LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

The National Executive Committee left no doubt on American Legion support of Defense Department reorganization when it adopted by voice vote a strongly-worded resolution putting the world's largest veterans' organization solidly behind President Eisenhower's proposal for streamlining and unifying the military establishment.

While supporting the Administration on defense reorganization, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion voiced vigorous objection to Pentagon proposals for cutting the strength of the National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Mounting resentment against the Bureau of the Budget for forcing the closing of Veterans Administration hospital beds was expressed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its annual spring meeting in Indianapolis, Apr. 30-May 1.

"The man who will first set foot on the moon is alive today - I pray to God he is an American." So said Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, former Army chief of research and development, in an address to National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr.'s, dinner to The American Legion National Executive Committee and visiting Legionnaires in Indianapolis, Apr. 30.

Gifts totaling $105,000 were presented to The American Legion during the meeting of its Executive Committee, Apr. 30-May 1, including from the Forty and Eight $50,000 for child welfare, and from the American Legion Auxiliary, $25,000 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 Law Day U.S.A., which was presented by Pennsylvania Committeeman Walter E. Alesandroni.

The New Mexico American Legion set a new all-time high in membership on May 2, while across the border to the south Mexico became the tenth department to top its 1958 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.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—National security and the economic recession received priority attention from the National Executive Committee of The American Legion during its two-day spring meeting at National Headquarters Apr. 30 and May 1. National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., who had been hospitalized at the time of the NEC's fall meeting, presided.

Mounting resentment against the Bureau of the Budget for administrative rulings causing continued cuts in Veterans Administration hospital bed capacity brought a demand that the bureau's "cruel policy" be reversed.

The Legion policy makers heard an encouraging report on the new membership life insurance plan, which they had authorized less than six weeks earlier at a special meeting in Washington, D. C., on Feb. 22. Jerome F. Duggan, chairman of the National Legislative Commission, told the committee that applications for the low-cost insurance were reaching 1500 per day.

Commissions Met

Executive sections of major American Legion commissions and committees were in session Apr. 27-28-29 to assess progress on programs since last fall and to chart activities for the remainder of the year.

The opening day of the NEC meeting heard retired Air Force chief of staff, Gen. Carl Spaatz, and Maj. Gen. E. R. Quesada, special assistant to the President, in a dramatic defense of the Eisenhower plan for reorganization of the Department of Defense. The Executive Committee on a voice vote with no recorded objection adopted a strongly-worded resolution giving all-out support to the plan for unifying security planning and command.

At the annual dinner given by Commander Gleason to members of the National Executive Committee and visiting Legionnaires, Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, former Army chief of research and development, urged both realism and idealism in America's approach to the problems of a world sorely divided between freedom and Communism.
"The man who will first set foot on the moon is living today. I pray to God he is an American," Gavin said.

Referring to attempts to counter Soviet scientific successes and diplomatic moves, the speaker said, "It is not enough to be against Communism. We have to know what we are for, and be for it vehemently.

"In World War II we knew what we were fighting for. We were fighting to eliminate man's inhumanity to man. Do we know what we are fighting for today?" he asked.

**National Security Actions**

In addition to supporting the President's Defense Department reorganization plan, the report of the Security Commission, presented by its chairman, Robert H. Bush of Des Moines, Iowa, included the following recommendations approved by the NEC:

1. Objected to cuts proposed by the Pentagon in the National Guard and Army Reserve and urged that the strength of the Guard be maintained at 400,000 and the Reserve at 300,000.

2. Endorsed the Mutual Security Program of U. S. Military aid to countries of the free world.

3. Asked the President to set up a "watch dog committee" to hurry the establishment of an effective single supply catalogue system for all Armed Services.

4. Approved a new agreement with The American Red Cross on disaster relief.

**Rehabilitation Resolutions**

The Rehabilitation Commission's report was presented to the NEC by Clarence C. Horton of Montgomery, Ala., commission vice chairman. Among major recommendations of this commission approved by the NEC were:

1. Urged the President "to reverse the Budget Bureau policy of constantly and continuously reducing the number of beds available for care and treatment of sick and disabled war veterans, through the control of fiscal policy" and further asked the President to use the power of his office to secure an increase in the number of VA hospital beds.

2. Reaffirmed the policy that no American Legion service officer should knowingly represent any VA claimant when there are two or more claimants for the same benefit.

MORE
3. Asked for an increase in monthly total disability benefits paid under National Service Life Insurance obtained through extra premium payments, and further that this benefit should be made available to Korean veterans with Veterans Special Term Insurance.

4. Urged a speed-up in VA hospital construction program as an anti-recession measure.

5. Recommended that the 1960 census include a count of veterans.

Americanism Recommendations

The report of the Americanism Commission, presented by Chairman James F. Daniel, Jr., of Greenville, S. C., had the following recommendations, which were adopted by the NEC:

1. Recommended to schools and libraries "Masters of Deceit" by J. Edgar Hoover, and authorized the Americanism Commission to draw up a bibliography of other suitable books on subversion.

2. Urged amendment of the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the privilege of naturalization to non-citizen veterans of U. S. military service in the Korean Conflict on the same basis as is now available to veterans of World Wars I and II.

Child Welfare

Maurice T. Webb of Newnan, Ga., chairman of the National Child Welfare Commission, pointed up the effects of the recession on children. On the recommendation of the Child Welfare Commission, the NEC approved requests for stepped-up federal appropriations for child welfare services, crippled children, school lunches, control of teen-age venereal disease, juvenile delinquency treatment and prevention, and aid to dependent children.

Action was urged to make help available for dependent children who have not established residence under existing state laws.

Economic Commission

Estimating that there are at least one million unemployed veterans, Stanley M. Huffman of Ewing, Nebr., chairman of the Economic Commission, appealed for the help of every American Legion post in setting up community employment programs.

The NEC adopted commission recommendations to step up employment of veterans by post offices during the Christmas rush, to authorize the national judge advocate of the Legion to act in the event the constitutionality of the Veterans' Preference law should come before the Supreme Court, and to request Congress to give the Civil Service Commission subpoena power in connection with its hearings.

Foreign Relations

Policies recommended by the Foreign Relations Commission through its chairman, Addison P. Drummond of Bonifay, Fla., which won endorsement by the NEC, were:

1. That any disarmament agreement with the U.S.S.R. "should provide for full and adequate safeguards and such arms as are required for our national preservation and security."
2. Encouraged investment of American capital in Latin America and a genuine program of cultural understanding and interchange.

3. Reaffirmed opposition to any proposals or effort to change control of the Panama Canal.

4. Opposed admission of Red China into the U.N. and any trade with "Russia or countries under its domination" which would strengthen their economies or war potential.

5. Supported the People to People program of international understanding and approved "on an experimental basis" a privately-financed program known as Arms for Friendship which is endeavoring to increase personal contacts between U. S. and Russian veterans through letter writing, personal visits, and the exchange of information on disabled veterans.

1959 Membership Goal

A new formula for setting membership goals on an incentive basis was voted by the NEC after hearing the report of a special committee headed by L. K. Gridley of Peoria, Ill., who is chairman of the standing Committee on Membership and Post Activities.

The new rules abandon the use of four year averages in setting department membership quotas. Instead, incentive goals, based on a two percent increase over the previous full year's membership are established.

Two exceptions were made. Departments which in the previous year set an all-time high will have no percentage increase in their incentive goal over that high. Also departments which in the last full year enrolled more than twice the national average of eligibles will have as their goal two times the national average of eligibles in their department.

Membership goal for 1959 has been set under the new rules as 2,756,082.

Other Resolutions

The more than 60 resolutions presented to the Legion governing body included the following approved actions:

1. Adopted the 80-20 rule for drum and bugle corps competition, permitting 20 percent of the members of senior drum corps to be non-members, with no point penalty. (This action was recommended by the recent Congress of Uniformed Groups held at American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis.)

2. Urged a foreign trade policy that will "prevent the injury to or liquidation of industries essential to the defense and the economic welfare of the country."

3. Designated Hawaii and Puerto Rico as state departments of The American Legion for convention housing and seating and for parade position purposes.

4. Asked that obsolete Army uniforms be made available to chartered veterans organizations and to national veterans homes when no longer needed by the Army.

5. Opposed Senate Bill S-582 or any similar bill which would prohibit the transportation in interstate commerce of advertisements of alcoholic beverages.

6. Asked the Postmaster General to issue a stamp commemorating the 40th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion in March 1919.

7. Authorized the issuance of "public relations appreciation awards" to press, radio, TV and other media of communication.

8. Endorsed the drive to establish a memorial shrine on the partially submerged hull of the U.S.S. Arizona in Pearl Harbor.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 5-6-58

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)---Gifts totaling $105,000 to help support American Legion child welfare and rehabilitation work were received by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., during the annual spring meeting of the National Executive Committee here April 30-May 1.

At the opening session of the NEC, William E. Armstrong of Hot Springs, Ark., chef de chemin de fer of the Forty and Eight, Legion fun and honor society, presented his organization's check for $50,000 to be used in the national child welfare program. The gift brought to nearly $968,000 contributions by the Forty and Eight since the start of The American Legion child welfare effort in 1925.

On the following day, Mrs. J. Pat Kelly, Atlanta, Ga., national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, handed commander Gleason three checks totaling $55,000. A $25,000 check was earmarked for rehabilitation work. Another for $20,000 went to child welfare, and a third for $10,000 was a memorial contribution to the Child Welfare Foundation in the names of two former national presidents who had died during the past year - Mrs. Alfred J. Mathebat (1942-43) of California and Mrs. Franklin Lee Bishop (1923-24) of Massachusetts.

In making his presentation, Chef Armstrong pledged the continued support of the 100,000-strong Forty and Eight. He said that Voyageurs this year hoped to exceed 700,000 memberships in The American Legion obtained through their efforts.

In a reference to the new American Legion life insurance plan, Mrs. Kelly called the $55,000 gift the Auxiliary annual premium on its American Legion Assurance policy. She said that there was no greater assurance for the future of America, its veterans, and its children than through the programs and ideals of The American Legion.
INLAND (ALNS)--The observance of Maylas Law Day U.S.A., sponsored by the American Bar Association under a proclamation by President Eisenhower, received an unscheduled but potent assist during the annual spring meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

Interrupting the committee's agenda on May 1, National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., called on Pennsylvania Committeeman Walter E. Alessandroni to speak on the role of law in American life. Alessandroni is the youngest lawyer ever to serve as chancellor of the nation's oldest bar association, that of Philadelphia.

The purpose of Law Day, Alessandroni said, is two-fold: "First to strengthen the nation's dedication to the rule of law as the foundation of our free society, and, second, to freshen every American's awareness of the rights and privileges he enjoys by reason of our system of laws and courts."

Excerpts from Alessandroni's brief statement, which won the plaudits of members of the NEC and instructions to print it in full in the record of the meeting, follow:

"Freedom and justice for the individual - grounded in a just system of laws and protected by the courts - are the keystones of America's strength and its main claim to moral leadership in the world community. Perhaps better than any other facts of American life, the peoples of the world understand the meaning of liberty and opportunity for the individual citizen in this country.

"The American legal system is the antithesis of Communism. At an hour in history when world order is in peril, when law is flouted or perverted elsewhere, it is particularly appropriate that the people of America should proclaim anew their dedication to its great principles.

"Why are some men able to live in freedom, with an advanced culture and a high standard of living, while other men eke out their lives in terror or a state of chaos? The intangible force that makes freedom and progress possible is, of course, law.

"It is law that brings order into the affairs of men - that enables them to lift their sights above mere survival, to accumulate possessions, to develop the arts, to pursue knowledge, and to enjoy life among their fellows. ... It is the very substance that holds our free society together.

"A full flowering of human endeavor is possible only when the individual is free to think for himself, to follow his own bent, and to enjoy the fruits of his own efforts. And he can do this only if he lives in a society in which his rights are protected and his basic obligations are fixed by law. ...

"In the international field ... the standards of international conduct are not so well defined and are more difficult to enforce. What is law in the Western world has no standing behind the Iron Curtain, and Western civilization has only contempt for the tyranny and caprice of the Communist system. ...

"The task of extending law to the new frontiers of outer space and to international relations still plagued by distrust and reliance on force, is a challenge to every disciple of freedom. ... Just as the founders of our great organization gathered some 40 years ago to dedicate themselves to the rule of law, so too, we might this morning on the occasion of Law Day U.S.A. re dedicate ourselves to this great principle."
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—Members of The American Legion National Executive Committee and visitors who heard General Carl Spaatz in support of President Eisenhower’s Defense Department reorganization plan had an unusual glimpse of modern history.

Flanking the famous World War II Air Force general as he spoke were two huge original oil paintings on the wall of the NEC room. One depicts the German surrender at Rheims on May 7, 1945. The other portrays the surrender of the Japanese on board the Battleship Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945.

General Spaatz was a participant at both surrender ceremonies and appears in both of the historic paintings, which are on permanent display in the NEC room. Thus, the man who had been one of the architects and probably the only witness of the fall of two despotisms spoke before the backdrop of this pictorial record in a bid for a defense organization capable of meeting the threat of an even stronger tyranny.

And, as a footnote, the National Executive Committee went on record wholeheartedly in support of the reorganization plan to give greater unity in national security planning and field command.

ST. LOUIS (ALNS)—Among the notables scheduled to participate in American Legion Founders’ Day at St. Louis May 10 are National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., Gov. William G. Stratton of Illinois, and Gov. James T. Blair, Jr., of Missouri. The observance commemorates the Caucus in St. Louis, May 8-9-10, 1919, which completed the organizational plans for The American Legion started two months earlier in Paris, France.

ALBUQUERQUE, (ALNS)—The New Mexico American Legion established an all-time membership high on May 2 when it reported a 1958 enrollment of 13,666. Its previous high was 13,601, set on Dec. 31, 1949.

MEXICO CITY (ALNS)—The American Legion of Mexico was the 10th department to surpass its 1958 membership goal. It reported an enrollment of 656 against its quota of 651 for a percentage of 100.77.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

The Unknown Soldier of World War I, whose tomb at Arlington National Cemetery has kept a lonely vigil overlooking the Nation's Capital since Armistice Day, 1922, will be joined by an Unknown Serviceman of World War II and of the Korean Conflict after solemn rites on Memorial Day May 30.

The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, the organization's highest award, will be bestowed upon the three Unknown Servicemen of World War I, World War II, and Korea, by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., on May 31.

The New Mexico Department of The American Legion, which was the first to set a new all-time membership high in 1958, has also won the honor of heading the parade at the National Convention in Chicago on Labor Day, Sept. 1.

King Features Syndicate has available for local newspaper use on or after May 21 a full-page picture spread dramatizing The American Legion's Boys State and Boys Nation program for 1958. (Proof sheets and other details are being sent department adjutants.)

The Nevada American Legion was the fourth department to push its 1958 membership over its total for 1957.

A bill has been passed by the Senate to authorize the awarding of special medals and citations to the four Army chaplains who gave up their life belts to others and perished on the torpeded troop ship Dorchester in 1943.

The Ford Motor Company will make 67 cars available for the use of officials at the 40th National Convention of The American Legion in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, and has already presented the keys to the first car to Convention Corporation Treasurer Maynard K. Hillstrom.

An incentive military pay rate plan, endorsed by The American Legion, has been passed by the Senate and sent to the House.

Members of American Legion Post 57, Fowler, Ind., think their 97-year-old comrade, John C. Volz, may be the oldest living Legionnaire.
WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Participating at the Memorial Day ceremonies for the two Unknown Servicemen of World War II and the Korean Conflict, who are to be interred at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, will be President Eisenhower, members of his Cabinet, and representatives of various foreign governments. In addition, more than 60 veterans organizations, including The American Legion, and other civic and patriotic groups will be represented at the ceremonies.

The American Legion was fortunate in having obtained a limited number of seats to accommodate each department commander or his representative, the National Commander, the chef de chemin de fer of the Forty and Eight, and the national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, to witness the ceremonies.

This was made possible because of the part that The American Legion played in the initial ceremony on Armistice Day, 1922, when the Unknown Soldier of World War I was laid to rest in the tomb, and because of the honors which the Legion wishes to bestow on this occasion on the Unknowns of World War II and Korea.

Highlights of the Memorial Day program on Friday, May 30, include presentation by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of a floral tribute depicting the Legion's emblem at the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Building at 11:50 a.m., where the bodies of the Unknowns will lie in state.

The funeral cortege departs at 1:00 p.m. from the Capitol and proceeds on foot for a distance of 4.6 miles to Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater. Joining the procession will be the National Guard of Honor of the District of Columbia Department of The American Legion, the Department of Virginia Guard of Honor, and the James Reese Europe Post 5 (D.C.) Guard of Honor.

Following the solemn ceremonies, the two Unknown Servicemen will be enshrined with full military honors at the tomb.

The American Legion will present its own program in tribute to the Unknown War Dead at a special ceremony to be held on the steps to the tomb at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 31. National Commander Gleason will bestow The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, the organization's highest award, upon the three Unknowns, following an invocation by National Chaplain Feltham S. James.

The awards are to be accepted by the commanding general of the Military District of Washington. Mounted on plaques bearing engraved inscriptions commemorating the occasion, the medals will be permanently displayed in the trophy room of the Tomb.

The Unknown Serviceman of World War II is to be selected by an enlisted Medal of Honor winner in a ceremony at sea aboard the U.S.S. Canberra on May 26. The Korea Unknown was selected from among the unidentified war dead of the Korean Conflict now interred in Honolulu.

The original Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was enlarged to receive the additional bodies, but the Unknown of World War I was not disturbed in making the changes. The term "soldier" will not be applied to the two new Unknowns as their branch of service will not be known.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—The New Mexico American Legion will head the American Legion’s National Convention parade down Michigan Boulevard in Chicago on Labor Day, Sept. 1, National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore has announced. New Mexico Legionnaires won the pole position by enrolling 120.35 percent of the state’s four year average membership by midnight May 1, the highest among the Legion’s 58 departments.

Finishing second for parade position was Alaska. New Mexico was also declared the winner of the O. L. Bodenhamer Membership Trophy.

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ARLINGTON, Mass. (ALNS)—Post 39 of The American Legion at Arlington, Mass., has held initiation ceremonies for 195 new Legionnaires in the past three months. In commending the post, National Membership Director George Rulon said, "A formal initiation leads to a greater appreciation of and interest in American Legion activities."

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ST. PAUL (ALNS)—The Minnesota American Legion’s well-planned 11th annual aerial roundup on Apr. 27 brought in 1432 membership cards, nearly 500 more than any previous roundup.

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SALEM, Ill. (AINS)—The 75th annual Marion County soldier* and sailors’ reunion here June 23-28 is thought to be the oldest event of its kind in the country. The celebration this year, which is being sponsored by Luther B. Easley Post 128 of The American Legion, will feature Salem as the birthplace of the GI Bill of Rights.

According to Reunion Chairman Frederick E. Merritt, the idea for the World War II GI bill was first discussed by Past National Commander John Stelle and other Legion leaders at a meeting in Salem. National Vice Commander Isadore Levine is to be the featured speaker at the reunion this year on American Legion Day, June 26.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—A bill authorizing posthumous award of special medals to the four Army chaplains who perished on the torpedoed troop ship Dorchester in 1943 was passed by the Senate on May 1.

The four who gave their life jackets to others as the ship went down in frigid arctic waters were Chaplains George L. Fox, Lewistown, Pa., Alexander D. Goode, New York City, Clark V. Poling, Columbus, Ohio, and John P. Washington, Newark, N.J.

All received posthumously the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart.

The new bill, if passed by the House, will authorize the President to award "appropriate" medals and certificates, which will constitute a "singular notice of and appreciation for their acts."

FOWLER, Ind. (ALNS)—No one knows, but members of American Legion Post 57 at Fowler, Ind., believe that John C. Volz must be the oldest living Legionnaire. He was 97 on Apr. 13. Volz was wounded at Ypres, Belgium, while serving in the Canadian Army.

ADA, Ohio (ALNS)—At the request of Police Chief Byron Heffner, members of Foss-Agin-Iyer Post 185 of The American Legion have agreed to furnish a 25-man auxiliary police force for this Hardin County town.

RENO, Nev. (ALNS)—The Nevada American Legion was the fourth department to enroll more members for 1958 than its total 1957 membership. Nevada NEC Member Tom Miller reported 3571 members for 1958 against a 1957 total of 3568 during the spring meeting of the Legion National Executive Committee April 30-May 1.
CHICAGO (ALNS)—The first of 67 Ford Motor Company cars which are to be made available for the use of officials during the 40th National Convention of The American Legion in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, has been received by Maynard K. Hillstrom, vice chairman of the Convention Commission and treasurer of the Convention Corporation. Keys to the car were presented to Hillstrom, who is an official of the First National Bank of Chicago, by Harry L. Sharp, general manager of Litsinger Motor Co., and Leon Hart, car merchandising manager, Chicago district of the Ford Division.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (ALNS)—Wilton F. (Fat) Orton, past commander and life member of Summers-Whitehead Post 14 of The American Legion here, after winning an expense-paid trip to the 1957 National Convention for his membership work, has kept right on setting records. Since 1952 his batting average on enrolling members has averaged 387. In 1957 he hit 675 and has already topped 700 for 1958. A railroader by profession, Orton and his extensive service work are featured in a three-page article in the April 1958 magazine "Ties," publication of the Southern Railway System.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Patterned after The American Legion supported Cordiner report, a bill was passed by the Senate 87 to 0 to provide incentive military pay boosts. The bill has gone back to the House, which has passed similar but not identical legislation.

HELENA, Mont. (ALNS)—The sending of letters of commendation to courteous drivers by American Legion posts has been made a part of Montana's May traffic safety drive.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—The American Legion's anti-recession 13-point employment program has been commended by Rep. Daniel J. Flood of Pennsylvania in remarks printed in the Congressional Record of April 28.
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion has named Gordon W. Thomas, 321 Circle Drive, Lake Bluff, Ill., chairman of the National Graves Registration and Memorial Committee, succeeding Mancel Talcott, deceased. Like Mr. Talcott, he is a member and past commander of the Waukegan (Ill.) Post of The American Legion.

There will be ample housing for all at The American Legion’s 11th National Convention in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, 1958, the Convention Corporation has assured.

NORTHFIELD, Vt. (ALNS)—Charles N. Barber, commander of the Vermont Department of The American Legion in 1923-24 and currently serving as a member of the National Education and Scholarship Committee, passed away on Apr. 22.

TAYLOR, S.C. (ALNS)—Joseph W. Hudgens, past department commander of the South Carolina American Legion and until his death a member of the National Boys State Committee, passed away on Apr. 24.

WILMINGTON, Del. (ALNS)—Rev. Park W. Huntington, D.D., Ph.D., department commander of the Delaware American Legion and national chaplain in 1934-35, was presented a life membership in Laurence Roberts Post 21 during the celebration of the post’s 39th birthday. The presentation was made by Gov. J. Caleb Boggs of Delaware, who is also a member of the post.

SEATTLE, Wash. (ALNS)—Past Department Commander Harry H. Lewis of the Washington (state) American Legion passed away Apr. 23 after a long illness. He served as Area E Child Welfare Chairman in 1933-34.
"Nations which lack either the desire or ability or both to safeguard the life of the Vice President of the United States and to respect the dignity of the office and the nation he represents must be considered a military liability," National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion stated following attacks on Vice President Nixon in Venezuela and other South American countries.

Direct contacts with former members of The American Legion to tell them about the new life insurance plan has been urged by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr. in a personal letter to all post commanders.

There will be ample housing for all at The American Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, 1958, the Convention Corporation has assured.

Totally disabled veterans stand a chance of losing their right to all social security benefits if they fail to apply for a "freeze" of social security wage credits before June 30, 1958.

Four 1958 Ford cars will be given lucky members of The American Legion or Auxiliary by the three Seagram Posts, with the final drawing scheduled as a highlight of the senior drum and bugle corps contest Aug. 31 in Chicago, just prior to the opening of the 40th National Convention there.

The Florida American Legion on May 12 became the 11th department to go over its 1958 membership quota.

American Legion support of President Eisenhower's plan for reorganization of the Department of Defense was presented to the House Armed Services Committee by George N. Craig, past national commander and former governor of Indiana, on May 12.

An extra at the observance of American Legion Founders Day in St. Louis, May 10, was the presentation of a living example of the Legion's rehabilitation goal in the person of George Douglas West, blinded Korean combat veteran who is now a linotype repairman and trouble shooter on the Lafayette (Ind.) Journal-Courier.

A Memorial Day speech for grade school groups is available from National Public Relations Division of The American Legion.
NEW YORK (ALNS) --- "The situation in France and the shocking, shameful and degrading assault in Venezuela and other South American countries on the person and office of the Vice President of the United States" were described as military crises for the United States by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion.

Commander Gleason made the assertion in a major address at a dinner in his honor given by the New York Department of The American Legion on May 14. His address was carried to a nationwide audience by the ABC Radio Network 9:30-9:55 p.m. EDT.

Entitled "Strength, Solvency and Survival," the speech was a salute to the Armed Forces as a prelude to the national observance of Armed Forces Day on May 17.

He described the situation in France as bordering on civil war and said that "if France falls, NATO must follow". He stated that without Russia's firing a shot, "our whole military position in Europe would be untenable".

Concerning South America, he said, "Nations which lack either the desire or ability or both to safeguard the life of the Vice President of the United States and to respect the dignity of the office and the nation he represents must be considered a military liability."

The Legion Commander used the occasion to issue an appeal for support of President Eisenhower's Defense Department reorganization plan. Full backing of the proposal was voted by the National Executive Committee of the veterans' organization at a meeting in Indianapolis April 30 - May 1.

"Throughout its history The American Legion has given our Armed Forces...close support. We do so again by calling for Congressional approval of the reorganization plan," he said.

Pointing out the vast changes in military potential since Pearl Harbor, Commander Gleason stated there is "imperative need for a command organization and combat forces responsive to the satellite speed and nuclear destructive power of enemy arms arrayed against us."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—-All former members should be told about The American Legion’s new life insurance plan and given an opportunity to reinstate their membership.

This was the message National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., flashed to all commanders of American Legion posts early in May. He urged that the low-cost insurance plan be explained by direct contact with all past members "as far back as your records permit."

Although the insurance plan had been in effect barely over a month, its drawing power was already being demonstrated. An ad in a Butte, Montana paper brought 31 immediate inquiries to Jack Wulf, vice chairman of the National Membership and Post Activities Committee.

Karl L. Wagner, Oregon’s representative on the National Executive Committee, also reported successful results from a trial advertising run in selected newspapers of that state.

In Colorado, Gov. Stephen L. R. McNichols, a member of Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1, has received life insurance certificate No. 6, thus becoming the second Legionnaire governor to be insured under the plan. Certificate No. 1 went to Gov. James T. Blair, Jr., of Missouri.

At National Headquarters, Lawrence M. Fornia, who was transferred from the Washington Office to take over the job of supervisor of the new Insurance Department, reported that applications are now being processed as rapidly as possible and certificates forwarded to those approved.

Application forms have been mailed to every paid-up member of The American Legion all over the world. Fornia has had to find linguists to translate some of the applications and inquiries which have been written in French, Italian and other foreign languages. They came from U.S. immigrants who served in the American Army during World War I and later returned to the land of their birth but still retained their membership in The American Legion.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO (ALNS)—There will be ample housing for all delegates and visitors at the 40th National Convention of The American Legion in Chicago Sept. 1-4.

The National Convention Corporation has issued assurance that the cooperation being extended by the hotels of the nation's second largest city guarantees space for all who wish to attend. All Legionnaires and Auxiliary members were urged to make their arrangements for hotel reservations through their department headquarters.

Payment of the registration fee of $3.00 should accompany requests for housing, convention officials stated.

The American Legion 1958 National Convention Corporation opened offices several weeks ago at room 1012, 8 S. Dearborn St., Chicago 3, and machinery for the mammoth conclave is already being whipped into shape.

It was pointed out that some of the Legion's largest and most successful conventions of the past have been held in Chicago and that 1958 will be the first time the organization has held its national sessions in the Windy City since the close of World War II.

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WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Disabled veterans who fail to apply for social security disability protection before June 30, 1958, may find that they have lost their rights to disability benefits at age 50, as well as to old-age or survivors insurance payments for themselves or their families.

The Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance points out that a totally disabled veteran who fails to apply for a "freeze" of his social security credits creates a gap in his social security records that may cause future social security benefits to be reduced or lost entirely.

If the veteran applies before June 30, his records can be frozen as of the time of his disability. If he waits until after the deadline, he may not qualify, it was pointed out.

For further information, veterans are requested to contact their post or department service officer at the nearest Social Security Office.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO (ALNS)—Four lucky American Legionnaires will be recipients of new Ford cars, the gift of the three Seagram Posts of The American Legion. They will be picked at a drawing to be held at the finals of the senior drum and bugle corps contest on August 31, just prior to the opening of the Legion’s 40th National Convention here.

This will be the 12th consecutive year that the three Seagram Posts have joined forces to provide this convention extra. It is not necessary to be at the drum corps contest or the convention to win one of the 1958 Fords.

All paid-up members of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary—either 1958 or 1959—can participate in the drawing without cost. This is all you have to do:

1. Fill out the coupon which appears in the July issue of The American Legion Magazine, or

2. Get one of the coupons which will be available at your department convention, fill it out, and

3. Mail to P. O. Box 8500A, Chicago 80, Illinois, to arrive no later than midnight, August 29.

TALLAHASSEE (ALNS)—The Florida American Legion climbed to a membership of 12,158 on May 12, thus becoming the 11th department to top its 1958 membership quota. The Florida quota for the year was 11,976.

ST. PAUL (ALNS)—Many favorable comments have been received following publication of J. Edgar Hoover’s Communist expose “Masters of Deceit” in serial form by the St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5-16-58

ST. LOUIS (ALNS)—National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion joined the Society of American Legion Founders on May 10, in a salute to the 1919 caucus of World War I veterans in St. Louis which launched The American Legion following its initial formation two months earlier in Paris, France.

At the same time, he presented to Missouri Legionnaires and to the nation a living example of The American Legion's goal in fighting for the second-to-none VA rehabilitation program.

Distinguished guest at the Founders Day observance was George Douglas West, 29, of Lafayette, Ind., introduced by Commander Gleason as the "comeback champion of champions." West, was blinded at Heartbreak Ridge during the Korean Conflict but in spite of his handicap has become linotype repairman and trouble shooter for the Lafayette Journal-Courier.

Other distinguished guests were William H. McIntyre, president-elect of the founders' society, Governor James T. Blair, Jr., of Missouri, Gov. William G. Stratton of Illinois and Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Noting that within The American Legion there is more military experience than in any other group that ever existed in any other nation at any time, Past National Commander George N. Craig presented the Legion's arguments supporting the President's Defense Department Reorganization plan to the House Armed Services Committee on May 12.

"We strenuously urge that all branch loyalties be cast aside," the former Indiana governor said, "that all prejudices born of long years of military experience be submerged to the common cause of unifying the command function."

He added, "We find ourselves today in a situation where science has gone forward and the implementation of command has not." His statement to the committee reported that the Legion's National Executive Committee had wholeheartedly voted support of the Administration's reorganization proposals.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Dr. A. N. Baggs, who retired as medical consultant to The American Legion National Rehabilitation Division in May 1957, died May 1. He would have been 88 in August.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—Senate and House conferees were reported to have reached an agreement on the controversial postal rate increase bill Wednesday night, May 14. No increase in second class mail of non-profit groups such as The American Legion was voted.

Conference committee action must be confirmed by both Senate and House. Editors of many American Legion publications had protested to members of the conference committee on the unanticipated addition of postal rate increase for non-profit groups by the Senate without prior hearings.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 5/16/58

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—The speech presented by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion to the Indianapolis Rotary Club on April 8 has been reprinted in Vital Speeches, monthly periodical which reprints major public addresses.

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (ALNS)—National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion was named Notre Dame "Man of the Year." He was selected for "his exemplary Catholic, public and personal life and his dedication to high ideals and principles imparted to her sons by the University of Notre Dame."

Gleason was graduated from the university in 1936.

TRIPP, S. D. (ALNS)—Each American Legion Post in Hutchinson County (S.D.) received 250 copies of "Saved by the Bell" at a county Legion meeting in Tripp. "Saved by the Bell" tells the story of The American Legion in cartoon format.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—The commander of The American Legion Department having the greatest percentage of its posts participating in the blood donor program will receive a special certificate signed by National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., and National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore.

A second special certificate will go to the commander of the department with the largest percentage of its members donating blood. National Security Director James R. Wilson, Jr., who heads up the blood program, stated that "results have been most encouraging after less than a year's operation of the revised program."
NEW YORK (ALNS)—An eye-witness account of the manner in which the Soviet Union used some of the $11 billion lend-lease furnished to that country by the United States is described in an article in the June issue of The American Legion Magazine.

The story is told by George David, a Hungarian who was taken prisoner by the Communists and subsequently placed in charge of a labor brigade assigned to Soviet warehouses where foreign aid from the United States was received.

Apart from foreign laborers, only a few key Soviet officials and engineers had access to the warehouses, which the author describes as being jammed with a "veritable master collection of American industrial products."

One Red storehouse, at Kramatorsk, contained motors, lathes, electric drills, boring mills, casting machines, railway car axles, saws, iron and steel bars, aluminum plates, pipes, wire and snowplows. In the Municipal Warehouse in Old Kramatorsk there was a rich assortment of American foodstuff, including canned meats, butter, lard, oleomargarine, rice, flour, sugar, cheese, dried beans and peas, dehydrated vegetables, eggs and milk. Tobacco and cigarettes were also received here.

American machinery came in for special attention. To make sure that the Russian people would never learn that the machines had come from America, George David and his laborers had the job of removing American nameplates and other identification from the equipment.

"The members of my labor brigade and I," said David, "were forced to help the Soviet technicians disassemble the machines for study so that they could learn how they were put together and of what material they were made. After the parts of one particular machine had been carefully noted for weight and dimensions, drawings were made of them. Frequently we Hungarians were directed to bring out a second complete machine from the storehouse so that the production men could take another look at it before leaving with the drawings and sample parts.

American food, which was being carefully rationed in the United States, became the special prerogative of Communist Party officials.

"The largest share," said the author, "went to the elite of the regime in the form of extra allowances at no charge. Even as late as the winter of 1946-47, when great famine distressed the Russian people and was taking a high toll of lives, the Municipal Warehouse still had American supplies stored away and still regularly donated them to the privileged groups - party functionaries, Army officers, government officials, members of the MVD (secret police), officers of the city council, police and managerial personnel.

Most of the remainder of the food went on the black market, with the Red bosses either selling or trading it for fuel, furniture, vodka or luxuries looted from other countries. The great bulk of the Russian people received only meager portion, while the Soviet Government did everything possible to suppress news about the tremendous shipments of lend-lease poured into Russia.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

( NOTE TO LEGION EDITORS: The following is reprinted from the Department of Kansas Sunflower Legionnaire as timely advice for all posts. )

TALENT HUNT

American Legion Posts, in the Department of Kansas, will soon be electing post commanders and other officers to guide the destinies of their post for the coming Legion year of 1958-59.

Just as Uncle Sam was quick to screen his servicemen for hidden skills and talents, just so should every Legion Post inventory its entire membership for their special skill as leaders.

A baseball team without a pinch-hitter is in bad shape. A football coach always tries to have at least one triple-threat man on his team. Always, athletic teams must have a strong bench. Then it necessarily follows that the greatest team in history - the team of veterans of three wars which go to make up The American Legion - should know their "bench strength."

If your post is to have the right man or woman for the right job at the right time, how about a good talent inventory right now - so you will know who can do what you need done - when you need it done?

And all this pertains to district officers, department officers and national officers, as well as to post leaders.

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TRENTON, S. C. (ALNS)---Lewis F. Holmes, commander of Johnston Post 154 of The American Legion here was named South Carolina's Young Man of the Year in recognition of the outstanding community youth program he has developed.

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AUGUSTA, Me. (ALNS)---Gen. Albert Greenlaw, first department commander of the Maine American Legion, and Mrs. Greenlaw, a past president of the Maine Auxiliary, received greetings from President Eisenhower and other government and civic leaders at a testimonial dinner given in their honor by Fitzgerald Cummins Post 2 on May 15.

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ALMA, Wis. (ALNS)---Alma Post 224 of The American Legion has the distinction of providing the first scholarship ever offered at Buffalo County Teachers College here and also of being the first organization in this community ever to sponsor any college scholarship.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

More than 10 million World War II veterans were assisted in their readjustment to civilian life through the GI Bill, it was pointed out by The American Legion in calling attention to the 14th anniversary of the signing of the Legion-framed re-adjustment act on June 22, 1944.

President Eisenhower on May 20 signed the military pay raise bill, aimed at stabilizing Armed Forces personnel through adoption of many of the recommendations in The American Legion supported Cordier Report.

The 13th annual American Legion Boys Nation July 18-25 is expected to be the biggest yet, with 98 high school boys scheduled to attend.

The American Legion is undertaking an inventory of the property and major activities of its more than 17,000 local posts.

Since the 1958 housing bill became law on Apr. 1, with two major American Legion recommendations included, appraisal requests for proposed GI home loans have almost doubled.

The North Dakota American Legion on May 19 set a new all-time membership high of 28,181, thus setting a new enrollment record for the second consecutive year.

The National Institute of Dry Cleaners has asked drycleaners throughout the nation to clean American flags without charge from June 1 to 12 as a patriotic contribution to the observance of Flag Day, June 14.

An American Legion endorsed bill to plug loop holes in federal laws prohibiting the distribution of obscene materials has been passed by the House and sent to the Senate.

"The American Legion supports a truly reciprocal trade policy, one which will not do mischief to our economy and defense potential," all Members of the U. S. House of Representatives have been advised.

LATE BULLETIN - Postal rate increase bill with no provision for increased rates for publications of non-profit groups was passed by House and Senate and sent to President on May 22.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, (ALNS)--Fourteen years after the signing of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act - the World War II GI Bill -- on June 22, 1944, the accomplishments of that monumental legislation, fathered by The American Legion, have more than lived up to the claims of its far-sighted Legion framers.

During the 14 years since the historic signing, more than 10 million World War II veterans have used one or more provisions of the bill to re-establish themselves in civilian life. But an even greater accomplishment of the bill was the ease with which the United States passed from almost complete mobilization for war to a booming peacetime economy which only this year has started to slow up.

All of the black predictions of 1944 and 1945 concerning the havoc to be wrought by the returning servicemen were proven false largely through the operation of the GI Bill and the native good sense and patriotism of the American veteran.

Under the GI bill, 7.8 million World War II veterans improved their education or acquired new vocational skills. Two million went to college; 3.5 million attended schools below the college level; 1.4 million took on the job training, and 700,000 enrolled in institutional on-farm training.

During this 14 years, 5.1 million home loans were guaranteed for World War II and Korean Conflict veterans, with another 71,000 farm loans and 231,000 business loans outstanding today. These loans approximate $44 billion.

Companion legislation provided special educational or vocational opportunities for 612,985 disabled veterans. Of these 48 percent prepared for professional, semi-professional, clerical or service occupations; 38 percent are engaged in industry and trades, and 14 percent have gone into agriculture.

Federal tax returns speak for themselves as to the dollars-and-cents value of the educational provisions of the GI Bill. Ten years ago the median annual income of non-veterans was $2600 as compared with $2400 for veterans.

Today the veterans have not only caught up with the non-veteran group but have lifted their annual income $1000 higher than those who did not serve in the Armed Forces. On this extra income alone, above the non-veteran base, the veterans are paying an added $4.5 billion a year in income taxes to Uncle Sam. This is just about the total annual budget of the Veterans Administration.

The country is still reaping the benefits of the educational boom which was triggered by the GI Bill. While the United States is still short of scientists, engineers and teachers, the shortage would have been critically acute had it not been for the GI Bill, which 14 years ago many short-sighted groups were opposing as the ruination of the country.
WASHINGTON (ALNS)--President Eisenhower’s signature on the $576 million military pay raise bill on May 20 brought to a successful conclusion another American Legion legislative campaign.

The bill, which was passed by Congress on May 12, increases the pay of every enlisted man and officer who has served more than two years. Included in the pay boost are some 700,000 reservists not on active duty and 210,000 retired personnel.

Effective date of the new pay scale, which is modeled after The American Legion supported Cordiner Report, is June 1.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)--The 13th annual American Legion Boys Nation will be held on the campus of the University of Maryland at nearby College Station, July 18-25. It promises to be the largest ever held with an attendance of 98 boys, two each from 49 Boys States.

Highlight of the 1958 Boys Nation will be the White House visit on July 24, when the junior statesmen will meet President Eisenhower.

The 49 Boys States to be held this summer will also be a new record. More than 20,000 selected high school youths will attend the 1958 Boys States.

Most of them will be held during June. The Panama Canal Zone Boys State was held Mar. 27 - Apr. 3, and two outstanding youths have already been certified for Boys Nation attendance from that department.

RALEIGH, N. C. (ALNS)--Two North Carolina Posts of The American Legion which had practically dropped all activity are taking a new lease on life since getting interested in the new life insurance plan for members, according to Nash D. McKee, department adjutant.
AMERICAN LEGION NEWS SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5/23/58

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)---With the cooperation of more than 17,000 post commanders, National Headquarters of The American Legion has undertaken a tabulation of the total value of American Legion property throughout the world. One-page questionnaire forms have been sent each post by National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore, who explained that basic information concerning all posts is greatly needed by the National Headquarters and also The American Legion Magazine.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)---Since the signing of the 1958 housing bill by President Eisenhower on April 1, appraisal requests for proposed GI home loans almost doubled over the preceding month. April GI housing starts numbered 4785, up 55 percent from March's 3095.

The 1958 housing act included two major American Legion recommendations relating to the GI home loan program, which up until the adoption of the bill had been rapidly dwindling into insignificance. The VA also reported on May 13 that during 1957 those homes which were bought by veterans under the GI Bill cost an average of $13,800.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)--"The American Legion supports a truly reciprocal trade policy, one which will not do mischief to our economy and defense potential," Miles Kennedy, Legion legislative director, has informed Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Kennedy transmitted to all Members a copy of the resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion which calls for a "foreign trade policy that will prevent injury to and liquidation of industries essential to the defense and the economic welfare of our country."

PORTLAND, Me, (ALMS)--Harold T. Andrews Post 17 of The American Legion, with a 1958 membership of 2010 is laying claim to the title of the largest New England post. Commander Francis P. Donahue also reports that the Portland post is the first in Maine to exceed 2000 members. In 1957 Post 1 at New Bedford, Mass., tallied 2004 members, so it looks like a race between these two for the New England championship.

NEW YORK (ALMS)---American Legion Posts around the nation are being offered an opportunity to develop a membership drive in conjunction with showings of the new Warner Brothers film "No Time for Sergeants."

The movie, starring Andy Griffith, tells the story of a backwoods draftee who nearly destroys the Air Force while trying to get a transfer to the infantry.

Warner Brothers representatives have been authorized to work with local officers of American Legion Posts to tie in their hometown membership drives with the local theater showing "No Time For Sergeants." The comedy film is based on the long-run Broadway stage hit.
WASHINGTON (ALNS)---An American Legion supported bill to plug loop holes in laws governing the distribution of pornographic materials was passed by the House on May 19. The House-adopted bill makes provision for prosecution of offenders, not only at point of origin which has been the case in the past, but also at any point between the distribution center and the point of destination.

Federal penalties for those convicted would be raised from the present five years imprisonment to ten, and maximum fine from $5000 to $10,000. The pending legislation applies to pornographic materials shipped by any common carrier, while national laws now on the books apply to U.S. mail only. The bill awaits action in the Senate.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)---The address given by William H. McIntyre, president-elect of the Society of American Legion Founders at the ceremonies in St. Louis on May 10, commemorating the 39th anniversary of the St. Louis Caucus, has been printed in the Congressional Record. It was included as an extension of remarks of Sen. Irving M. Ives of New York, on May 13.

ARUBA, N.W.I. (ALNS)---The most recent gift received by The American Legion's growing Child Welfare Foundation was an unsolicited check for $188.88 from Aruba Esso Unit 1 of the American Legion Auxiliary in the Netherlands West Indies.

FARGO, N. D. (ALNS)---The North Dakota American Legion for the second consecutive year has established a new all-time membership high. On May 19 Flickertail Legionnaires reported 28,181 members for 1958 to top their 1957 all-time high of 28,161.

The record enrollment reached National Headquarters on the birthday of William Stern, North Dakota's member of the National Executive Committee since 1926. The New Mexico Department had previously set an all-time record in 1958.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. AUGUSTA, Minn. (ALNS)—Receiving its charter on Dec. 6, 1957, St. Augusta Post 621 of The American Legion here in less than six months reached a membership of more than 100, representing 90 per cent of the eligible veterans in its area and 625 per cent of its assigned membership quota.

SUGGESTED FLAG DAY EDITORIAL

With the President's proclamation setting aside June 14 as National Flag Day, Americans everywhere are reminded of their patriotic duty to pay tribute to Old Glory, the symbol of hope in a world filled with doubt.

Since the establishment of The American Legion's National Americanism Commission in 1919, flag education has been a major program of this organization. Once again, the Legion's 17,000 posts will be participating in ceremonies honoring the Red, White and Blue throughout the nation.

As in the past, the National Institute of Dry Cleaners has asked drycleaners throughout the nation to clean American Flags without charge from June 1 to 12. National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., has pledged the Legion's full cooperation in informing the American people of this generous offer by the nation's drycleaners in furtherance of the "New Glory for Old Glory" program. All citizens are urged to have the national colors in their homes and places of work in clean condition and properly displayed on June 14.

CAMDEN, N. J. (ALNS)—In a tribute to National Maritime Day on May 22, National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion has hailed the N. S. Savannah as the world's first atomic merchant ship. With the laying of the ship's keel at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation yard, work officially got underway on America's bid for maritime leadership in the atomic age.

"The American Legion has always stood firmly for a merchant marine capable of pulling its full weight in our national defense and our peacetime commerce . . . With our security threatened as it never has been in peacetime before, the American merchant marine is one vital factor in our chances of survival," Commander Gleason declared.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 5/23/58

BRAZIL, Ind. (AINS)—Reed Stewart, 18-year-old Brazil High School Senior who won the 1958 American Legion teen-age national oratorical championship, will be featured in an early issue of This Week Magazine, which has a circulation of more than 8,000,000. It is a Sunday newspaper supplement.

A photographer from This Week Magazine came here to take pictures of a typical day's activities of young Stewart in the Brazil High School.

Following his victory in the national high school oratorical finals at Eastern New Mexico University at Portales, young Stewart was flown to New York City, where he appeared on the Dave Garroway NBC-TV show. National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., of The American Legion presented Stewart with his $4,000 first scholarship prize on the air. The talented youth plans to attend DePauw University.

DENVER (ALNS)—A doctor who saves lives as a vocation and who saves memories as an avocation is the world's largest American Legion Post's entry for the nation's best Legion historian.

He is Dr. Lawrence T. Brown, a physician and surgeon who is historian for the Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1 of The American Legion here.

When The American Legion Magazine sent a team here to do a promotion piece on the world's largest post, it marveled at the completeness of Dr. Brown's scrapbooks. The Magazine writers took them to New York to complete their feature story.

The scrapbooks contained hundreds of news pictures and clippings from newspapers covering the last eight years.

TRENTON, N. J. (AINS)—Women Legionnaires from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York honored Mrs. Charles A. Herbert of Bordentown, N. J., national historian of The American Legion and first woman to hold a national post in the organization.

Host was Parker-Polsky Women's Post 350 of Burlington County, of which Mrs. Herbert is a member; together with Camden and Mercer Counties women's posts at a luncheon on May 24.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—Winners of American Legion awards at the U. S. Military Academy and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy have been announced by E. A. Blackmore, national adjutant. Presentation of the awards was made by National Vice Commander Lee A. Lemos.

Recipient of a life membership in the National Geographic Society as the graduate with the highest standing in chemistry at West Point was Cadet Dan A. Brookhart of River Edge, N. J. To Cadet Frank R. Grundman has gone a wrist watch for "personal excellence in athletics at the U. S. Coast Guard Academy. Winner of the Legion Award at the Naval Academy has not yet been announced.

KANSAS CITY, Kans. (ALNS)—With the dedication of a new Children's Rehabilitation unit at the Kansas University Medical Center here on May 25, an eight-year drive by the Kansas American Legion, Forty and Eight, and American Legion Auxiliary came to a successful end.

At the same time, the unusual story of the contributions of a high school sophomore at Topeka to the project came to light. He is Bob Swan, who when just 11 years old started holding carnivals in his front yard and in three years' time raised $3500 for the children's center.

American Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units and Forty and Eight Voitures all over Kansas raised $27,500, with Voyageur Virgil Lawrence spearheading the drive. Because of young Swan's unique contribution, he was made Kansas' only honorary member of the Forty and Eight, and university officials at the dedication honored him "as the individual who has contributed the most to the building fund."

The new unit will be used for the treatment of children with cerebral palsy and other crippling defects, for retarded children, and those with other handicaps.

NEW LONDON, O. (ALNS)—Members of Broome-Wood Post 292 of The American Legion are staunch believers in the free enterprise system, even for teen-agers. When the post wanted to make sure that the grounds of its New London Legion home were kept in top-notch condition during the summer, Commander George Gemmel got bids from high school boys who care for lawns to earn money during the vacation period.

PHOENIX, Ariz. (ALNS)—Our national defense capabilities were seriously jeopardized by three head-lining making events in May, National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., told Arizona American Legionnaires at a meeting in Phoenix on May 21.

The events were the Russian launching of the ton-and-a-half Sputnik III, the military and civil crisis in France, and the insults suffered by Vice President Nixon in South America. "These crises and other threats to our security and solvency demand adoption of the President's Defense Department reorganization plan." The American Legion Commander declared.
May 1958---The American Legion, for more than 38 years an advocate of a strong American-flag merchant marine, today announced plans to join with the Maritime Industry in multiple unveilings of the 1958 Merchant Marine Poster, according to James R. Wilson, Jr., Director, National Security Commission.

Winners in a nationwide high school contest to design this year's poster were announced yesterday by the shipping industry. First prize, a $500.00 U. S. Savings Bond, will be awarded to Jay Niemi, twelfth grade student of Detroit, Michigan's Cass Technical High School, on May 16. Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks will present the award in the industry's behalf on the steps of the Nation's Capitol.

Young Niemi's poster was judged the best of 7,000 entries submitted by high school students from all forty-eight states. The poster displays three dark blue, white and red international signal flags spelling out the letters "U.S.A." against a light blue background. The slogan on the poster is "Our Merchant Marine - Sailing the Seven Seas". Mr. Niemi's art teacher is Mrs. Elizabeth Schmidt.

Reproductions of Mr. Niemi's poster will appear on the sides of 25,000 U. S. mail trucks across the nation and in U. S. Post Offices during the period May 16-31, during which time the nation celebrates both World Trade Week and National Maritime Day (May 22).

The American Legion, through its National Security Commission, is urging Post and Departmental officers throughout the country to arrange with their local postmasters for inaugural ceremonies at the time the new poster is first displayed on the trucks. At such ceremonies, the appropriate American Legion officer, as spokesman for a community group vitally concerned with merchant marine welfare, will formally present the industry poster to the postmaster, who will then direct that it be displayed on all trucks and display boards under his authority.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION NEWS IN A NUT SHELL

Plans for The American Legion's gala 40th National Convention to be held in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, are being rounded into shape by the 1958 Convention Corporation and a growing crew of volunteer Legion workers.

As American Legion Posts over the nation observed Memorial Day with ceremonies honoring the dead of past wars, flags over all government buildings flew at half mast from May 28 to 30 in solemn memorial to the two new Unknown Dead whose bodies were placed beside the Unknown Soldier of World War I at Arlington National Cemetery.

It's your flag - fly it proudly on Flag Day, June 14.

Recommendations for improving the Uniform Code of Military Justice have been drawn up by a special American Legion committee and will be presented to Congress.

Rhode Island was the 12th American Legion Department to reach its 1958 membership quota.

The Kansas American Legion had enrolled by May 27, 500 more members for 1958 than its total 1957 membership, thus becoming the fifth department to surpass its 1957 record.

The American Legion has distributed more than a quarter million copies of its scholarship guide for children of veterans - "Need a Lift?" - in the past seven years and is readying a new edition of the popular publication for distribution by the opening of school next fall.

The average unemployment benefit in the U.S. is $35 per week, compared with the average weekly wage of a full-time Russian worker of $24.

If you have lost your application for American Legion life insurance, you can get another one from your post adjutant, your department headquarters, or from National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Indiana.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO (ALNS)—Plans for The American Legion's gala 40th National Convention in Chicago, Sept. 1-4, are being rounded into shape by the staff of the Convention Corporation, which has been on the job since last winter, and a growing corps of volunteer Cook County workers.

Headquarters hotels were announced by Harold A. Cummins of Chicago, executive vice president of the Convention Corporation. They are: The American Legion, Palmer House; American Legion Auxiliary, Morrison Hotel; Eight and Forty, Morrison Hotel; Forty and Eight, Sherman Hotel.

American Legion convention sessions will be at the Chicago Stadium, beginning on Sept. 2. The Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty both will hold convention sessions at the Morrison. The Forty and Eight Promenade is to be at the Sherman.

All Legion commission and committee meetings immediately before and during the convention will be at the Morrison, Cummins said. Legion staff offices are to be in the same hotel.

The annual parade is scheduled to step off down Michigan Avenue at 10:00 a.m. on Labor Day, Sept. 1. National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., and other dignitaries will review the hours-long spectacle from a stand at Michigan Avenue and Van Buren.

The National Commander's dinner for distinguished guests is to be Tuesday evening, Sept. 2, at the Morrison Hotel.

Finals of the senior drum and bugle corps contest—always one of the dramatic highlights of the national conclave—will be at Soldiers Field on Sunday evening, Aug. 31. Preliminaries and other music and marching competitions are scheduled on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 30-31.

(IDRE)
Confirmed hotel reservations will be provided all delegates, alternates and visitors upon the payment of the $3.00 convention registration fee. The registration fee is to be collected by the departments in advance and transmitted to the corporation prior to Aug. 18, Cummins said.

Registration fee for members of musical units registering as a group is $1.00. A simplified procedure for the distribution of convention packets and badges has also been announced by Cummins.

A Special Events Committee has already arranged tours or other attractions at some of Chicago’s many places of interest. Plans are also underway to hold an American Legion Day at the Hawthorne Track.

Ample housing has been assured for all delegates and visitors whose registration is received by the Aug. 18 deadline.

EL CAMPO, Tex. (ALNS)—Ray Pierce, chairman of the El Campo (Tex.) Civil Defense Committee of The American Legion reports success in the recently held civil defense evacuation exercise he managed here. In 25 minutes, approximately 1600 school children were evacuated from classrooms by 327 mothers using private cars two miles distant from El Campo.

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (ALNS)—Rhode Island became the 12th American Legion Department to exceed its 1958 membership quota when on May 26 it reported to National Headquarters a paid-up membership of 11,256 against its quota of 11,185.

TOPEKA, Kans. (ALNS)—The Kansas American Legion with a membership of 56,766 on May 27 was the fifth department to surpass its total 1957 membership. Last year there were 56,262 Kansas Legionnaires.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON (ALNS)——With flags over government buildings flying at half mast all over the United States, the country paused in reverence on May 30 to honor its fallen heroes of all wars.

In the Nation's Capital two Unknown War Dead of the Korean Conflict and the Second World War were laid to rest with the nation's highest honors beside the Unknown Soldier of World War I.

The arrival of the two Unknowns in Washington was televised to a national audience by the National Broadcasting Company through the Dave Garroway show "Today" on Wednesday, May 28, at 9:00 a.m. (EDT).

Solemn rituals signaled their arrival at the U.S. Naval Gun Factory, where the bodies were received prior to being carried to the rotunda of the Capitol Building to lie in state. Burial with full military honors followed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Memorial Day afternoon.

Through Presidential proclamation the flags over all government buildings flew at half mast on May 28, 29 and 30 until the conclusion of the ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery.

The ceremonies at Arlington were mirrored in special observances in hamlet and metropolis throughout the nation. Public observances generally were under the auspices of American Legion Posts, carrying on the tradition which had been bequeathed them by the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans.

The New Jersey American Legion conducted special memorial services for deceased Legionnaires at Locustwood Memorial Park on Sunday, June 1.

On May 31, National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., conferred The American Legion's highest award — its Distinguished Service Medal — upon the three Unknowns in Arlington, "resting in honored glory — known but to God."
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) — Nevada's senior Senator, George W. Malone, a former department commander and national vice commander of The American Legion, has presented an autographed copy of his new book entitled "Mainline" to the Memorial Library at Legion National Headquarters here. Published by Long House of New Canaan, Conn., the book analyzes the effects on Americans of foreign policies.

LOS ANGELES (ALNS) — John R. Quinn, past national commander of The American Legion, has received a California State Assembly certificate of commendation for his 37 years of service in the state and Los Angeles County government. For the past 20 years he has been Los Angeles County assessor. He was cited, not only for his long record of public service, but also as "the father of the California Veterans Home and Farm Purchase Act of 1921 which proved it was possible to put the working man into a home."

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) — By May 27, National Headquarters of The American Legion had received 27,638 applications for its new life insurance.

CHICAGO (ALNS) — The Cook County Council of The American Legion has planned elaborate ceremonies at Soldier Field on June 11, when Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley will read his Flag Day proclamation. Massed colors will lead the parade of the Chicago Police Post Drum and Bugle Corps and a team of Legionnaires from the First National Bank Post will present a ceremony for the disposal of unserviceable flags.

The program will be held in conjunction with the 13th annual Gold Trophy stock car races of the Park District Police Benevolent Association for the benefit of the widows and orphans fund, with a crowd of 60,000 expected. Around the country other American Legion Posts are planning similar colorful Flag Day observances.

CRANSTON, R. I. (ALNS) — Twenty-one top students of Cranston High School have signed for a new language course in Russian to be offered next fall. The Cranston School Committee voted unanimously to offer the course on an experimental basis following an American Legion sponsored public meeting to discuss the proposal.

The plan was backed by Rhode Island American Legion officials as a defense measure and by school administrators and college representatives, but was opposed by a number of language teachers.

BALTIMORE (ALNS) — There is no end to community service projects of American Legion Posts, but few equal in uniqueness the gift of six polar bears, three brown bears and a baby elephant to the Baltimore City Zoo by Ensign C. Markland Kelly, Jr., Post 171 here. Organized by World War II veterans in 1946, the post also gives an annual scholarship to a needy boy, sponsors a full sports program including Junior American Legion Baseball, Little League, basketball and football, and presents movies to institutions for children and old people.
WASHINGTON (ALNS)—The American Legion’s special committee studying the uniform code of military justice has drawn up recommendations to be presented to Congress to correct deficiencies presently in the code. The three-man committee is headed by Gen. Franklin Ratter of Salt Lake City, with John J. Finn, alternate national executive committeeman for the District of Columbia, and Carl Matheny, Dearborn (Mich.) attorney, as members.

Studies by the group have been underway since 1955, when the Legion’s 37th National Convention in Miami took formal action to investigate the reservations voiced by the Armed Forces concerning the uniform code of military justice passed by Congress in 1950. The American Legion was instrumental in having the code adopted, following the experience of two wars during which separate codes prevailed for the services, based on outmoded practices.

CLEVELAND (ALNS)—Honors continue to accrue for Kenneth A. Goudreau, who was governor of Buckeye Boys State and vice president of The American Legion Boys Nation in 1957.

Latest was his selection by the Community Chest in Cleveland to represent that city at the National Social Welfare Assembly in New York City. Goudreau, who is a newspaper carrier for the Cleveland Press, received a Press scholarship and recently was a finalist in a state-wide contest for news boys.

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)—Five Legionnaires who have been picked to be area child welfare vice chairmen during the coming year have been announced by Maurice T. Webb of Newnan, Ga., national child welfare chairman of The American Legion. The five are: John A. High, West Swanzey, N. H. (area A); Dr. Samuel A. Lovemen, Toms River, N. J. (area B); Joseph M. Simpson, Montgomery, Ala. (area C); Eugene Lindquist, Clarissa, Minn. (area D), and Thomas G. Clarkin, Yuma, Arizona (area E). They were elected by the departments participating in the five area child welfare conferences held by The American Legion during the past winter.
JACKSON, Miss. (ALNS)---The Mississippi American Legion has picked an ex-major leaguer to chairman its junior baseball program. He is Paul E. Gregory, who is now baseball coach and professor of physical education at Mississippi State College.

Gregory was a star pitcher at the same college in 1927, 28 and 29 and in 1930 broke into professional ball with the Atlanta Crackers of the Southern Association. The following year he moved up to the Chicago White Sox. Prior to his World War II Navy service he pitched for Seattle and Hollywood in the Pacific Coast League. He is a member of Starkville Post 13 of The American Legion.

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS)---Up-to-date information on thousands of college scholarships available to children of veterans is being compiled by the National Child Welfare Division of The American Legion for inclusion in the next edition of its popular scholarship guide "Need a Lift?" The new edition, which will be the eighth, is to be ready for distribution prior to the opening of school next fall.

Since the publication was first issued in 1951, 267,865 copies have been distributed. The new edition will be the most comprehensive yet - a treasure house of scholarship sources and educational aids, according to child welfare officials.

Sufficient supplies will be printed to provide a free copy for all Legion posts, but in addition posts will be urged to buy at 15 cents each two additional copies - one to be given the local high school and the other to the community library.

WASHINGTON (ALNS)---This was the reply of Lincoln White, U. S. State Department press officer, to recent jibes about unemployment in this country voiced by Soviet Premier Krushchev:

"It is perhaps pertinent," said White, "to point out that in the 'old and decadent' system even an unemployed worker receives a higher income than the average fully employed worker in the country Mr. Krushchev represents."

The average worker in Russia gets about $24 a week. The average unemployment benefit in the U. S. is $35 a week.
SAUK CENTRE, Minn. (ALNS)---Mrs. Fred (Emma) Kaufman, president of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 67 here, was elected mayor of this community, defeating two male opponents. She is also an antique dealer and has three grown sons.

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BROOKLYN (ALNS)---Dedication ceremonies at the new split-level headquarters of Floyd Bennet Post 1060 of The American Legion here on May 31 were scheduled to include New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Borough President John Cashmore, New York Department Commander John Keenan and other officials of the Legion and Auxiliary. The post, which was chartered in 1932 by 50 World War I veterans, now has a membership of 400.

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HELENA, Mont. (ALNS)---The Montant Department of The American Legion launched a state-wide community service program during May. Each post commander was asked to appoint a post community service committee to meet at least once monthly.

Theme of the project - "Boost your home town" - is to "make your community a better place to raise children through community service."

In addition to encouraging posts to undertake needed local projects, the Montana Department is providing for the interchange of information, results and findings through the monthly "Montana Legionnaire." Currently posts are engaged in an educational effort aimed at the display of The American Flag on patriotic holidays.

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PORTLAND, Ore. (ALNS)---Hurlburt-Worsham Post 94 of The American Legion here has presented its annual award to Cascade College for having the highest percentage of student body participation in the Legion's blood donor program. Dr. Edison Habegger, president of the college, accepted the plaque from Dr. Penn C. Crum, past department commander, and Kenneth Hill, commander of Post 94.