FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (EXCEPT FIRST ITEM)

FOR RELEASE APRIL 6 OR LATER

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

FOLLOWING ITEM FOR RELEASE APRIL 6, 1958, OR LATER:

Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, former Army research and development chief, will make his first public appearance following his retirement as the speaker at the annual dinner of The American Legion's National Executive Committee in Indianapolis on Apr. 30.

Two major American Legion housing recommendations became law on Apr. 1 when President Eisenhower signed S. 3418 - extending the VA direct loan and loan guarantee program for two years and raising the maximum on direct loans from $10,000 to $13,500.

Dave Garroway, popular NBC-TV showman, will present National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., and the winner of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest on his daily morning show "Today" on Apr. 23.

Estimating that there are nearly one million unemployed veterans, National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion has urged the participation of Legion posts in community-wide employment programs.

Two top American Legion Commissions will meet in Washington Apr. 9 to 11 - National Security and Foreign Relations.

Alaska was the second American Legion department to enroll more members for 1958 than its total 1957 membership.

A suggested Flag Day speech is available from National Public Relations Division.

Advertising Men's Post 209 of The American Legion in New York City is sponsoring a goodwill visit to the Brussels World Fair as a part of the People-to-People program.

Idaho was the eighth American Legion department to pass its 1958 membership quota.
INDIANPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin (U. S. A. ret.), former chief of research and development, Department of the Army, has accepted an invitation to make his first scheduled public appearance since his recent retirement, before the annual dinner of The American Legion’s National Executive Committee in Indianapolis, Apr. 30.

Announcement of General Gavin's acceptance was made by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., on Apr. 6.

A distinguished World War II officer with 30 years of active service as a career soldier, the former Army research chief is widely recognized as one of the nation's foremost advocates of modernization of U. S. Army ground forces as a means of preserving a strong national defense.

General Gavin has on a number of occasions appeared before Legion gatherings, including the 1957 spring meeting of the National Security Commission in Washington and the Miami National Convention in 1955. His appearance in Indianapolis is expected to be one of the highlights of the National Executive Committee meetings at National Headquarters, April 30 and May 1-2.

On Mar. 31 General Gavin was afforded a formal salute on his retirement from the Army by the officers and men of the famed World War II 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N. C. He served as assistant commander during the division's D-Day assault on Normandy in 1944 and a year later led the All American Division in the Battle of the Bulge.

Following World War II, General Gavin served as chief of staff of the Fifth Army with headquarters in Chicago and as chief of staff of the Allied Forces in Southern Europe. He became the G-3 and later the deputy chief of staff for plans and research for the Department of the Army before being appointed in 1955 as chief of research and development. He is a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy of the class of 1929.

JUNEAU, Alaska--(ALNS)--Alaska on Apr. 2 reported a larger American Legion membership for 1958 than its final total for 1957, thus becoming the second department to surpass last year's enrollment. Its total membership for 1957 was 2,420, and by the second day of April, the department already had 2,447 members for 1958.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, N. Y. — (ALNS) — More than ten million viewers of the NBC-TV Dave Garroway show "Today" will see National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., present a four-year college scholarship to the winner of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest on Wednesday morning, April 23.

In addition to Garroway's interview with Commander Gleason and the contest winner, the latter expected to include on the popular morning show excerpts from his winning oration.

The oratorical contest finals are to be held at Portales, N. M., Apr. 21. Four sectional winners from a starting field of 330,000 will compete there, with the national champion scheduled to be flown to New York City for the appearance on the popular Garroway show.

Besides Garroway's featured interview with Commander Gleason and the champion high school orator, viewers will see and hear "regulars" Jack Lescoulie, the famous morning newscaster Frank Blair, "Girl of the Week" Ruth Lyons, who will provide feminine interest with fashion pointers, news and weather, and "Today's" newest attraction Kokomo, Jr.

Garroway is currently celebrating his seventh year as host of NBC's widely-viewed morning presentation.

Legionnaires and Auxiliary members have been urged to meet the national commander and the 1958 oratorical champion on this special Garroway feature, which promises to be one of the more educational and edifying segments on television.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(ALNS)--Two major housing recommendations of The American Legion became law when on April 1 President Eisenhower signed the $1,850,000,000 housing act (S. 3418).

The bill extends both VA direct loan and loan guarantee programs for two years and increases maximum mortgages for direct loans from $10,000 to $13,500. Both of these measures were urged in resolutions adopted by the 1957 National Convention of The American Legion in Atlantic City, N. J.

The American Legion also asked that the administrator of veteran affairs be given authority to regulate interest rates on VA loans similar to the authority of the FHA administrator over FHA loans. Congress instead provided an increase of one-quarter percent in GI loans, from 4 1/4 percent to 4 3/4 percent.

The housing bill, the first major anti-recession measure to be whipped through Congress, was designed to speed the construction of 200,000 or more new homes this year and create thousands of jobs.

Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon Johnson termed it "one of the most important measures" Congress could pass to combat the recession. He estimated that it could put some 500,000 workers, or 10 percent of the currently unemployed, back to work.

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*           FLAG DAY SPEECH          *
* A suggested address for the use of American Legion speakers on Flag Day, June *
* 14, 1958, is available upon request from National Public Relations Division, The *
* American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind. *
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* CORRECTION FOR ALNS OF 3/28/58 *
* See Indianapolis, Ind., datelined story of 3/28/58 concerning youngest 40-year *
* member of American Legion. The date which appears on the last line of the third *
* paragraph should read July 3, 1900 (not July 3, 1958).
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WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)---A 13-point program to assist unemployed veterans has been proposed for implementation through the 17,000 posts of The American Legion. The proposal calls for a close understanding with labor groups, employers and other organizations or individuals interested in employment problems.

The program was endorsed Mar. 28 at a meeting called by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., in the Legion's Washington Office. Participating in the Conference, which was called at the request of J. Edward Walter of Cambridge, Md., chairman of the Legion's National Employment Committee, were department commanders representing regional employment areas throughout the United States.

Commander Gleason estimated that nearly a million veterans of World Wars I and II and the Korean Conflict were unemployed at the end of March. He called for an effective community-wide employment program with each American Legion Post participating actively.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)---Top officials of the Defense Department, the Armed Forces, Selective Service, Civil Defense, Reserve groups, and trade organizations, as well as military analysts, were scheduled to discuss America's defense outlook before the executive section of The American Legion's National Security Commission at the Hotel Statler in Washington, Apr. 9 to 11.

Manpower, missiles, money and the merchant marine were highlights of the three day meeting, which also included an inspection trip to the Army Engineer Center at Fort Belvoir, Va.

NEW YORK, N.Y.—(ALNS)---Seventy-four members of Advertising Men's Post 209 of The American Legion here were the first group of Americans to announce their intention of making a goodwill visit to the Brussels World Fair under the auspices of the People-to-People Foundation. Many will be accompanied by their wives.

The New York City Legionnaires have been congratulated by Mayor Wagner and Governor Harriman. Their goodwill visit has been planned for Apr. 11 to May 4 by Gould R. Karadashian, chairman of the post's organizing committee for the trip.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOISE, Idaho—(ALNS)—Taking eighth position among the departments passing their 1958 American Legion membership quotas is Idaho, which on Apr. 2 reported 9,503 paid-up members for 1958 against its quota of 9,316, for a 102.01 percentage mark.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—Briefings by top experts in diplomacy and international affairs were scheduled for presentation before the annual meeting of the American Legion's National Foreign Relations Commission in the Nation's Capital Apr. 9 to 11.


VINITA, Okla.—(ALNS)—Demonstrating that it can be done - again and again - Dale Pace Post 40 of The American Legion at Vinita, Okla., has just enrolled its 670th member for 1958 to establish a new all-time high for the fourth consecutive year. Its 1958 quota was 300.

The record-breaking annual membership performance was started four years ago by C. J. Wright, Jr., then post commander, now department commander. He led the post to a new high of 390 to start it all. Every year since then, the post has beat the previous high. Tom Nix is the 1958 post commander.

"How do we do it at Vinita?" asks Department Commander Wright. "We just get down to hard work - that's all there is to it!"
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.---(ALNS)---The ninth annual meeting of the All-American Conference to Combat Communism will be held at the Claypool Hotel in Indianapolis, Nov. 14 and 15, 1958.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.---(ALNS)---Robert M. McCurdy of Pasadena, Calif., is the new member of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion for the Department of California, succeeding Malcolm M. Champlin, who has resigned after declaring his candidacy for an elective political office. McCurdy, who has become known as "Mr. Rehabilitation" to two generations of American Legion convention-goers, is also chairman of the National Rehabilitation Commission and had been serving as alternate NEC member.

INDEPENDENCE, Mo.---(ALNS)---When Jerome F. (Jerry) Duggan, chairman of The American Legion's National Legislative Commission, addressed a meeting of the Fifth Missouri District at the Tirey J. Ford Post here, the Legionnaire who introduced him was ex-President Harry S. Truman. Mr. Truman has long been an active member of The American Legion.

ELIZABETHTON, Tenn.---(ALNS)---In a period of one week during March, Watauga Post 49 of The American Legion completed the showing of the 16-mm flag education film "Stars and Stripes on Parade" to 11 schools of Carter County (Tenn.) with an attendance of 3,034. Post Adjutant Herrmann Banner explained that the post missed one school when it was destroyed by fire before the scheduled showing.

WASHINGTON, D. C.---(ALNS)---Legislation has been introduced in the Congress to liberalize the War Orphans Educational Assistance Act which, if passed, will carry out a recommendation of The American Legion's 39th National Convention. The present law authorizes special restorative training for mentally or physically handicapped orphans of veterans but only for those in the age group 18 to 23.

On the theory that special training should be made available at the time it will do the most good, the pending bill would allow the VA to waive the age limit when in its judgement, the restorative training would be beneficial to younger children.
NEW YORK, N.Y.---(ALNS)---The plight of America's railroads and what can be done to provide better rail service is discussed by William T. Faricy, veteran railroad official in the current (May) issue of The American Legion Magazine.

Describing the drastic drop in freight carloadings and earnings in recent months as an economic "nosedive", Faricy attributed it to "inequalities in public policies as to regulation, taxation and competitive subsidies."

The only bright spot, he said, was in more efficient operation made possible by the expenditure of upwards of a billion dollars in new diesel locomotives, modern freight cars, centralized traffic control and electronic pushbutton yards. Efficiencies made possible by these have kept the industry solvent in the face of continually spiraling costs.

Faricy pointed out that the railroads are vital to both national security and the peacetime economy. The second largest industry and the fourth largest employer of labor, they use tremendous quantities of steel, wood, oil and other goods.

When the railroads have to retrench, repercussions are felt throughout the entire economy, he asserted. Recommendations made by the transportation executive for putting the railroads back on a sound economic track included:

1. Repeal the Federal transportation excise taxes which add 10 percent to the cost of passenger tickets and three percent to freight charges;
2. Allow the Interstate Commerce Commission to authorize the discontinuance of passenger trains and stations which cannot possibly operate at a profit;
3. Collect adequate charges for the commercial use of such publicity provided transportation facilities as highways, improved waterways, airports and airways.
4. Remove existing special restrictions upon the entry of railroads into motor and water transportation. (This would allow any carrier to seek permission to furnish a complete transportation service.)
5. Allow greater freedom for carriers to set their prices so that each may offer the public the full benefits of economical operations.
6. Restore to its original purpose as an aid to farmers the exemption from regulation which motor trucks enjoy when hauling agricultural commodities, fish, and livestock. (This exemption, according to Faricy, has been greatly expanded by court interpretation.)
7. Permit the deferral of tax payments on money set aside for the replacement and modernization of railroad facilities.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

Application forms and explanatory brochures were being mailed during April to more than 2½ million Legionnaires announcing the new American Legion Life Insurance plan being offered on a voluntary basis to paid-up members under an agreement with the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California.

Russia scored a "devastating propaganda victory" with its announcement that nuclear weapons tests are to be halted, according to National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion.

A special radio script for Flag Day, which is available from National Public Relations Division, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind., has also been sent directly to many radio stations by Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI).

On Apr. 9, South Dakota, which in 1957 had a total American Legion membership of 26,949, reported 26,981 paid-up members for 1958, becoming the third department to beat its 1957 record.

FOLLOWING ITEM FOR RELEASE APRIL 24 OR AFTER

President Truman has informally but publicly accepted an invitation to address the 40th National Convention of The American Legion to be held in Chicago, Sept. 1 to 4, it is reported in the May issue of the Legion magazine.

The insurance is being offered members of The American Legion on a voluntary basis under a special contract with the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California. Veterans in Puerto Rico will not be covered under the Occidental plan.

LATE NEWS BULLETINS:

Archie Pozzi, past department commander of the Nevada American Legion and a member of the National Contests Supervisory Committee from 1948 to 52, died of a heart attack in Carson City, Nev., Apr. 8.

First priority for housing at The American Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago, Sept. 1 to 4, has been earned by the Department of New Mexico through the enrollment of the top membership percentage on Mar. 31 as compared with the average for the previous four years.

Interservice rivalry and duplication are costing U.S. taxpayers 10 billion defense dollars a year, Past National Commander Erie Cocke, Jr., told The American Legion's National Security Commission, meeting in Washington on Apr. 9.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Final legal hurdles and administrative details were cleared on Mar. 31 to put The American Legion's new low-cost group insurance program into operation.

To Gov. James T. Blair, Jr., of Missouri, went the distinction of submitting the first application. National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., received the 56-year old Legionnaire governor's application and transmitted it to National Headquarters in Indianapolis along with his own.

The First National Bank of Kansas City, (Mo.) has been named trustee for The American Legion in the operation of the insurance plan, which has been approved by the Missouri state insurance commissioner.

Authorization for this new service for American Legion members only was voted at what may prove to have been a history-making special meeting of the National Executive Committee in Washington on Feb. 22. Since then, headquarters officials have been working overtime to set up the new administrative machinery.

Applications Mailed

The final approval on Mar. 31 triggered a mammoth mailing of brochures and application blanks, which began rolling from the National Headquarters by the truckload on the same date. Legion officials expected to complete the mailing to the entire membership of approximately 2½ million by Apr. 15.

The insurance is being offered members of The American Legion on a voluntary basis under a special contract with the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California, one of the largest insurance carriers in the nation. Legionnaires who are permanent residents of New York and Puerto Rico will not be covered under the Occidental plan but will be offered similar insurance through another plan.

Except in New York and Puerto Rico, the annual premium will be $12 for a full year, but Legionnaires applying this year will pay only $1.00 for each month remaining in the year. Thus, applicants in April will pay $8.00; in May $7.00. The monthly premium in the two excepted departments is $1.34.
Final legal hurdles and

Benefits Listed

Since this is a term insurance plan, death benefits will be based upon the age of the insured. Through age 34, the death benefit is $4,000.

In order to maintain the $12 premium, the higher mortality rates in older age brackets reduce the benefits with advancing years. From age 35 through 44 the benefit is $2,250.

From 45 through 54 death payment is $1,100. From 55 through 59 it is $600; 60 through 64, $400; 65 through 69, $250. No insurance will be issued for Legionnaires after their 70th birthday. Death benefits differ slightly for permanent residents of Ohio and Texas.

Legion officials point out that these low rates, which compare favorably with the cost of GI life insurance, were possible only because of the size of The American Legion membership. They anticipate that many veterans who were too quick in letting their GI insurance expire will take advantage of the Legion plan to replace the low-cost government insurance which they once had.

Added Protection

National Commander Gleason has pointed out that the plan offered by the present veterans organization is not intended to replace life insurance coverage of Legionnaires. Instead it is meant to provide additional protection at a minimum cost.

The higher benefits for the lower age brackets are expected to be particularly attractive to Legionnaires with young children. As children become older, the need for added life insurance protection decreases, it is pointed out.

The group plan permits the issuance of insurance on very liberal eligibility requirements. No physical examination is required.

A paid-up member of The American Legion for the current calendar year can be insured if he can answer the following three questions - the first with "yes", the other two with "no."

"Are you actively working?" "Have you been confined in a hospital within the last year?" "Do you now have, or during the past five years have you had, heart trouble, lung disease, cancer or any other serious illness?"

If the answer is "no" to the first question or "yes" to the other two, an explanation of the answer is required, and the insurance application will be accepted or turned down on the basis of the individual circumstances.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--In a speech widely carried by the press, National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion told the Rotary Club of Indianapolis on Apr. 8 that the Soviet Union had scored a "devastating propaganda victory" with its recent offer to suspend nuclear tests.

Commander Gleason urged that the United States "face up to this propaganda campaign" and "take the offensive, not in an aggressive, military sense, but in a strategic, tactical sense ... We have already waited too long! ... The American Legion is tired of seeing our great nation knocked from propaganda pillar to political post by the Communist giant!"

Declaring that the sacrifices the American people are asked to make were always used "too little, too haphazard and a moment or a continent too late," The American Legion Chief asserted "the first thing we must do is to stop kidding ourselves as to the effectiveness of our existing programs and policies in halting the relentless spread of Communism!"

In summarizing what he termed the inadequacy of our present national security program, Commander Gleason stated, "I submit The American Legion might well stand alone in saying that the United States is militarily unprepared today compared to the enemy we face!"

In conclusion he said, "America will carry out our planned nuclear tests in the Pacific this spring and summer. And Russia will carry on her propaganda, multiplying its effectiveness with each nuclear device we explode. Knowing this, we still have no choice but to conduct these tests. And when we conclude, Russia, in outraged indignation, will announce to the world that in her own self-defense and against her demonstrated desire for peace she must resume her own tests. Summer will fade into fall. Soon another year of precious, unrecoverable time will have passed."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--The title of world's youngest 40-year member of The American Legion, after being held by Vincent Bow of Greenville, Mich., for two weeks, has passed to Montana, where Department Adjutant Chester (Chet) K. Shore has revealed that he won't be 56 until May 25.

Former Title-Holder Bow passed his 56th birthday on Apr. 5, and may still be champ on a technicality.

Shore boosted his age two years to get into service in World War I and his military records show him as being born in 1900, but he reports he was really born in 1902, which would make him a full 50 days younger than Michigan's Bow.

Shore was a charter member of Wyandotte Post in Kansas City, Kan., joining in the fall of 1919 immediately after hearing Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., make a talk in the old Electric Theater there. He served six years during World War II, was recalled for Korean duty, is still in the Organized Reserve, and still has to carry a Selective Service card from his local draft board.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.--(ALNS)--Scouting for mentally retarded boys is an unusual community service offered by Furniture City Post 258 of The American Legion since 1955. Under the direction of Scoutmaster Kenneth L. Colby, Sr., 42 boys at Coldbrook Special School in Grand Rapids have been organized into a Scout troop and Cub pack by the post.

"After two years of Scout work with the mentally retarded," says Scoutmaster Colby, "I find their greatest need is to be regarded as genuine Scouts, so they can be like their brothers or the boy down the street.

He adds that they "have the same basic needs as do all boys, namely, security, understanding, appreciation and satisfaction of achievement."
WASHINGTON, D. C. --(ALNS)-- Philip N. Brownstein, assistant director for loan policy and management of the Veterans Administration loan guaranty service, has been appointed director of the loan guaranty service, Sumner G. Whittier, VA administrator, has announced.

FLEMINGTON, N.J.--(ALNS)--Flemington Post 159 of The American Legion has passed the era of the bronze cannon memorial by getting authorization from the Federal government to acquire a surplus F-84F Thunderstreak plane as a landmark at its post home.

PORTLAND, Me.--(ALNS)--Maurice Libby, 70, member of The American Legion's National Membership and Post Activities Committee, has demonstrated through his own personal efforts why National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., picked him for work on this group. Last year he enrolled 241 members. For 1958 he has already been responsible for 297 renewals and 158 new members for a grand total of 455.

Commander Gleason has asked all members of the Membership and Post Activities Committee to become "Gleason Galvanizers" by seeing to it that their own post and five other posts in their immediate area equal or exceed last year's total membership by May 1. Membership producers such as Libby shouldn't have too much trouble with this assignment from the national commander.

BUFFALO, N. Y.--(ALNS)--Matt S. Stukowski, commander of Adam Plewacki Post 799 of The American Legion, Buffalo, has seen in the Legion's new life insurance plan a golden opportunity to invite former members of the post to reaffiliate. A letter outlining the new insurance plan has been sent to all ex-members of the Plewacki Post. They were invited to visit the post on any day between 2:00 and 9:00 p.m. from April 1 to 15 to have the insurance plan explained to them personally.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has asked the assistance of The American Legion to stimulate the polio vaccination program. The Foundation reports that 60 percent of the population is still unvaccinated and that this situation could result in an epidemic later this year. Adequate supplies of the Salk vaccine are reported available.

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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--(ALNS)--Some people in Wisconsin have taken literally the title of a play recently published by the National Association for Mental Health under a grant from The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Name of the play - "Which Way Out." The request - from the Wisconsin State Prison.

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* FLAG DAY RADIO SCRIPT
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* NOTE TO PUBLIC RELATIONS AND RADIO CHAIRMEN: Broadcast Music *nc. (EMI) has *
* issues in cooperation with The American Legion a special Flag Day radio script. *
* The 15-minute script has been sent to most (but not all) radio stations by EMI. *
* *
* As a means of bringing this patriotic event to the attention of the public, *
* we suggest that you contact the radio station or stations in your area, find out *
* if they have received a copy of the script, and offer your services in present- *
* ing the program or in publicizing it. The script allows time for a message from *
* a local sponsor, which could well be your American Legion Post or Department. *
* *
* In case your radio station does not have copies of the script, they can be *
* obtained on your request from: National Public Relations Division, The American *
* Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind. *
* *

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(ALNS)--Fate of the controversial section 203 subdivision (b) of the postal rate increase bill (H.R. 5836) remained in doubt on April 11 with Congress still in adjournment for the Easter recess. Unanticipated action by the Senate put into the bill a provision for raising postal rates for nonprofit organizations, including The American Legion.

Since the House version of the same bill did not include this section, the decision is now up to a conference committee of five Representatives and three Senators. Department Adjutants of the American Legion have been asked to send their views to Tom Murray (D-Tenn.), House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ALNS)—The District of Columbia Department of The American Legion will this year hold its first Boys State on the campus of Georgetown University, June 15-24. Last year, through a special arrangement with neighboring Maryland, District Boys Staters participated in the program sponsored by the Maryland Department.

ST. THOMAS, N. D.—(ALNS)—If we need more scientists, let’s start at home now. This was the decision of Ottum-Ball Post 168 of The American Legion at St. Thomas, N. D., which resulted in a gift of $5,000 by the post to the local school district for the purchase of science equipment to be used in the high school.

S. BREWER, Me.—(ALNS)—Friends of Daniel E. Lambert, commander of the Penobscot County (Me.) American Legion, are claiming a record for him in making more than 100 speeches to non-Legion groups since his election last June. His fame as a public speaker has now spread beyond the state borders and the four-times-wounded War II veteran is being asked to address groups in other New England states and in neighboring Canada.

BALTIMORE, Md.—(ALNS)—Six portable television sets have been given VA hospitals by Maccabean Post 32 of The American Legion here. Three hospitals - Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore; Perry Point, and Fort Howard -- have received two sets each from the post.

EUCLID, O.—(ALNS)—The Northumbrians, only bagpipe band in the Ohio American Legion, has stepped out with a “new look” - kilts of Royal Stewart plaid. The popular bagpipe aggregation played at a recent Grotto circus and also at the opening hockey game in the Cleveland Arena last fall.
NEW YORK, N.Y.—(ALNS)—Former President Harry S. Truman has accepted an invitation to address the 1958 National Convention of The American Legion in Chicago, it was announced in the May issue of the Legion Magazine.

Ex-President Truman’s acceptance was made informally. It was reported that he stated in public that he had received an invitation through National Legislative Chairman Jerome Duggan of Missouri and that he "would be happy to accept." Mr. Truman, while President, addressed National Conventions in 1948 and 1949. He is a life member of American Legion Post 21 at Independence, Mo.

President Eisenhower, who is also a life member of The American Legion – Post 39, Abilene, Kansas, – has also been invited to address the convention, but a reply is not expected until nearer convention time – Sept. 1 to 4 – because of inability to predict the President’s schedule this far in advance.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATERTOWN, S. D.—(ALNS)—South Dakota was the third department to beat its 1957 American Legion membership record. On Apr. 9 South Dakota, which in 1957 had a total membership of 26,949, reported to National Headquarters 26,981 paid-up members for 1958

Appropriately, at the same time the membership figures reached National Headquarters in Indianapolis, 24 top membership workers were visiting there. They were winners in an annual South Dakota competition which has as its top prize an all-expense trip to Legion Headquarters.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—The annual spring conference of the National Association of American Legion Department Historians will be held in the library of the Legion's National Headquarters, Apr. 30 to May 2, it has been announced by National Historian Mrs. Emily J. P. Herbert, New York Department Historian Frank E. Monnin, who is president of the historian's association, will preside.

HARTFORD, Wis.—(ALNS)—William H. Dietrich, past president of the Society of American Legion Founders, has been elected a judge of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin.
CORRECTION

Kill the story in enclosed ALNS of 4-18-58 on the North Carolina membership trophy. Alaska did not (repeat not) win the trophy.

Substitute following story:

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—Mexico has been declared the winner of the North Carolina Trophy for 1958 by E. A. Blackmore, national adjutant of The American Legion. The trophy goes to the outlying department which on March 31 has the highest percentage of members as compared with its total membership on the previous December 31. The Department of Mexico copped the trophy with a percentage of 86.04.

Alaska was the winner of the North Carolina Trophy for 1958, American Legion membership award for departments other than the 50 States and D. C.

Post 8214 of The American Legion at Carlin, Ill., won the McNutt Trophy in the American Legion’s annual postal match for .22 cal. rifle marksmen on the 50 ft. range.

Be sure that members of the American Legion Auxiliary understand the new life insurance now available to Legionnaires is the advice of William H. Caine commander of the Missouri American Legion.

A free trip by air to Puerto Rico has been offered as a membership prize to a hard-working American Legion department commander of the southern area by National Vice Commander Ramon L. Cane.
LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

By April 18 American Legion National Headquarters had completed the mailing of life insurance applications and brochures to its members in all except one department and was also winding up the shipment to department and post adjutants of bulk supplies of application forms and a series of explanatory questions and answers on the new insurance plan for Legion members.

Approval of President Eisenhower's plan for reorganization of the Defense Department has been recommended to The American Legion's National Executive Committee by its National Security Commission.

The first national Congress of Uniformed Groups held at American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Apr. 11-13, laid the groundwork for a new era of growth and harmony in Legion music competition.

Self-preservation and the security of the free world must be prime considerations in any disarmament talks, the National Foreign Relations Commission of The American Legion has warned.

James P. Ringley has been named president and chairman of the Board of The American Legion 1958 National Convention Corporation to make arrangements for the huge conclave to be held in that city, Sept. 1 to 4, 1958.

Alaska was the winner of the North Carolina Trophy for 1958, American Legion membership award for departments other than the 48 States and D. C.

Post 224 of The American Legion at Carmi, Ill., won the McNutt Trophy in The American Legion's annual postal match for .22 cal. rifle marksmen on the 50 ft. range.

Be sure that members of the American Legion Auxiliary understand the new life insurance now available to Legionnaires is the advice of William H. Cain commander of the Missouri American Legion.

A free trip by air to Puerto Rico has been offered as a membership prize to a hard-working American Legion department commander of the southern area by National Vice Commander Ramon R. Guas.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE
AMERICAN LEGION LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

1—Does The American Legion group life insurance plan cover the entire family?
No. It provides insurance coverage only for the individual Legionnaire.

2—Are Auxiliary members included in the plan?
No. At present the plan is designed to cover only The American Legion.

3—Does the insurance plan cover accident or illness?
No. It is a death benefit only.

4—Can I get additional coverage for additional premium?
No. Every Legionnaire is entitled, if found eligible, for only one (1) unit of coverage.

5—Who decides on the acceptance of my application?
The final decision as to whether an application is accepted or not rests with the insurance company which is underwriting the plan.

6—Do 75 per cent of the members of my Post have to be accepted under the group plan before my application is accepted?
No. Each application is considered on an individual basis. The 75 per cent provision applies only for borderline risks.

7—Can this group policy be converted to any other type?
No. It is simple term life insurance.

8—Will my policy have any loan value?
No. There is no loan value or conversion value.

9—I am a war veteran but not a member of The American Legion. How can I be covered?
See the Adjutant of your nearest American Legion Post to join The American Legion. After your dues are paid you are eligible to apply under the plan. Each Post will be provided with a supply of applications.

10—How long can I carry this group insurance policy?
As long as you continue to be a Legionnaire. The insurance terminates, however, on the member's 70th birthday.

11—Does the amount of my insurance coverage decrease as I grow older?
Yes. The age bracket determines the amount. Your birth anniversary each year determines your age bracket. The maximum is $4,000; minimum is $250.

12—Does every member of The American Legion have to apply for this group life insurance plan?
No. It is a voluntary participation plan. It is an insurance bargain that is offered to members only. It is an extra membership advantage for which you may apply or not as you wish.

13—When are payments due?
The first payment is due with your application and it must include a dollar a month for the remaining months of the year, beginning with the next month (except in New York state and Puerto Rico). Thereafter, you must pay the entire next year's premium of $12.00 on or before December 31. You must also prepay your American Legion dues for the ensuing year before the same date.

14—I understand that while this insurance is more liberal than individual certificates or policies, some people will only be accepted if 75 per cent of the members of their Posts are insured. If I am in this class, what happens if 75 per cent of my Post is not signed up at the time that I apply?
Your application and payment will be held for a reasonable period while a check is made on the percentage of your Post that is insured. Then you will either be insured or your payment will be returned to you.

15—Suppose it is much later before 75 per cent of my Post is insured under this plan. Can I then re-apply?
Yes.

16—If I am not accepted at all, what happens to my first payment?
Those who are not insurable under any circumstances will have their payments returned with that decision.

17—If I am accepted but later become too disabled to work, can I keep the insurance?
Yes. So long as you renew it each year on time.

18—Is there a grace period on payments?
No. All annual payments must be made on or before December 31.

19—If I am late in making a payment, what happens?
You would not be insured after December 31. You would have to send in a new application. You could be insured again if you are still insurable under the terms of the plan.

20—Will my group insurance remain effective if I am recalled to active duty with the Armed Forces?
You would continue to be covered as long as you are on peace-time duty with the Armed Forces. There is a war-exclusion clause, so you would not be covered for a death occurring in military service in time of war.

21—Is an individual's insurance contestable by the company at a later date?
It is not contestable after it has been in force for two consecutive years during his lifetime. But a death benefit will not be paid unless the insured was a paid-up member of The American Legion for the current calendar year at the time of death. In other words, both the premiums and American Legion dues have to be maintained.

22—On what basis would the insurance be contestable within that two-year limit?
If the member's application misinformed the company.

23—Is there a suicide exclusion clause in the policy?
No. All deaths are covered except those due to military service in time of war.

24—If I become insured will I get a certificate or policy of insurance?
Yes.

25—Has The American Legion insurance plan any connection with government insurance?
None whatever. It is a commercial group insurance plan.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—Whether the weight of The American Legion, world's largest veterans organization, is to be thrown behind President Eisenhower's plan for reorganization of the Defense Department is one of the top questions before the Apr. 30-May 2 meeting of the Legion National Executive Committee in Indianapolis.

First step toward approval of Ike's plan was taken at a meeting of the National Security Commission of The American Legion in Washington Apr. 9-11. The decision to recommend support of the President's plan was reached after lengthy discussion which included unscheduled appearances before the commission by Col. Brice Harlow, Presidential assistant and former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Carl Spaatz (ret.)

General Spaatz termed the President's proposals as "a long step in the right direction." He spoke of the "entrenched" interest groups favoring the three independent services and opposing the reorganization as a possible threat to the success of the program. The present defense organization "is about as adequate to meet another Pearl Harbor as the last one met Pearl Harbor in December of 1941," he said.

Warning also came to the commission from a panel of military journalists that "too many Americans are preoccupied with the monetary aspects of defense." The "Defense Desk" presentation was broadcast by station WGMS (Mutual) on Apr. 13.

Other measures which the Security Commission voted to recommend to the National Executive Committee, policy-making body of The American Legion between National Conventions, included: support of a unified military command; opposition to reductions in the Army Reserve and National Guard; support of military aid for nations of the free world only; reaffirmation of the Legion's long-standing disaster relief agreement with the Red Cross.

The commission received briefings on major national defense problems from top representatives of the government, press, military establishment and industry.
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—A new era of harmony and growth in American Legion music competition was presaged at the first national Congress of Uniformed Groups held at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Apr. 11-13.

The 91 representatives of Legion bands and drum and bugle corps from all over the country put present rules and procedures under the microscope and came up with recommendations to put the annual competitions on a smoother working basis.

Top bone of contention in the past has been a two-point penalty for using non-Legionnaires in senior drum and bugle corps. The congress recommended that this rule be changed to permit up to 25 percent non-members in competing corps without penalty.

The National Contests Supervisory Committee, meeting at the same time, went along with the general idea but cut the recommended percentage to 20. Louis R. Shealy of Anniston, Ala., chairman of the committee, who presided at the conference, pointed out that the recommended rule changes would have to be approved by the National Convention Commission first and then by the National Executive Committee before becoming effective.

Representatives of uniformed groups were unanimous in their approval of holding the conference and recommended that similar meetings be held annually, preferably just prior to the spring meeting of the NEC. Having seen some of the problems of the national committee in staging the spectacular contests each year at the National Convention, the corps leaders pledged to police their own units to bring about strict compliance with all contest rules.

Another recommendation was that final competition for the top 10 junior drum corps be held annually. This was done for the first time at last year's Atlantic City convention, and the Contests Committee has now approved the idea of holding such a play-off this year in Chicago.

Father Edward Wojtycha, director of Quinn Post 52 junior drum and bugle corps, Jersey City, N. J., and a long-time leader in American Legion music, was the speaker at a banquet on Saturday evening, Apr. 12. National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore brought greetings from John S. Gleason, Jr., National Commander.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Any disarmament agreement entered into by the United States must permit us adequate arms and instruments to maintain our own security and that of the free world. The American Legion’s National Foreign Relations Commission recommended at its meeting in Washington, Apr. 9-11.

The strongly worded recommendation, which will be reported to the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting Apr. 30-May 2, pointed out Russia’s "unbroken record of broken promises" and urged that any agreement which might be planned "be entered into with no thought of aggression but with full regard for the needs of national self-preservation and security."

Other recommendations of the Foreign Relations Commission to be presented to the NEC include: continued unalterable opposition to U.N. admission of Red China; withholding aid from nations which trade strategic materials with Russia, China and their satellites; furtherance of economic and cultural ties with Latin America.

CHICAGO, (ALNS)—James P. Hingson has been elected president and chairman of the Board of The American Legion 1958 National Convention Corporation. The next elected to the American Legion’s Board of Directors is President of The American Legion.

MILWAUKEE (ALNS)—J. Edgar Hoover’s best selling book Masters of Deceit, telling the story of Communist aims and methods in the U. S., is being published in daily and Sunday installments by the Milwaukee Sentinel, beginning Apr. 13.

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—Two long-time American Legion service officers are scheduled to retire this summer after a life-time of helping veterans. They are James F. Burns, first and only Wisconsin Department service officer, and Lester R. Benston, director of rehabilitation in the Illinois Department for more than 36 years.

INDIANAPOLIS, (ALNS)—Alaska has been declared the winner of the North Carolina Trophy for 1956, by E. A. Blackmer, National adjutant of The American Legion.

CRANSTON, R. I. (ALNS)—Shall we teach Russian in our high schools? is to be discussed by a panel of speakers at the Cranston (R.I.) High School on Apr. 30. The Americanism Committee of the Rhode Island department will participate in the discussion.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO, (ALNS)---James P. Ringley has been elected president and chairman of the Board of The American Legion 1958 National Convention Corporation. He was named to the dual post by the Convention Corporation Board of Directors to fill the vacancy created by the death of Phil W. Collins. C. E. Cross was named vice chairman of the board. The corporation is in charge of all facilities and arrangements for the 40th National Convention to be held in Chicago, Sept. 1 to 4, 1958.

NEW ORLEANS, (ALNS)—Chester A. Peyronnin, editor of the Legion Leader of Crescent City Post 125, New Orleans, and a past post commander, has been presented a life membership in The American Legion by his post.

INDIANAPOLIS, (ALNS)—Orations given by each state champion in The American Legion's 1958 High School Oratorical Contest will be published in book form, C. A. Tesch, national Americanism director, has announced. The publication, which is expected to be available about the end of May, will be sold for $1.00.

Prize winning orations were published for the first time in 1957. At that time the price was $2.00, but success of the project has justified cutting the price in half, Tesch said.

INDIANAPOLIS, (ALNS)—Alaska has been declared the winner of the North Carolina Trophy for 1958, by E. A. Blackmore, national adjutant of The American Legion. The trophy goes to the department other than the 48 states and D. C. which on March 31 has the highest percentage of members as compared with its total membership on the previous December 31. Alaska copped the trophy with a percentage of 101.12.

CRANSTON, R. I. (ALNS)—Shall we teach Russian in our high schools? is to be discussed by a panel of speakers at the Cranston (R.I.) High School on Apr. 30. The Americanism Committee of the Rhode Island American Legion will participate in the discussion.
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)---Post 224 of The American Legion at Carmi, Ill., walked off with top honors and the McNutt Trophy in the Legion's annual 50 ft., .22 cal. rifle match. Paced by Forrest E. Toler, champion American Legion marksman of 1958, the Carmi team scored 1446 out of a possible 1500.

Coming in second with a score of 1423 in the postal match was the team of American Legion Post 30 at Gresham, Ore., whose Leslie St. Clair, Jr., took second in the individual scoring using a rifle with metallic sights.

First individual scorer with telescopic sights was Andy A. Hammer of Post 36, Valier, Mont. The five-man Valier entry placed third in the match.

CHICAGO (ALNS)---From its basement swimming pool to the roof of its three-story clubrooms, Harold A. Taylor Post 47 of The American Legion here is undergoing a complete renovation in preparation for the 40th National Convention, Sept. 1 to 4, 1958.

Besides its swimming pool, the post has its own bowling alleys, and the welcome sign is polished and ready to hang for all Legionnaire delegates to the Chicago National Convention.

FOLLOWING FOR RELEASE AFTER APRIL 29, 1958

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)---"Stars and Stripes on Display", flag education film produced by Indiana University in cooperation with The American Legion, has received new acclaim. It was one of seven top films for grades 3 through 6 and the only university-produced movie selected to receive the annual Scholastic Teacher Film award.

The 16-mm sound movie explains in a simple yet moving manner how to display and respect Old Glory. It is sold in either color or black and white through Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind.
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.,—(ALNS)—Recognizing that life insurance is a family matter, Department Commander William H. Cain of the Missouri American Legion has urged all posts of that state to send qualified speakers to discuss the Legion's new life insurance plan at meetings of the Auxiliary.

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NOTICE TO LEGION EDITORS: Printed questions and answers on The American Legion's new life insurance program are enclosed with this issue of ALNS. Because of the wide interest in the program, we hope you will be able to republish all or any part of these questions and answers.

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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—After making a successful demonstration of a new meat-cutting machine to a butcher, the young and inexperienced salesman asked his prospect if he was satisfied with the machine. The butcher nodded yes.

"Then," asked the salesman, "why don't you buy it?"

"Well," was the reply, "why don't you ask me?"


BALTIMORE, Md.—(ALNS)—H. Laird Roeder of Baltimore was the first general member of The American Legion's National Membership and Post Activities Committee to be certified as a "Gleason Galvanizer." Roeder's own post - No. 183 - has more than doubled its membership, and his district is already well ahead of its last year's total.

HOLLAND, Mich.,—(ALNS)—An 18-hole golf course is one of the many activities of Willard G. Leenhouts Post 6 of The American Legion at Holland, Mich. The post which recently reached an all-time membership high, is interested in hearing from other posts which operate golf courses. Adjutant is Alden J. Stoner, P. O. Box 616.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 4-18-58

TRENTON, N.J. (ALNS)---The American Legion's 1957 national "Certificate of Appreciation" citation for employment of the physically handicapped in New Jersey has been earned by the Leslie Company of Lyndhurst. Formal presentation was scheduled to be made at the Leslie plant by New Jersey Department Commander Warren R. Davies on April 23.

Picked to receive the citation was S. Inglis Leslie, chairman of the board. Participants in the ceremony include, in addition to American Legion officials, representatives of the U. S. Employment Service and the State Division of Veterans Services. The Leslie Company was selected for the award after a statewide survey covering the record of many firms in the employment of the physically handicapped, particularly disabled veterans.

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NOTE TO LEGION EDITORS: If an outfit calling itself Wheelchair Shows, Box 24667, Los Angeles, operated by Ben Roberts, contacts your post regarding a show featuring disabled veterans, ALNS recommends that you turn it down. Lou Babb, Idaho department adjutant, has informed National Headquarters that a post in that state has just had an unhappy experience with the outfit, involving unpaid bills and bouncing checks.

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SAN JUAN, P.R. (ALNS)---National Vice Commander Ramon R. Guas of The American Legion has announced two awards for departments of the southern area with the highest percentage of their 1958 membership quota. A round trip by air will be awarded the department commander or his representative as first prize, and a trophy will be given to the second place winner. To be eligible, departments must attain 100 percent of their 1958 quota. Winners will be announced at a meeting of the southern group in Chicago just prior to the opening of the 40th National Convention there, Sept. 1 to 4.
The first insurance certificate issued a Legionnaire of (Name of state) under The American Legion's new membership life insurance plan has gone to (First name, middle initial, and last name), (Street address or rural route number), (name of city or town).

Announcement that the first certificate had been issued in the state was made by (First name, middle initial, last name), department commander of the (Name of state) American Legion.

Under an agreement with the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California, The American Legion has offered a low-cost insurance plan to its members on a voluntary basis. This is the first program of its kind ever undertaken by the veterans' organization.

Issued under the statutes of the State of Missouri, the level-premium, term insurance was offered Legionnaires as a method of providing additional family protection. John S. Gleason, Jr., the Legion National Commander, has explained that the organization's plan was "not intended to and will not in practice take the place of regular insurance coverage."

Instead, its purpose was to provide an inexpensive and liberal means for Legionnaires to add to their existing protection in view of continued rises in the cost of living. Commander Gleason also pointed out that many veterans were too hasty in dropping their GI insurance and that through the new program The American Legion is offering its members an opportunity to replace this lost protection.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

PORTALES, N. M. (ALNS)---Reed Stewart, 18, who won the 1958 national high school oratorical championship sponsored by The American Legion, received so many telegrams before the finals here on Apr. 21 from Hoosier admirers to "bring home the bacon" that he did just that.

After the contest, young Stewart went into a Western Trading Center in Portales and purchased a 16-inch-long porcelain pig - a huge savings bank. He got all the judges, American Legion officials and faculty members of Eastern New Mexico University to inscribe the big pig with their signatures. His mother lugged the souvenir home on the plane.

With 11,357 applications on hand by Apr. 24, American Legion officials expressed amazement at the early response to the new life insurance plan which has been offered members only on a voluntary basis.

Reed Steward, 18, Brazil, Ind., high school senior and governor of the 1957 Hoosier Boys State, was crowned national champion orator at the finals of The American Legion National Oratorical Contest at Portales, N. M., April 21.

"The fact that the people who know insurance best had the first applications shows an ability to analyze business propositions are under the rules to apply for our insurance is one of the most encouraging aspects of the new plan," said William B. Hunter, American Legion national life insurance director.

Delaware was the ninth American Legion Department to top its 1958 membership quota.

All commission and committee meetings, as well as staff offices, at The American Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, 1958, will be in the Morrison Hotel.

With an increase of 52, sponsorship of Scout units by American Legion posts and Auxiliary units climbed to 4,244 in 1957, the Boy Scout organization announced.

If you sponsor a junior baseball team, don't forget to buy team insurance.

LATE NEWS BULLETINS

Leaders of The American Legion began gathering in Indianapolis on Apr. 26 and 27 for the annual spring meeting of the National Executive Committee and other committees and commissions.

Congressional conferrees agreed on a 4¢ 1st class postal rate Apr. 26 but had not yet announced a decision on the proposed increase in postal rates for non-profit organizations.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)--The trickle of applications for the new American Legion life insurance, which began on Apr. 1 with the announcement of final approval of the plan, began swelling into a flood tide by the fourth week in April.

More than 3000 applications arrived in the Monday morning mail on Apr. 21, and by Apr. 24 American Legion Headquarters had recorded 11,357 applications, with every mail bringing additional checks and completed forms. American Legion officials were amazed at the early response, pointing out that by that date from 25 to 50 percent of the membership had not yet even received application blanks.

A spot check gave added proof of the acceptance of the life insurance plan which had been developed by The American Legion and the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California. The review found salesmen, merchants and insurance men among the top occupational groups applying.

"The fact that the people who know insurance best and those whose occupations require an ability to analyze business propositions are among the first to apply for our insurance is one of the most encouraging aspects of the new program," National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., said.

An innovation in American Legion activity, the group-type, term insurance has been offered American Legion members only on a voluntary basis. Except in New York and Puerto Rico, the premium is $12 per year, with death benefits determined by the age of the insured.

Among the early applicants the average age was running just over 45 years. Although it had been anticipated that the insurance might appeal primarily to veterans with young families, many Legionnaires in their late 60's were applying.

Even though the insurance terminates at age 70, one Legionnaire 69-years-11-months-old applied. His premium was $1 for the one month he would be covered before his 70th birthday.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTALES, N. M. (ALNS)--Reed Stewart, 18, of Brazil, Ind., 1957 governor of Hoosier Boys State and a senior, won the national oratorical championship at the finals of the 21st annual high school speech contest of The American Legion at Eastern New Mexico University here on April 21.

Young Stewart was the unanimous choice of the judges for the 1958 national high school oratorical title with its first prize of a $4000 scholarship. He plans to attend DePauw University to study for the ministry or to take a law course.

How They Finished

The four finalists finished in the following order:
1 - Reed Stewart, 18, Brazil, Ind., $4000 scholarship.
2 - Ronald W. Yakaitis, 16, Baltimore, Md., $2500 scholarship, which he plans to use to study medicine at either Johns Hopkins or Columbia University.
3 - Tom Compertz, 17, Merced, Cal., $1000 scholarship, which he expects to apply in studying political economy at either the University of California or Stanford in preparation for a career in law.
4 - Syd Nathans, 17, Houston, Texas, $500 scholarship to be used in the study of applied psychology and law at Rice Institute.

Gov. E. L. Mechem of New Mexico, one of the judges, was the first to congratulate the contestants after the decisions were announced by Archie Glosso of Lodi, Cal., member of the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion who was in charge of the finals.

Honors for Champion

National Americanism Director C. A. Tesch of The American Legion accompanied young Stewart to New York City by air following the contest. There the new champion appeared on the NBC Dave Garroway television show on April 23.

National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., presented the winner with the $4000 scholarship on the TV program. Young Stewart also delivered the climactic part of his oration for the benefit of the nationwide TV audience. The title of his original oration was "Our Constitution - Heritage of American Youth."

All four of the finalists scored hits with the faculty, students and townspeople of Portales.

Young Stewart was accompanied by his mother, Mrs. Ruby M. Stewart. His father is Circuit Court Judge Robert B. Stewart of Brazil. Also accompanying the Hoosier boy orator was his high school speech coach, Mrs. William G. Shearer.

Brazil organized a community homecoming for the national winner, setting aside Sunday, April 27, as "Reed Stewart Day."
WASHINGTON (ALNS)—GI loan activity took an upward spurt in March over the previous month, probably in anticipation of the President's approval of the 1958 housing bill, the VA has announced. The housing legislation, which included two provisions strongly supported by The American Legion, was signed by President Eisenhower on Apr. 1.

WILMINGTON, Del. (ALNS)—The Delaware Department of The American Legion became the ninth quota-breaking department of 1958 when on Apr. 18 it reported a membership of 4,145 against its assigned quota of 4,144.

CHICAGO (ALNS)—You won't have any trouble finding your committee meeting at the 40th National Convention of The American Legion in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, 1958. All commission and committee meetings, as well as staff offices, will be in the Morrison Hotel, Convention Corporation President James P. Ringley has announced.

The special arrangements made with the Morrison Hotel management are certain to reduce taxi bills for delegates, cut irksome delays in getting to meetings, and eliminate the wail of the lost delegate who "can't find where his committee is meeting.

It has also been announced that the parade, which is expected to be one of the biggest in recent Legion history, will step off down Chicago's famed Michigan Boulevard beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1. The formal opening of the convention will be on Tuesday morning, Sept. 2.

Contests of drum and bugle corps, bands, color guards and other uniformed groups will be held Aug. 30 and 31. The initial meetings of convention committees will also be held prior to the formal opening of the 40th conclave.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—One-fourth of The American Legion's 17,000 posts sponsored Scout units during the past year, Arthur A. Schuck, chief Scout Executive, has informed National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr.

The 4244 Scout units sponsored by American Legion posts and Auxiliary units included 1132 Cub packs, 2357 Boy Scout troops and 755 Explorer units with a total membership of 178,000 boys. There was a net increase of 52 Scout units under Legion sponsorship during the year.

The Department of the Panama Canal Zone stood at the top of the list, with its six posts sponsoring five Scout units. Among the continental departments, Washington State was first with 53.2 percent - 120 Scout units and 226 posts.

Scout Executive Schuck expressed the "deep appreciation of the Boy Scouts of America for the most excellent support which the officers, posts, and members of The American Legion have given to the Scouting movement."

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Reservists drawing non-disability retired pay for military service may receive VA compensation or pension benefits provided they waive an equal amount of retired pay, under the terms of Public Law 85-376, which became effective May 1.

Under previous laws, the waiver privilege was open to all retired members of the Regular Armed Forces, but to Reservists only if they were retired for physical disability. The new law gives equal waiver privileges to all veterans receiving retired pay for either Regular or Reserve military service.
WASHINGTON (ALNS)--An attempt to re-establish national prohibition through a flank attack is the way James F. O’Neil, publisher of The American Legion Magazine described a bill (S. 582) which, if passed, would prohibit the interstate distribution of advertisements of alcoholic beverages. He made the assertion in a statement to the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on April 23.

DUBUQUE, Iowa (ALNS)--Thomas E. Byrne, vice chairman of The American Legion Counter-Subversive Activities Committee, died at his home in Dubuque on Apr. 16. He is survived by his wife and four sons, who reside at 1275 Curtis St., Dubuque.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (ALNS)--The 41st anniversary of the entry of the United States in World War I on Apr. 6, 1917, was observed by Villotto-Riggin Post 67 of The American Legion on Saturday, Apr. 12. The ceremonies at Community Hall included an address by East Rutherford Mayor Henry Helstoski and initiation of new members of the post and the Auxiliary unit.

FORT LORAMIE, Ohio (ALNS)--The only oral will ever probated in Shelby County, Ohio, that of the late Mark M. (Salty) Saltzgaber, has resulted in the bulk of his $2,500 estate going to Fort Loramie Post 355 of The American Legion.

While hospitalized, the 77-year-old veteran of both World Wars told visiting Legionnaires in the presence of doctors and nurses, "If I should die, I want the Legion post to have all my money." The unusual will was not contested by surviving nieces and nephews.

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)--A reminder to purchase junior baseball team insurance has been issued to American Legion posts sponsoring junior clubs by Lou Brissie, Legion junior baseball commissioner.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORT CARSON, Colo. (ALNS)---A 72-year-old World War I veteran, hiking from Georgia to Alaska, paused at Fort Carson on a recent afternoon long enough to boost the morale of combat infantry trainees.

Smokey Cameron, a game little man wearing the cap of Thomas County Post 222 of The American Legion, Thomasville, Ga., and carrying a paid-up membership card in his pocket, showed more energy than most of the infantry trainees he met. Just to prove it, he joined Company A of the 1st Battle Group, 60th Infantry, in close order drill and recited the General Orders.

Cameron, who claims to be a grandson of a famous Apache chief, Cochise, left the U.S. Army as a major 25 years ago. At 18 he was a deputy sheriff of Tombstone, Ariz. In the next six years he cut eight notches in the handle of his Colt .45, he told trainees while spinning tales of the Old West.

He added a few of his experiences as an Army flier in World War I.

The Carson trainees met Cameron while they were giving blood at St. Francis Hospital in Colorado Springs - it was his 48th pint. After giving the pint, septuagenarian Smokey jumped from the bed and did 10 pushups.

The 60th Go-Devils invited the old soldier to dinner at Company B and other battle group members donated snacks for his pack.

Cameron stated that he's on his second hike to Alaska and expects the trip to take him three years. Other hikes totaling 3800 miles have taken him to Canada, Mexico, Central America and the 48 states in the past 11 years since the death of his wife and two children in a cattle stampede.

His membership record at National Headquarters of The American Legion in Indianapolis gives his home address as 424 Smith Ave., Thomasville, Ga.
SUGGESTED EDITORIAL FOR AMERICAN LEGION PUBLICATIONS

4/25/58

A MATTER OF COURTESY

Sudden prosperity can have its drawbacks for individuals and organizations. Back in 1945 and '46 when World War II veterans were coming home by the millions, just about every American Legion Post was taking in new members faster than adjutants could issue membership cards. The returning GI's wanted to be associated with an established, aggressive organization which was firmly fixed in the public mind as the voice of the veteran.

Keeping membership strength above quota was so easy for a few years that we're afraid some posts forgot that their responsibility to a new member went further than accepting his dues and mailing him a membership card.

Take the matter of initiation for example. We wonder how many posts were so swamped back in 1945 and '46 that they gave up trying to initiate their new members and have never initiated any since. Every new member has a right to be told what the organization he joins stands for, to know what is expected of him as a member, and to be officially welcomed.

This is the purpose of the simple yet dignified initiation ceremony in the Manual of Ceremonies. We venture that thousands of new members who paid their dues but did not receive a proper induction into The American Legion have never really felt that they belonged to the organization or that their post had any interest in them. After a couple of years, they start asking why they should keep on paying dues to an outfit that has never paid them any attention. And, likely as not, they decide there isn't any good reason.

The inevitable result is another delinquent - and the necessity for the membership committee to find a replacement who, in turn, may well never become a permanent, working Legionnaire. Isn't it about time that every American Legion Post again started paying its new members the courtesy of a welcoming initiation?
Gen. Thomas D. White, chief of staff of the U. S. Air Force, will address the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Indianapolis at 1:30 p.m. (CDT), Wednesday, April 30. Announcement that the top military spokesman for the Air Force would appear before The American Legion's policy-making body in support of President Eisenhower's Defense Department reorganization plan was made today by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr.

The American Legion's National Security Commission, meeting in Washington April 9-11, recommended full support of the President's reorganization proposals. The Security Commission's recommendation will be before the National Executive Committee for a final decision on whether the weight of the nation's largest veterans' organization is to be put behind the plan.

General White's address will be presented in connection with the report of the Security Commission to the Executive Committee. Robert H. Bush of Des Moines, Iowa, commission chairman, will make the report on national security to the Legion policy makers and introduce General White.

National Security issues are expected to take the center of the stage during the American Legion meetings here. Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, who recently resigned as Army chief of research and development because of disagreement with Pentagon policies, is to be the principal speaker at a dinner on Wednesday evening, April 30, at the Indianapolis Athletic Club. The dinner is to be given by National Commander Gleason for members of the Executive Committee and visiting Legionnaires.
This will be General Gavin's first public address since his retirement from service.

More than 350 American Legion leaders will be in Indianapolis during the week for the annual series of spring meetings at National Headquarters. Meetings of commission and subordinate committees started yesterday (April 27) and will continue through Tuesday.

The National Executive Committee, composed of one representative from each state, territorial and foreign organization of The American Legion, will convene on Wednesday morning at National Headquarters and will continue sessions until noon Friday.

The Executive Committee sets Legion policy between National Conventions.

Gifts totaling $105,000 were presented to The American Legion during the meeting of its Executive Committee, Apr. 26-May 1, including $50,000 for child welfare, and from The American Legion Auxiliary, $45,000 for rehabilitation, $20,000 for child welfare, and $10,000 for the Child Welfare Foundation.

John S. Gleason, Jr., national commander of The American Legion, interrupted the agenda of the National Executive Committee on May 1 for a brief salute to Lee De La De A., which was presented by Pennsylvania Committeewoman Walter V. Alessandrini.

The New Mexico American Legion set a new all-time high in membership on May 2, while across the border in the south Mexico became the tenth department to top its 1955 enrollment quota.

National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., was scheduled to join with the governors of Illinois and Missouri in observance of American Legion Founders Day in St. Louis on May 10.