American Legion to Red China's entry into the United Nations; and also opposing its recognition by the United States. This year, however, the Legion has been even more emphatic in its total rejection of the Peiping Regime and to any other communist regime on the mainland of China.

"We firmly believe the saying 'Despotism cannot last long.' There is at present prevailing on the Chinese continent confusion and turmoil created by the red-guards in the name of the cultural revolution. The entire red-power complex could disintegrate at any time. Certainly it has been deprived of its 'mandate of heaven.'

"Therefore, I wish to express to you, our very deep and sincere appreciation for your championship of human justice and freedom in such explicit and unequivocal terms. I am sure that the withholding of recognition by the United States will eventually hasten the collapse of the Mao regime."

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BALTIMORE, MD.—(ALNS)—The Maryland American Legion Department has joined
the war on rats in this city, and the first results from the effort are beginning
to show.

Dr. Matthew Tayback, Baltimore Commissioner of Health, has praised the initial
efforts of the "Health Patrol" which was organized from a $1,000 grant made by the
department.

The "Health Patrol" consists of three volunteers, all Morgan State College
Seniors, who have been at work under the grant. Closely allied in the effort are the
college's ROTC unit, city officials, including Health Department representatives, and
local citizens.

Dr. Tayback divided the campaign into three areas. The ultimate goal is rodent
eradication based upon a thorough survey, the direct attack and guaranteed mainte-
nance of the clean-up status. Much of the survey is finished in two critical sections
of the city. This has meant mapping out areas needing attention, finding causes and
recommending steps to solve the problems.

Also high on the assignment sheet, according to Dr. Tayback, is a social
survey. "We must locate," he said, "the necessary local leadership with ability and
a will to take hold, carry out and maintain this vital effort. We must depend on
this local pride and concern. It is not enough to just be very grateful to these fine
young men who are doing such a great job to raise living standards, eliminate disease
and serve their fellowmen."

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Members of The American Legion and its Auxiliary, assisted by the American Red Cross, will conduct a special month-long Holiday Blood Drive beginning Dec. 4. Aim of the special drive is to meet desperately needed blood requirements for veterans and returning Vietnam servicemen during a period when blood requirements step up sharply and donations fall 50 per cent below normal demands. Pearl Harbor Day falls within this period and provides an appropriate time for patriotic citizens to Give A Gift of Themselves to meet the needs of life’s blood during the holiday season.

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John J. Corcoran, director of The American Legion's National Rehabilitation Division in Washington, will become deputy assistant general counsel for the Veterans Administration effective Nov. 6.

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A Cavalcade of Freedom deluge of membership cards is the goal of American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith as he starts "Can Do 1968" year under his slogan, "Freedom Is Not Free." Top award available to every commander in the 1968 membership year contest is the "Cavalcade of Freedom" Plaque.

* * *

The American Legion has gone on record with the Congress that it considers the summary court situation in the Armed Forces as unsatisfactory and has for many years favored abolishing these courts. The Legion's position was outlined in a statement prepared by John J. Finn of Alexandria, Va., and submitted recently by the Legion National Legislative Division.

* * *

With the start of hunting season next week, North Dakota American Legionnaires will be doing the field work for an annual pheasant dinner for over 2,000 hospitalized veterans. The Legionnaire-sportsmen will be providing the main dish for the Legion-sponsored dinner given for the patients of the Veterans Home and three VA hospitals.

* * *

"I urge all citizens, and especially students and young people, to take part in these ceremonies. Let us demonstrate to all the world our devotion to the principles of freedom for which so many have served in the past, and pledge our full support of those who today carry on the battle to insure that freedom shall survive."—From the Veterans Day, 1967, Proclamation by President Lyndon B. Johnson

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Evanston, ILL.--(ALNS)--Russell G. Creviston of this city, American Legion National Adjutant in 1925 and a retired executive of Crane Co., Chicago, died here Oct. 5. Services were held at St. Marks Episcopal Church here, with burial in Gas City, Ind. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Louise Creviston, this city.
NEW YORK--(ALNS)--Maxwell Krindler was presented the William J. McGough Trophy for his contribution to the development of aviation during ceremonies held in conjunction with the installation of new officers of Air Service Post 501 of The American Legion, at the "21" Club recently.

Legion Past National Commander James F. O'Neil made the presentation to Krindler, who recently retired as a colonel in the Air Force Reserves, at the installation which marked the completion of his third term as post commander. O'Neil, publisher of The American Legion Magazine, is a former recipient of the award.

Gordon Gilmore, vice-president in charge of public relations for TWA, was installed as commander during the ceremonies to which Barry Goldwater, a retired major general in the Air Force Reserves, was a surprise visitor. The latter spoke briefly.

WATERTOWN, S. D.--(ALNS)--With the start of hunting season next week, North Dakota American Legionnaires will be doing their field work for an annual pheasant dinner for over 2,000 hospitalized war veterans.

The Legionnaire-sportsmen will be providing the main dish for the special Legion-sponsored dinner held for the patients of three Veterans Administration hospitals and the Veterans Home in South Dakota. A trophy is provided the post supplying the greatest number of birds for the dinner.

"The home and the school combine with the church and other educational and social influences to mold the character of young America. You, the women of America, are the guiding lights of all these powerful influences."--American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—A "Cavalcade of Freedom" deluge of membership cards is the goal of American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith as he starts the "Can Do 1968" year under his slogan, "Freedom Is Not Free."

Top award available to every commander in the 1968 membership year contest is the "Cavalcade of Freedom" Plaque.

Department commanders can win the handsome plaque and a similar citation for his department by being consistently ahead through the first four target dates in the membership campaign.

Target dates begin on Oct. 17, 1967, and carry through The American Legion Birthday on March 29, 1968. Extra points may be earned by chartering new posts or other achievements. Each department will be competing against its own past record.

Special awards will be made to the top three departments in total number of points earned.

WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—H. R. 10160, the bill providing for the striking of medals commemorating The American Legion's founding, was approved for full committee action in a recent executive session of the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs of the House Committee on Banking and Currency.

WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—A program kit for Veterans Day, 1967, prepared by the Veterans Administration, has been mailed to each department of The American Legion by the Legion National Public Relations Division here.

The kit material is intended to supplement three suggested addresses (Nos.179-181), prepared by the Public Relations Division, and distributed to the departments and to those whose names appear on the suggested address list.
General Election Day

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."—Thomas Paine

"Act as if the whole election depended upon your single vote, and as if the whole Parliament (and therein the whole nation) on that single person whom you now choose to be a member of it."—John Wesley

"The very essence of a free government consists in considering public offices as public trusts, bestowed for the good of the country, and not for the benefit of an individual or party."—John C. Calhoun

"It is the common fate of the indolent to see their rights become a prey to the active. The condition upon which God hath given liberty to a man is eternal vigilance."—John Curran

"In a free country, every man thinks he has a concern in all public matters; that he has a right to form and a right to deliver an opinion upon them. They sift, examine and discuss them. They are curious, eager, attentive, and jealous; and by making such matters the daily subjects of their thoughts and discoveries, vast numbers contract a very tolerable knowledge of them, and some a very considerable one. And this it is that fills free countries with men of ability in all stations."—Edmund Burke

Veterans Day

"We lose our freedoms by default, simply because we take them for granted."—Gen. Albert Wedemeyer

"We keep a vigil of peace around the world. Until the world knows no aggressors, until the arms of tyranny have been laid down, until freedom has risen up in every land, we shall maintain our vigil to make sure our sons who died on foreign fields shall not have died in vain."—President Lyndon B. Johnson

"What we suggest for the theme of this day of commemoration is the long, slow and endless task of strengthening justice and right in the world."—Editorial in former New York Herald Tribune

"Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it is the quality that guarantees all others."—Sir Winston Churchill
Thanksgiving Day

"When a wise man of old declared, 'It is a good thing to give thanks,' he meant it is a saving thing, a restorative thing, an invigorating and fortifying and nourishing thing—the sense of thankfulness."—W.J. Cameron

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"Let us be thankful, then, for all the right choices we make when we have to choose; for all the unseen influences that help us choose right; for whatever withholds us, or diverts from a course that is not our true course; for any denial of apparent advantage or present ease which constrains us toward the fulfillment of a nobler destiny."—Edward Sanford Martin

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"Give thanks, 0 heart, for the high souls/ That point us to the deathless goals // Souls that have built our faith in man,/ And lit the ages as they ran."—Edwin Markham

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A RULE BOOK FOR LIVING TOGETHER

"Don't think of the Constitution as a lawyer's document. Think of it as a rule book for living together. A rule book is a necessity and the alternative to anarchy. Even when small children invent games of their own, like 'hop, skip and jump' they agree on rules by which the game is played, even though they are not printed. Same with football, baseball, tennis or golf. Anyone who can understand the rule book of baseball can surely understand the Constitution! The rule book controls the umpire as well as the players."—Samuel B. Pettengill, "The Constitution," Indiana Freemason

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"The American Legion is a service organization. Service to God and country is our very reason for being. Many of you (American Legionnaires) bear the scars of service to America in time of war. You know, from personal experience, that the priceless blessing of freedom extracts a price."—American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith

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VETERANS DAY, 1967

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

We Americans hold freedom as our birthright. We cherish it as the basic condition of our national life.

But we are deeply mindful of its cost.

Our freedom was won in the agony of conflict. Two centuries later, we enjoy its blessings only because men have been willing to risk their lives to preserve it.

Again today, in a complex and bitter war, America's sons must fight in freedom's defense. None before them have fought more bravely, or with greater devotion to America's cause, than those who serve us now in Vietnam.

We can never repay in full the debt we owe to the veterans of this Nation's wars.

Yet we can show our appreciation of their service and sacrifice. Through the G. I. Bill of Rights, we endeavor to ease the serviceman's return to civilian life. As a result of the Veterans' Act of 1967, men in uniform today can receive benefits comparable to those granted their brothers-in-arms of past conflicts.

For almost three decades, it has been a proud American tradition to observe each year a special day of gratitude to all of America's veterans.

To this end the Congress has designated the eleventh of November as a legal holiday to be known as Veterans Day, and has dedicated it to the cause of world peace (Act of May 13, 1938, 52 Stat. 351, as amended (5 U.S.C. 6103)).

Now, Therefore, I, Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States of America, urge the people of this Nation to join in commemorating Saturday, November 11, 1967, as Veterans Day with suitable observances.

I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to arrange for the display of the flag of the United States on all public buildings on that day; and I request the officials of Federal, State, and local governments, and civic and patriotic organizations to give their enthusiastic leadership and support to appropriate public ceremonies throughout the Nation.

I urge all citizens, and especially students and young people, to take part in these ceremonies. Let us demonstrate to all the world our devotion to the principles of freedom for which so many have served in the past, and pledge our full support of those who today carry on the battle to insure that freedom shall survive.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-second.

/s/ LYNDON B. JOHNSON

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WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith of Beemer, Neb., was named an "Ambassador of Good Will" by Vice Adm. John L. Chew, USN, commander of the United States Taiwan Defense Command, during the Legion chief's recent tour of the Vietnam combat areas.

The honor is bestowed upon prominent civilians who visit the Vietnam combat areas to learn firsthand the problems confronting U. S. Armed Forces supporting the battle for freedom of the South Vietnamese.

Commander Galbraith made his recent tour of Vietnam, as have other Legion National Commanders, at the request of President Lyndon B. Johnson and the military commanders at no expense to the government.

The basic purpose of Commander Galbraith's tour was to provide him with on-the-spot, point-blank personal knowledge of the complexities of Vietnam. This will enable him to report to American Legionnaires factually during his tenure of office.

The scroll, accompanying the appointment and signed by Admiral Chew, in part, reads:

"Know ye also that this appointment is bestowed as a testimonial to the good will he has fostered while a visitor to Taipei, Taiwan, and as an affidavit to the remarkable ambassadorial talents he has displayed.

"The above may speak with great authority on all matters of Sino-US Relationships, and I do strictly charge that he retain forever the gratitude of the United States Taiwan Defense Command for his valued participation in fostering good will."

VETERANS DAY MATS

Co-operative advertising materials for Veterans Day are now available from National Headquarters. These ads, with a message prepared especially for use in publications of general distribution, are available in both mat and reproduction proof form in three- and five-column widths. Requests for such material should be directed to National Internal Affairs Division, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

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WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—John J. Corcoran of Kensington, Md., director of The American Legion National Rehabilitation Division, has been named deputy assistant general counsel of the Veterans Administration effective Nov. 6, according to William J. Driver, Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

Corcoran has been associated with the Legion Rehabilitation Program since his discharge from the Army Air Corps in 1945, except for the period from 1956-58 when he served with the U. S. National Security Agency as an attorney-advisor. He left that post in 1958 to become Legion Rehabilitation Division director.

In making the announcement, Driver said: "The Veterans Administration is exceptionally fortunate in obtaining the services of a talented and experienced executive such as John Corcoran. His knowledge, in depth of the problems confronting veterans will be of great service to our Administration. In addition to his technical background Mr. Corcoran is well-known to the administrative staff of most government agencies, as well as the Congressional committees which create veterans' legislation."

Simultaneously, Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith issued the following statement: "It was with great regret that I accepted the resignation of John J. Corcoran, director of our Rehabilitation Division. He has served the Legion with great devotion and success, as head of one of our greatest services to all veterans.

"John Corcoran has contributed greatly to the success of The American Legion in the field of veterans legislation. We know that John Corcoran will still serve the cause to which he has already so well devoted his capabilities. We wish him success in this new and important step in his career."

A native of New York City, he is a member of Post 1066 of The American Legion, New York.

Corcoran, a member of the bar of the District of Columbia, is admitted to practice before the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the U. S. Court of Appeals and the District Court of Appeals and the U. S. Court of Military Appeals.

NEW YORK—(ALNS)—Digby W. Chandler, 80, designer of the 50-star flag of the United States and president of Annin and Co., died Oct. 6, in St. Vincent's Hospital here after a brief illness. He was associated with the large flag manufacturing firm here for over 60 years.
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—The American Legion has gone on record with the Congress that it considers the summary court situation in the Armed Forces as far from satisfactory and for many years has favored abolishing these courts.

The American Legion's position was outlined in statement prepared by John J. Finn of Alexandria, Va., and submitted by the Legion National Legislative Division recently to Subcommittee No. 1 of the House Committee on Armed Forces on H. R. 12705, a bill to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice relating to Summary Courts-Martial. Finn is a member of the Legion's Special Committee on Uniform Code of Military Justice and the United States Court of Military Appeals.

In his statement, Finn told the Subcommittee that several years ago when a proposal to authorize increased company punishment was under consideration, The American Legion withdrew its objection thereto because military officials asserted that if increased company punishments were made legal there would no longer be a need for summary courts-martial and that they would be abolished by the services.

Finn added that since the increases have accomplished their intended purposes the military should now show its good faith and eliminate summary courts.

The American Legion's Special Committee on the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the United States Court of Military Appeals has been concerned for many years with improvements of the administration of military justice.

While Finn's statement is highly technical in nature, he basically set forth the Legion's objection to increasing the jurisdiction and power of summary courts-martial as proposed in the pending bill.

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KEEP INFORMED

"National Legislative Bulletin," published twice monthly by The American Legion National Legislative Division while Congress is in session, is a quick and easy means of keeping abreast of developments on veterans' legislation on Capitol Hill. The annual subscription rate is $3. Order your subscription through National Legislative Division, The American Legion, 1608 "K" St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

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NEW YORK—(ALNS)—Maxwell Krindler was presented the William J. McGough Trophy for his contribution to the development of aviation during ceremonies held in conjunction with the installation of new officers of Air Service Post 501 of The American Legion, at the "21" Club recently.

Legion Past National Commander James F. O'Neil made the presentation to Krindler, who recently retired as a colonel in the Air Force Reserves, at the installation which marked the completion of his third term as post commander. O'Neil, publisher of The American Legion Magazine, is a former recipient of the award.

Gordon Gilmore, vice-president in charge of public relations for TWA, was installed as commander during the ceremonies to which Barry Goldwater, a retired major general in the Air Force Reserves, was a surprise visitor. The latter spoke briefly.

-WATERTOWN, S. D.—(ALNS)—With the start of hunting season next week, North Dakota American Legionnaires will be doing their field work for an annual pheasant dinner for over 2,000 hospitalized war veterans.

The Legionnaire-sportsmen will be providing the main dish for the special Legion-sponsored dinner held for the patients of three Veterans Administration hospitals and the Veterans Home in South Dakota. A trophy is provided the post supplying the greatest number of birds for the dinner.

"The home and the school combine with the church and other educational and social influences to mold the character of young America. You, the women of America, are the guiding lights of all these powerful influences."—American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith

-for release 10-13-67-
William F. Hauck, 50, a World War II combat Infantry officer, is the new National Adjutant and chief administrative officer of The American Legion. Ninth man to hold the position since the Legion's founding nearly 50 years ago, he had been serving in the position in an acting capacity.

Key American Legion leaders who will share heavy responsibility for successfully carrying out The American Legion National Commander's program, "Freedom Is Not Free," have been given a solid backgrounding at the two-day Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference in Indianapolis, Ind.

"We are winning this lousy war," declared Hearst Columnist Bob Considine, speaking on Vietnam at American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith's homecoming banquet in Lincoln, Neb. "We're winning it (the war) inch by inch and there is progress being made all the time," Considine added.

Dean C. Hall of Salt Lake City, Utah, adjutant of The American Legion Department of Utah, is the new King of the Steivos. Steivos is a fun-making organization composed largely of American Legion department adjutants.

American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith, in a press interview at Indianapolis, Ind., said bombing of North Vietnam is keeping busy 500,000 persons, "some of whom would otherwise be in the military forces (of North Vietnam) in South Vietnam."

American Legion departments have been urged to search out high school service areas without a Legion post and to organize one there. This suggestion was one of the recommendations made by a special committee at the Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference in Indianapolis, Ind.

In a dramatic response to National Commander William E. Galbraith's campaign, American Legion department commanders have pledged that the 1968 membership drive will be 75 per cent complete by Dec. 31, 1967. The departments pledged at the annual telegraphic roll call a total of 1,917,372 Legionnaires for 1968 by Dec. 31, 1967. The total represents 75.30 per cent of the Legion's national goal of 2,546,250 members.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—William F. Hauck, 50, is the new National Adjutant and the chief administrative officer of The American Legion.

The appointment was made by Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith with the concurrence of the Legion National Executive Committee.

A combat Infantry officer in World War II, Hauck has been serving in the capacity of Acting National Adjutant since the close of the 1967 Legion National Convention last Aug. 31. He is the ninth man to hold the office since the Legion was founded nearly a half century ago.

As the chief administrative officer of the world's largest veterans organization, he is responsible for the direction and supervision of the Legion National Headquarters staff of approximately 390 full-time employees located here, in Washington, D.C., and in New York City.

Born in Holgate, Ohio, on March 17, 1917, he moved with his family to Garrett, Ind., at an early age, and in Garrett attended the public schools and was a member of the community's police force, serving for a time as its Acting Chief of Police. He is a life member of Aaron Scisinger Post 178, Garrett.

The new Adjutant served as a lieutenant with the 28th Infantry in combat in France, Germany, Luxemburg and Belgium. Wounded by a land mine explosion, he was returned stateside in April, 1945, and later was retired from active service on disability.

Named Assistant Department Adjutant of the American Legion Department of Indiana in 1945, he was appointed Department Adjutant four years later. He joined the Legion National Headquarters staff in 1952, becoming executive director of the Washington Office. He was serving in the latter capacity when he was appointed Acting National Adjutant. He is married to the former Miss Meredith Ann Walter, of Garrett, and they are the parents of one daughter, Cecilia.

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INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--American Legion departments have been urged to search out high school service areas without a Legion post and to organize one.

This suggestion was among a number of recommendations made to National Commander William E. Galbraith by the committee on recommendations at the recent Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference held at National Headquarters here.

The full recommendations made by the committee, chaired by Nebraska Department Commander Robert W. Lowry, include:

1. That our National Organization actively join with the N.E.A. in a program directed toward improving the degree of cooperation between the organizations as it affects the programs of The American Legion. Also that greater emphasis be placed on the Departments to join with their State Education Associations and the State Directors of Education also to further the cooperation between our groups and to improve the participation in our many programs that touch our youth and our educational systems. (Approved as part of the National Commander's program)

2. To promote essay contests, etc., with their themes to be the National Commander's program of "Freedom Is Not Free" to place the theme before the American Public. (Suggestion for Departments to use as they see fit)

3. That all Departments establish a special committee to implement a speakers' bureau in each Department.

4. Recommend that every post commander appoint a qualified committee to inform the Vietnam Veteran of the Legion's programs, benefits and his rights.

5. Recommend that each Department conduct surveys to determine localities served by a high school where no Legion Posts exist. Recommend Posts be formed using high school area as nucleus for Post formation.

6. Recommend Freedom Is Not Free pins be developed by Emblem Sales similar in quality to Flag pins.

7. Recommend cards be developed for Freedom Is Not Free program similar to Show Your Colors program to be given out with pin.

8. Recommend that conferences at National Headquarters on Boys State, Oratorical, Baseball and Chaplains be held at the same time, thereby allowing Departments to send their representatives in a group, reducing the cost to the Department.

9. To encourage the Viet-Vets it is recommended that:

A. The National Organization upgrade the installation and initiation ceremonies. That every Department be encouraged to set up initiation teams in every district.

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B. Use the opening and closing ceremonies at all times.

C. Include a Viet-Vet on every committee.

By these three suggestions it was felt that once a Viet-Vet is a member that his interest could be maintained if he were made aware of the fact that his membership has a special meaning. That as an active member he can be a worthwhile member. That membership in The American Legion carries special obligations to himself, to his community and his nation.

10. That the National Chaplain request before the Commanders and Adjutants Conference that Department Chaplains' expenses be paid to attend the National Chaplains' Conference.

11. That the National Organization form a Boys State Alumni, drawing up a constitution and bylaws for it.

INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--In a dramatic response to National Commander William E. Galbraith's campaign, American Legion Department Commanders have pledged that the 1968 membership drive will be 75 per cent complete by Dec. 31, 1967.

At the telegraphic roll call which climaxed the annual Conference of Department Commanders and Adjutants here Oct. 16-17, the departments pledged a total of 1,017,372 Legionnaires for 1968 by Dec. 31, 1967. This total represents 75.30 per cent of the Legion's national goal of 2,546,250 members.

The total pledge offered by department leaders is 3,810 under that of one year ago; however, Legion officials attributed this slight deficiency to a cautious attitude on the part of department officers during this first year for handling cards under the new electronic data processing system.

The largest pledge -175,000- came from the Department of Pennsylvania; Illinois was second with 136,500, and New York third with 128,000.

Fifty-six of the 58 departments responded to the roll call. No pledges were received from the Departments of France and Italy.
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—Key American Legion leaders who will share heavy responsibility for successfully carrying out the National Commander's program, "Freedom Is Not Free," were given a solid backgrounding at the two-day Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference at Legion National Headquarters here.

Commanders and Adjutants were briefed on how the 1967-68 theme ties in with the other major programs and interests of the Legion that they will be promoting in their respective departments.

Related to the freedom crusade also was the "Can Do 1968" membership year campaign which will provide not only the punch but the foundation for any organizational effort or program.

The importance of the Legion's forthcoming 50th Anniversary observance also was stressed at the two-day session.

Taking the leadership in the briefing sessions was new National Commander William E. Galbraith. He appeared as a speaker at both the opening and final sessions of the conference.

Others participating in the session were mainly the Legion division directors who also will have important roles in carrying out the ambitious program to dramatize for the nation the importance of freedom.

Referring to the crisis in America, the National Commander stressed the importance of getting across to all Americans the Legion's 1967-68 message—"Freedom Is Not Free."

Telling of visits during his recent Vietnam tour to hospitalized veterans, the Legion chief declared that "those young men know what it was to accept the responsibility for freedom.

"It is regrettable that so many Americans have forgotten the 13,000 servicemen who have given their lives there," the Commander added. "Our cause for which they fought in Vietnam is as just as it was in World War I, World War II and the Korean War."

Dr. Edward L. Peterson, a Legion National Vice Commander and a college professor, who was presiding at the time of the Commander's opening remarks, followed up the Legion chief's remarks with spontaneous comments on the validity of the freedom theme.

(more)
"The American Legion has hold of something that we haven't had in a long time," Dr. Peterson declared. Referring to the fact that early grade school children will be involved in the initial efforts of the freedom crusade through a color poster, the Vice Commander from Utah added:

Many persons tell us how to educate the youth of this nation. Some stress the importance of working with one age group over another, the educator explained.

"But the elements we are dealing with...freedom, justice and democracy...are emotional and the basic respect for them must be formed early in life. Getting across these ideals to school children at an early stage is important."

Public Relations Director James C. Watkins asked for the cooperation of the departments in the "Color It Proud" flag coloring sheets so that all of the nation's estimated 15-million children in grades one through four could be reached through this phase of "Freedom Is Not Free" program.

He also reported that departments on the basis of membership will share in the initial distribution of 3-million of these sheets being sent out by the National Organization.

National Membership Director J. Lloyd Wignall emphasized in his remarks that "A Cavalcade of Freedom" is the task being assigned by National Commander Galbraith to membership teams across the nation to further promote his "Freedom Is Not Free" program.

"The Can Do 1968 year will become a Cavalcade of activities and membership strength if the responsibilities necessary to achieve this assignment are assumed with the same enthusiasm that has characterized membership campaigns of the past three years," Wignall declared. "To those responsible for programs and membership Freedom Is Not Free implies responsibility - it is the responsibility of service to those on active duty in defense of our way of life and to those who are, and will become, a part of our newest generation of veterans. It is a responsibility to provide the manpower so necessary to this assignment; it is a responsibility to present your Post and The American Legion as an acceptable and desirable part of your community as we continue to stress our activities on behalf of our servicemen and veterans," Wignall emphasized.

"Across the nation posts and Auxiliary Units are already busy honoring the young man leaving for the services and keeping in touch with him and his family while he is away. There is an increasing flow of letters, birthday cards, Christmas cards, magazines and gifts going from Legion Posts and Units to the servicemen from the local community. More and more active duty personnel and new veterans are learning about The American Legion as it does the things for which it was organized and for which it is best known.

"These young men have returned, or will be returning home. We want them to have a warm feeling for us, as members of an organization that has recognized the sacrifices they have made. These are dedicated young men and many will be looking for a vehicle where they can further the cause of good positive Americanism programs. We hope that their voice is added to the voice of your Post. If it is, many will bring wives, fathers, mothers and sisters along with them," Wignall predicted.

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INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—More than 600,000 veterans enrolled this fall for college and other training under the Veterans' Pension and Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967 (Cold War G.I. Bill), The American Legion Education and Scholarship Program reports.

As an easy reference, the Education and Scholarship Program has prepared the following outline of pertinent features of the act, including the availability of benefits to complete high school training without a charge against the basic entitlement:

**COLD WAR G.I. BILL**

Objective: To provide educational opportunities for a potential of over five-million qualified servicemen or women now in civilian life or on active duty in the armed forces.

Eligibility: Any veteran of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard who has served and was honorably discharged;

1. Continuously on active duty for at least 181 days ending after Jan. 31, 1955. 2. A veteran who served less than 181 days, if his active duty was ended by a service-connected disability. 3. Persons still in service, if they have had at least two years' active duty.

Duration and Benefits: Benefits will be paid a maximum of 36 months, based on one month of benefits for each month of active duty.

Basis for payments are as follows:

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Payments computed at the rate of the established charges for tuition and fees or $100.00 per month for a full-time course whichever is the lesser.

While on Active Duty: Same as for less than 1/2 time.

Cooperative (School course plus business training) $105 $125 $145

Availability of Training: In approved courses at a (public or private) college, vocational, business, high school, correspondence school, on the job training, institutional on the farm training, and flight training.

High School Training: Benefits are available to complete high school training or refresher courses to qualify for higher education without a charge against the basic entitlement.
**G.I. Bill—Page 2**

**Time Limitation:** Benefits will not be paid beyond eight years from the date of the last discharge or release from active duty if the discharge was on or after June 1, 1966.

**Application:** Write or visit the Veterans Administration office nearest your place of residence.

**Further Information:** May be obtained from your college or high school counselor or contact the Education and Scholarship chairman of The American Legion Post or the American Legion Auxiliary Unit in your community.

* Each additional dependent receives $10.

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**INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—** Timmy Fass, four, 1967 March of Dimes National Poster Child, was the youngest VIP to make an appearance before The American Legion's Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference at National Headquarters here.

Timmy, wearing leg and back braces and holding a pair of tiny crutches, carried on a brief question and answer session with Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith as the Legion chief held him up in his arms before the Legion leaders from throughout the nation and some foreign departments. He proved himself quite an expert...even if a young one...at fielding questions.

The light-haired four-year-old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fass of Whittier, Calif., put his appearance in at the session in the company of his young mother.

As 1967 National Poster Child, the boy represents a quarter-million youngsters born annually with birth defects in the United States. He has been greatly helped by the March of Dimes campaign in his fight to overcome the crippling birth defects of an open spine and a club foot. He has spent considerable time in hospitals.

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**TAPE AVAILABLE**

A tape of the entire program of the homecoming banquet at Lincoln, Neb., for American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith is available at $23.50 a copy, including fourth class mailing, through the National Public Relations Director, The American Legion, 1606 "K" St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

The approximately 1½-hour-long tape includes the address by Columnist Bob Considine as well as other features of the program at Lincoln's Pershing Auditorium.
WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--The Department of Defense and the Post Office Department announce the following dates for mailing Christmas cards and gifts to Armed Forces personnel overseas:

Parcels weighing more than five pounds should be mailed from Oct. 16 to Nov. 11 if regular postage rates are to be used. Greeting cards and parcels that weigh less than five pounds and do not measure more than 60 inches in length and girth combined should be mailed between Oct. 21 and Dec. 1 if regular postage rates are to be used. This mail will receive air transportation on a space available basis between the continental United States and overseas areas including Vietnam.

Parcels and greeting cards bearing air mail postage should be mailed between Dec. 1 and Dec. 11.

Gifts should be securely packed in cartons of wood, metal, or double-faced corrugated fiber board. Fragile items should be surrounded by cushioning materials such as excelsior or shredded paper.

Matches, lighter fluid, and similar flammable items are prohibited. Mailers should check with their local post offices for details on these and other restrictions as well as size and weight limitations to certain areas.

Mailers are reminded that thousands of extra packages will be in the mail at this time of the year, and in spite of the best efforts of the Post Office Department and the military postal service, some never will reach their destination because they have been wrapped poorly or addressed incorrectly or illegibly.

Mailers should wrap packages securely and address them correctly, using the five-digit APO or FPO number.

To further insure delivery, both the mailing and return addresses should be placed inside the package.

Anonymous mail will not be accepted by post offices. All mail must be addressed to servicemen or women by name. Mail should not be sent to the Pentagon for Armed Forces personnel serving overseas.

The Department of Defense and Post Office Department urge everyone to shop early and mail early and to have overseas Christmas gifts in the mail before the mailing deadlines.

-alns-
LINCOLN, NEB.--(ALNS)--"We are winning this lousy war," declared Columnist Bob Considine here. "We're winning it inch by inch and there is progress being made all the time.

The columnist for Hearst Newspapers King Features made his comments on the Vietnam War as the main speaker at the homecoming banquet here for American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith of nearby Beemer.

Considine began his talk by noting that the Legion chief used the word "winning" in reference to our efforts in South Vietnam. Using this as his theme, Considine said this was a word he hadn't heard in quite some time.

In talking about all the "armchair" soldiers that are telling us how to win the war in Vietnam, Considine remarked, "I think we are being unkind to the Vietnamese. They are darn good soldiers."

Concluding his comments, the nationally syndicated columnist said, "I am glad to be among those who believe in sharing a strong hand to help a weak ally."

More than 1,600 American Legionnaires and others traveled to Nebraska's capital city for the recent gala homecoming for the new National Commander.

The crowd included representatives of 260 Legion posts from 49 departments.

George Lindsey, Hollywood's "Goober" of the Andy Griffith television show provided the entertainment feature of the banquet in Lincoln's Pershing Auditorium. Another event was the singing of "Freedom Is Not Free" by the Singing Legionnaires from Sioux Falls American Legion Post 15, South Dakota, along with an inspired reading of "Is Patriotism Old Fashioned?", authored by Ted Hardy, director of marketing services for KXTV, Sacramento, Calif.

(More)
Mutual of Omaha planned and sponsored the decorating of the Pershing Auditorium in a "Welcome Home Commander Bill" motif.

Following the regular banquet program, Ray Steffensmeier, Beemer, homecoming general chairman made a surprise presentation to Commander Galbraith. Calling him to the stage, Legionnaire Steffensmeier presented the Commander with the old school bell from District 19 where three generations of Galbraiths either attended or taught school.

The bell had undergone restoration including a coat of gold paint. National Commander Galbraith noted that his father had taught school with the ringing of the bell and that he and his children had attended school to the ringing of the bell.

The colorful homecoming started off with a distinguished guests luncheon at the Cornhusker Hotel, sponsored by the Lincoln and the Beemer Chamber of Commerce. Commander Galbraith was presented a key to the city of Lincoln and also made an honorary citizen by Mayor Sam Schwartzkopf. Ed Stutzman, president of the Beemer Chamber of Commerce, then presented the National Commander with a plaque making him an "honorary life member in the Beemer Chamber."

Following the noon luncheon, thousands of Nebraskans lined downtown "0" St. for the "Welcome Home Bill" parade. More than 100 marching units from throughout Nebraska participated in the 1½-hour parade.

Immediately after the big parade, Gov. and Mrs. Norbert T. Tiemann gave a reception in honor of National Commander and Mrs. Galbraith at the governor's mansion. Arrangements for the informal reception were made by the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary.

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INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--Dean C. Hall of Salt Lake City, Utah, adjutant of The American Legion Department of Utah, is the new King of the Steivos.

He succeeds A. R. (Art) Tyner, Jr., of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma adjutant of the Legion Department of Oklahoma, as the chief of the fun-making organization composed principally of American Legion department adjutants.

Hall was elected at the annual Steivos' dinner held at the Indianapolis Athletic Club Ballroom during the recent Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference.

William F. (Bill) Hauck of Washington, D. C., Legion acting National Adjutant, and Daniel H. Burkhartt of Baltimore, Md., adjutant of the Legion Department of Maryland, were continued as scribe and treasurer, respectively.

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WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--H. R. 10160, a bill providing for the striking of up to one million medals commemorating The American Legion's founding in 1919, was passed Oct. 16 by the House of Representatives and sent to the Senate. The bill also provides that the cost will be borne by the Legion.

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LEGION CHIEF SAYS BOMBING IS A 'DEFENSE'

By Sexson Humphreys

National Commander William E. Galbraith of The American Legion says U.S. bombing of North Vietnam is keeping busy 500,000 persons, "some of whom would otherwise be in the military forces in South Vietnam."

Back at Legion National Headquarters here for the first time since a trip to Vietnam, he said he was more than ever convinced of the desirability of the bombing "as perhaps the most significant defense measure to save American lives."

He said the bombing was knocking out military production in North Vietnamese factories and power plants, was cutting off the two railroads from Red China and the "Ho Chi Minh trail" to South Vietnam. The half million persons to whom he referred are manning anti-aircraft guns and rebuilding bombed-out installations and transportation lines.

Galbraith of Beemer, Neb., said he also has reaffirmed his backing of a naval blockade for the port of Haiphong, but remarked that the bombing and the U.S. Navy surveillance of shipping heading for Haiphong has to some extent achieved the same purpose.

Galbraith said he spent his time in Vietnam in the areas with the troops and "just paid respects" to Saigon headquarters. A helicopter accompanying his, with Robert Lyngh, Assistant National Adjutant of the Legion, as passenger, was hit by shelling, but without casualties.

He said U.S. moral is exceptionally high, with 17 per cent of the men in the heaviest combat areas asking for extension of duty tours there. South Vietnamese respect for Americans is increasing and North Vietnamese defections are rising, he asserted.

"We are definitely and unequivocally winning the war," he said. Only within the last six months, he remarked, have there been enough troops to wage the kind of war required and air and naval bases enough to support the kind of buildup we need to win.
LINCOLN, NEB. —-(ALNS)—American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith has blasted critics of America's war effort in Vietnam and has urged Presidential candidates not to provide the communists with propaganda by making it an issue next year.

In his first press conference since returning from a tour of Vietnam Commander Galbraith stated that "we are winning the war" and will continue to "only if there is no let-up in our bombing of strategic targets in Vietnam."

The Legion Chief noted that "too many prominent elected government officials here at home are demanding a halt to the bombing or suggesting a unilateral cease-fire. Too many prominent Americans are acting like armchair generals."

The spokesman for the world's largest veterans organization added, "I didn't realize until I was on the scene, and apparently neither do thousands of others at home, what gains the Vietcong make each time a bomb pause is called."

While on his tour of Vietnam, the Commander learned firsthand how U.S. aerial holidays permit communists to get men and supplies infiltrated south through Laos and Cambodia to engage U.S. troops in combat.

"Any other bomb pause not only will free communist troops from clean-up and security work in North Vietnam but make it possible to reinforce supplies and men through this Ho Chi Minh trail," Galbraith emphasized.

"The American Legion submits that with the lives of our fighting men in Vietnam directly at stake, we can no longer afford the discordant, divisive protests, questions and demands of any citizens, especially our elected officials, which falsely encourage the enemy to stay on the battlefield and away from the conference table," he said.

The Legion Chief stated that the communists have been bolstered by the criticism of the war effort and are "steeling" themselves to further resistance because they believe America will ultimately give up the fight.

He urged the arm-chair critics, if they want to debate something and talk about the war effort, they should be talking positively about what we can do to help the situation and quit fooling around and giving propaganda for Hanoi to use against our own men over there.

In his opening remarks before the press conference, Commander Galbraith said; "Just as the Constitution of the United States vests in the President the responsibility for the command of America's Armed Forces, including our military forces in Vietnam, so the American people should entrust the President to be the authoritative voice of this nation's will to honor its commitment, to defend freedom in Vietnam."

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Earl D. Franklin, Jr., of Sterling, Colo., and Clarence S. Campbell of Barre, Vt., have been named chairmen of American Legion National Commissions. Franklin heads the National Child Welfare Commission; Campbell, the National Economic Commission.

Edward H. Golembieski of Temple Hills, Md., is the new director of The American Legion National Rehabilitation Division in Washington, D. C. He was promoted from division deputy director.

The nation's only living ex-President, Harry S. Truman of Independence, Mo., and Dwight D. Eisenhower of Gettysburg, Pa., have accepted an invitation to head The American Legion's 50th Anniversary Committee of One Hundred. Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith presented to each of them the Legion's Golden Anniversary Commemorative Medal this week.

American Legion departments have been asked to share in the task of assisting Texas Legionnaires and their families who suffered great loss through storms and floods during the recent Hurricane Beulah. National Commander William E. Galbraith issued the request in a letter appealing for funds "to repair and replace essential items which require funds."

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--By a vote of 227 to 0 the House of Representatives has approved a change in its rules transferring jurisdiction of all national cemeteries from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The transfer of jurisdiction was approved Oct. 20, when the House passed H. Res. 241, sponsored by Rep. Olin E. Teague of Texas, to give his committee oversight of all national cemeteries in which servicemen and veterans are, or may be buried. The only exception is 13 National Park type cemeteries which remain with the former committee.

The change in Congressional oversight does not affect the Executive Branch agencies administering the cemeteries. However, a bill transferring such administration to the Veterans Administration is pending in the House.

This change in Congressional jurisdiction now paves the way for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to hold hearings on the overall National Cemetery situation for the purpose of defining a national policy as to their future.
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—Four major changes in American Legion national committee and commission chairmanships were announced by Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith of Beemer, Neb., during the recent Legion National Executive Committee meeting here.

The new national chairmen are: Earl D. Franklin, Jr., of Sterling Colo., former chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee, National Child Welfare chairman; William F. Gormley, of Philadelphia, Pa., Membership and Post Activities chairman succeeding Franklin; Clarence S. Campbell of Barre, Vt., National Economic Commission chairman; and Doming Smith of Sioux Falls, S. D., National Contest Supervisory Committee chairman.

Major committee and commission chairmen reappointed for another year included:


WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—Edward H. Golembieski, 56, of Temple Hills, Md., has been named the new director of The American Legion National Rehabilitation Division by National Commander William E. Galbraith of Beemer, Neb. Golembieski, promoted from the position of Rehabilitation Division deputy director, succeeds as director John J. Corcoran of Kensington, Md. Corcoran resigned effective Nov. 3 to accept the appointment of deputy assistant general counsel for the Veterans Administration.

Golembieski joined the Legion's Rehabilitation Division staff in Jan., 1947, and served in increasingly responsible positions on the staff until his promotion to deputy director last year. Rehabilitation services for the veteran and his family is one of the Legion's most important functions.

He served overseas as a captain and a radio security company commander with the 9th Air Force during World War II. He later advanced to major in the Air Force Reserves. A native of Wilmerding, Pa., he is a graduate of Pitcairn High School, Pitcairn, Pa., and the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute, Washington, D. C.

Golembieski is a member of George Washington Post 1 of The American Legion, Washington, D. C.

Golembieski and his wife, Helen F., are the parents of a son and two daughters.
WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--The nation's only living ex-Presidents, Harry S. Truman of Independence, Mo., and Dwight D. Eisenhower of Gettysburg, Pa., have accepted an invitation to head The American Legion's 50th Anniversary Committee of One Hundred.

Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith visited this week with President Truman at his Independence home and met with General Eisenhower at Augusta, Ga.

Explaining the purpose of the meetings, Commander Galbraith said, "I have the proud honor of joining with over 2½-million Legionnaires and nearly one million American Legion Auxiliary members in asking two of the most distinguished Legionnaires in America to head a committee of distinguished Americans selected to help The American Legion commemorate its 50th year of service to God and Country.

The American Legion, born of war, but dedicated to peace, is looking forward to a second half century of service to the veteran, his community and the nation," the Legion chief declared.

The National Commander, in honor of the occasion, presented each of the long-time Legionnaires with the official Golden Anniversary Commemorative Medal. The medal, designed by Sculptor Carl Jennewein, depicts the Legion emblem superimposed upon an American Eagle. The design was especially created to commemorate the historic events which led to the founding of the Legion at the close of World War I.

Mr. Truman, a life member of Tirey J. Ford Post 21, Independence, served as a captain and later as a major in the 129th Field Artillery, 35th Division, in France during World War I. He was overseas more than 18 months. Upon his return to Missouri in 1919, he became an active Legionnaire.

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In an address before the 1962 American Legion National Convention, Mr. Truman said, "For 38 years I was chairman of the Missouri Delegation to the National Convention of The American Legion." Although a public official during most of his active career, he found the time and inclination to make significant contributions to the Legion's Americanism, Rehabilitation and Child Welfare programs. He is the first Legionnaire to become President of the United States.

General Eisenhower, a life member of James R. Cutler Post 39 of The American Legion, while watching a parade honoring his return to Abilene, Kas., shortly after World War II saw some "Welcome Hero Ike" signs. "I am not a hero," he said, "I am only a symbol of the heroic men you sent to war."

That typical Eisenhower phrase endeared him to the hearts of all his fellow war veterans. It was this quality that led the people of our country to say, "I like Ike," and thus a second Legionnaire took his place in the White House.

Since then, two more great Legionnaires have held the highest office of our land.

The Committee of One Hundred, headed by Chairmen Truman and Eisenhower, will be composed of distinguished Americans from all walks of life and from all fields of human endeavor. They will act in an advisory capacity, helping the Legion to celebrate the historic events that are scheduled for the Anniversary year.

The observance will begin at the Legion's 50th National Convention to be held in New Orleans, La., on Sept. 6-12, 1968. Other important dates will be the 50th Anniversary of the Armistice ending World War I on Nov. 11, 1968, the 50th Anniversary of the Paris Caucus from March 15-17, 1969 and the St. Louis Caucus from May 8-9, 1969--events which resulted in the founding of the Legion.

The first National Convention of The American Legion as it enters its second half century of service to the nation will be held in Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 22-28, 1969. It is at this convention, that the Legion will chart its course for the future. On Nov. 11, 1969, the Legion will observe the 50th Anniversary of the first National Convention held in Minneapolis in 1919. This event will end the Golden Anniversary observance.

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TAPE AVAILABLE

A tape of the entire program of the homecoming banquet at Lincoln, Neb., for American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith is available at $15.50 a copy, including fourth class mailing, through the National Public Relations Director, The American Legion, 1608 "K" St., Washington, D. C. 20006.

The approximately 1½-hour-long tape, which includes the address by Columnist Bob Considine as well as other features of the program at Lincoln's Pershing Auditorium, was listed earlier as available at a price of $23.50. The tape producer has since found that he can turn out copies of the 33¼ IPS full track tape at the lesser price.
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—American Legion departments have been asked to share in the task of assisting Texas Legionnaires and their families who suffered great loss through storms and floods during the recent Hurricane Beulah.

Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith issued the request in a letter appealing for funds "to repair and replace essential items which require funds."

Commander Galbraith emphasized that only funds are needed, for there are no facilities for the storing and distribution of clothing or food.

The Legion National Organization started off the effort with a $1,000 contribution to the appeal for funds for the Texas victims of Hurricane Beulah.

Contributions should be sent to American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206. Records will be maintained and all funds will be transmitted immediately to the Texas American Legion Department for disbursement.

The Legion Commander, in his memorandum to departments, also stressed the importance of their disseminating word of the fund appeal to all districts and posts as quickly as possible.

"To Teach the Unknowing" (Freedom Is Not Free), an address by American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith of Beemer, Neb., appears in the Oct. 15, 1967 issue of "Vital Speeches of the Day."

The inclusion of the Legion chief's talk is a reminder to this editor, and one that he wants to pass along, that "Vital Speeches" is a valuable aid in keeping the leaders at all levels of such organizations as the Legion informed on vital issues. A subscription to the twice monthly publication is $8 a year through the City News Publishing Co., 1 Wolf La., Pelham, N.Y. 10803.

In the statement on policy, the publishers of "Vital Speeches" say in part, that they "believe the important addresses of the recognized leaders of public opinion constitute the best expressions of contemporary thought in America, and that these speeches be permanently recorded and disseminated."
"The following address entitled, "The Voice of The American Legion in Defense of Freedom," was presented before the Legion Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 17, by James F. O'Neil, publisher of The American Legion Magazine and a Legion Past National Commander. Because the speech provides rich historical information on the Legion's traditional stand in freedom's defense, it is reproduced in part here as a possible source of material on the new "Freedom Is Not Free" program, the publisher has graciously extended to all Legionnaires the privilege of full use of the material for editorials and speeches without the requirement of attributing it to him directly or indirectly.—The Editor)

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General Carlos P. Romulo, of the Philippines famed military leader and statesman in an address before the United Nations said:

"Take sides -- Freedom is precious -- Defend it. It is not cheap, nor easy, nor neutral. It is dear and hard and real. Take sides for Freedom or you will lose it."

Well, The American Legion always has taken sides in the cause of Freedom. As members of the Armed Forces, we manned the ramparts for freedom here and in foreign lands and are continuing to do it. Now, as veterans, we find it necessary to rededicate ourselves to its principles to insure that our freedoms may be preserved at home and provide the leadership of the free world so that nations desiring to remain or become free may have a sympathetic power to appeal to for assistance.

The American Legion has been in the forefront of non-governmental agencies in championing the freedom policies of the United States Government. Basically, I suppose that is why today we support its position in Vietnam, where this country and the free world is so well represented by our splendid forces — Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

The United States has made it plain that it is not seeking real estate in its freedom aims, probably best illustrated by the fact that the Philippines to which I referred was given its freedom by our nation.

One could recite in chapter and verse The American Legion's defense of freedom covering the nearly 50 years of its existence.

We can look to our Preamble for our platform and read, "to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy." From that we can move from one year to the next to find proof of The American Legion's adherence to that Preamble pronouncement. In examination of the proceedings of National Conventions and the actions of the National Executive Committee, we observe that dedication in the opening invocation by the late venerable Cyrus Northrup, then president emeritus of the University of Minnesota.
" Almighty God," he said, "we thank Thee for the patriotic spirit which moved the fighting men of America to now present themselves in a solid phalanx against those who would destroy the government from within just as they presented themselves against the foe on foreign soil."

This set the stage for that first convention and for many to follow, giving emphasis to Americanism, National Security, Rehabilitation and Child Welfare -- all related directly or indirectly to Freedom.

Look in any of these directions and you will discover a dedicated group of men and women -- Legionnaires and Auxiliaries -- giving of themselves -- their talents, their time, their money, and pledging their lives, if necessary, for the nation they cherish and love.

Among other things, The American Legion has: opposed disarmament after World War I; opposed the recognition of Soviet Russia in 1933; supported the repeal of our neutrality laws in 1941 to help keep military action away from these shores prior to Pearl Harbor; approved legislation to admit 400,000 European refugees from concentration camps after World War II; and supported the Marshall Plan, et cetera.

In my opinion, the most important legislative accomplishment that has and can be attributed to The American Legion was its conception and sponsorship of the G.I. Bill of Rights -- recently termed as the beginning of an educational revolution. Certainly, it has played a major role in freedom's cause -- here and over the world.

When we enter into discussions concerning The American Legion and Freedom, we certainly must include youth programs sponsored by our organization. First those youngsters, hundreds of thousands of them, participating in same, do so on a strictly volunteer basis, representing their choice -- their freedom of action.

It is my conviction that The American Legion should exert its best efforts, looking toward an expansion of our sponsored youth activities, in Boys' State, Baseball, Oratorical competition, etc.

I am going to mention Boys' State briefly. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have three times as many youngsters in this program? And for Freedom? Most of us are conscious of the tremendous accomplishments of Boys' State. We know that a goodly percentage of the graduates have been accepted in our Service Academies and how important their interviewers consider Boys' State affiliation. Others have been successful in the business, educational and the public service life of this nation.

Beginning in 1968, The American Legion will start the observance of its 50th Anniversary, and, in preparing for it, we could do well to keep in mind that "Freedom Is Not Free."

In less than a month, the Soviet will be marking a half-century of communism. During that time, Citizens of Freedom, Inc. reports that communism has been "responsible for the extermination of at least 85-million people through civil war, man-made famine, blood purges, genocidal deportations and executions in torture chambers and in history's largest concentration camps. Those victims know that Freedom Is Not Free and that you take sides for it or lose it.

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FREEDOM IS NOT FREE
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—The American Legion has called on the Department of Justice to prosecute all citizens trading with the enemy and providing aid, comfort and assistance to the enemies of this country.

In a resolution approved unanimously by its National Executive Committee, the Legion reminded the nation of the Legion's "deep and abiding conviction that it is morally wrong for the United States of America to send its service men and women into combat, and at the same time, permit other citizens to assist and provide aid and comfort to the enemy."

The Legion cited that its action was based on several instances within recent months where U. S. citizens have traded with the enemy and "by sending money, gifts, and supplies have demonstrated sympathy for the cause of the enemies of the United States."

In other action, the National Executive Committee went on record in opposition to any moves which would place jurisdiction and control of the ocean floor in the United Nations.

The Legion at its 1965 National Convention by resolution opposed giving to the UN any source of independent income, "including the resources of the seabed or ocean floor."

The Legion's current resolution on the subject cited that Malta, a UN member, has proposed to the current session of the General Assembly that jurisdiction and control of the ocean floor, and the financial benefits derived from its exploitation, be placed in the United Nations.

As part of the Legion effort to promote law and order in the country, the NEC called for the enactment of legislation by the Congress "to provide assistance to students pursuing programs of higher education in the fields of law enforcement and of correctional treatment of law violators."

The resolution emphasized that "Law enforcement is a most important part of our society, with the training of law enforcement on a more professional level becoming more and more essential."

In another resolution, the Legion's policy making body between conventions also designated the museum maintained at National Headquarters here as "The Emil A. Blackmore Museum" in memory of the late National Adjutant who served as the Legion's top administrative officer from 1956-67.

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INDEPENDENCE, MO.--(ALNS)--American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith of Beemer, Neb., and Past National Commander Charles L. Bacon of Kansas City, Mo., had a most cordial visit with former President Harry S. Truman at his home here this week.

The occasion of the visit was to invite the nation's first Legionnaire President to head, with former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Legion's 50th Anniversary Committee of One Hundred.

President Truman reminisced on his earlier active years in the Legion. He reminded the two Legion leaders that he was a charter member of Independence's Post 21 which he helped to organize after World War I.

President Truman reminded Galbraith that as the Legion Chief he holds one of the most important jobs in the nation. This apparently was a reference to the Legion's role in helping to mould public opinion in the areas of responsible citizenship.

Bacon took pleasure in recalling that Missouri's most famous citizen had delivered the same charge to him in 1961 when he became National Commander.

General Eisenhower told Commander Galbraith that he would like to see the Legion become more active in cementing friendly relationships between the United States and our allies based on the common bonds of having shared military service.

General Eisenhower specifically mentioned the British Legion as one group with which The American Legion might have a more cooperative effort.

During Commander Galbraith's visit to former President Eisenhower at Augusta, Ga., the general suggested that The American Legion take a leading role in the many communities in which posts are located not only to become involved in civic betterment projects, such as educational development, community beautification efforts, etc., but to encourage others to become self-involved at the community level rather than depending upon the government for everything.

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--American Legion National Commander William E. Galbraith of Beemer, Neb., participated in a busy round of activities mostly in Washington this week.

The Commander was interviewed by the Japanese Broadcasting Company's Washington correspondent and by Ray McHugh, chief of the Washington Bureau of Copley Press. He hosted a press reception for the 300 members of the Washington press corps at the Legion's Washington Headquarters.

This is a complicated war, a new and different type of military operation from anything we have previously experienced in all of our history. This fact alone, I suspect, could well account for a great deal of the unrest among our own people today for we are not seeing the decisive battle results that have marked other periods of conflict. Lack of understanding may provide a reason, but a very poor excuse, for the dissension at home which is doing a genuine disservice to our fighting men.

Further complicating this situation is the fact that it is not a military operation alone, but involves the Revolutionary Development program formerly known as the civic action program which is aimed at establishing stability of both the government and economy of an emerging nation, a nation which has lived under the domination of three governments in the past 20 years—China, France, and the attempted establishment of a free and independent South Vietnam, which could and would have succeeded on its own had it not been for communist aggression from the north.

After living for so long under foreign domination, and living with terrorism, violence and subversion in the few short years in which the South Vietnamese have endeavored to establish self-government, the lack of stability in this new nation today is readily understandable.

It is important too, to understand why the Chinese Communists are so intent on carrying on this war and to keep the North Vietnamese away from the conference table. It is obvious that Red China and communist North Vietnam want to control the rich farmlands of the Mekong Delta in the south. This area, if modern agricultural methods and techniques could be applied, is capable of providing food for 60 per cent of the population of Asia. The Chinese communists and communist regime of North Vietnam know this, and they look to this rich agricultural prize as a source of food for the teeming masses of Asia.

The stakes are tremendously high in this battle for food, for the reports emanating from Red China indicate a high degree of instability for the communist government on mainland China, and an adequate food supply is vital to a re-establishment of stability for that government.

Our own involvement in South Vietnam is based on solemn commitments and has objectives which are readily understandable to all who want to understand them. First, we are there to insure the security and territorial integrity of a nation which has not been permitted to stand on its own.

The other part of our commitment, and no less important, is to help bring stability to both the government and to the economy of South Vietnam. To do this,
we are helping with the building of roads so vital to transportation and communication. We are providing the tools and the know-how to help develop the tremendous agricultural potential of the country, and effective system of public works is badly needed, for here are a people surrounded by water and virtually none of it is drinkable, railroads need to be built, and the educational facilities are in need of expansion and upgrading.

Now it is most difficult to accomplish these things under perfectly normal conditions, so you can well imagine how the problems of the South Vietnamese are magnified in attempting to do these things while a shooting war is in progress all about them. Progress, understandably, is slow, but I assure you that progress is being made both militarily, and from the civic action standpoint.

Now what did we actually see in Vietnam? We saw the modern world's foremost example of the theme I have selected for my term of office as National Commander of The American Legion, "Freedom Is Not Free."

We saw young Americans and young Vietnamese fighting shoulder to shoulder, under intolerable combat conditions, in a concerted effort to insure the blessings of freedom for a new nation whose people want to be free.

Probably the closest thing to a so-called "front" that exists in Vietnam today is that area just below the misnamed demilitarized zone which divides the two Vietnams. This is a misnomer, for from within it and from just to the north of it, the communists have levelled devastating artillery barrages into some of our Marine units, inflicting severe casualties over the past several weeks.

What has this shelling of our positions accomplished? For the communists, nothing! For Americans, it has built a determination to hold those positions which are, in effect, the observation posts overlooking the traditional infiltration routes across the DMZ from North to South Vietnam. These men are holding as tenaciously as any American fighting men have ever held any position in the history of American arms.

I should tell you also, that we visited American military and diplomatic officials all along the western Pacific defense perimeter from Japan to Taiwan to Hong Kong and Manila, and it was here that we found what we considered to be proof positive that there is a great deal more at stake with the American presence in South Vietnam than the security and independence of South Vietnam itself.

The people of these areas look to a strong, firm and determined American presence in Southeast Asia as the means to their own salvation against further communist encroachment spawned by the communist government on mainland Red China.

We do, however, believe that the cause to which we are now committed in South Vietnam is correct, proper and just, that it is in our own vital national interest, and that we must get on with the business of winning this conflict whether it be on the battlefield or around the conference table.

We came away from Vietnam with some very definite conclusions, paramount among which is the belief that we are winning this war. It is not a dramatic victory of the type which we have experienced in other conflicts. It is a slow and steady process of attrition in which American and allied forces have the upper hand. We have the ability and the capability to do the job.

(more)
Second, we have a firm conviction, despite the harangues of the new left and of certain congressional critics, that this is not a civil war among the people of Vietnam but is very definitely a war of aggression being waged by communist North Vietnam—with massive support from the Soviet bloc and Red China—against the people of South Vietnam. The end of that war will come when that aggression ends.

Third, there must be no cessation of the bombing of the north, nor can there be any truce in the fighting unless we first receive the assurances from the other side that there will be meaningful negotiations, in good faith, designed to bring these hostilities to a prompt and reasonable conclusion.

We have been told by our military commanders in the field, and we have no reason to disbelieve them, that the bombing of North Vietnam keeps a half-million communists fully occupied on the home front maintaining anti-aircraft defenses, rebuilding and repairing the damage from bombing raids, trying to keep factories operating, and rebuilding bridges and repairing roads and trails over which men and supplies are moved from North Vietnam to confront our own troops in combat.

If Americans at home were as firmly convinced of the propriety of our position in Vietnam as are the Americans who are doing the job in the field, I believe we would be farther along the road to victory than we are today. I assure you that it will be an important part of my work this year as National Commander of The American Legion to help convince the unbelievers.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--A grant of $3,000 to publish a report on a survey in the child welfare area financed by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. has been made by the foundation's board of directors.

The additional grant will be utilized to disseminate information gathered in the survey by the Children's Division of the American Humane Society of Denver, Colo., to 850 selected organizations and government agencies involved in child welfare work.

The survey titled, "Project to Survey the Status and Availability of Child Protective Services in the United States," was conducted to determine the status of county child protective services in the nation. A phase of protective services is the abused and neglected child.

The foundation provided a grant of $10,800 in 1964 to the society to conduct the survey. The new survey updates one made by the society in 1956.

Distribution of the report to Legion and Auxiliary department child welfare chairmen also is planned.