Amnesty and the status of new GI Bill legislation were among topics discussed during a traditional courtesy call paid to President Ford by James M. Wagonseller, newly elected National Commander of The American Legion.

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"The first obligation of our government is to take care of the Americans who served our country honorably, when they were told to—and where they were told to...," American Legion National Commander James M. Wagonseller told the Indianapolis news media during his first press conference at the Legion's National Headquarters.

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The homecoming for The American Legion's new National Commander, James M. Wagonseller of Lancaster, Ohio, has been set for Oct. 4-6, at the Sheraton-Columbus Motor Hotel, North Third at Gay St., Columbus, Ohio.

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MADISONVILLE, KY.—(ALNS)—Major Maurice Kirby Gordon, 95, the man who gave The American Legion its name at the historic Paris Caucus in 1919, died here Sept. 4.

A World War I veteran and self-educated attorney, Major Gordon served as Kentucky Department Commander in 1920-21. Earlier this year, Major Gordon was presented the Kentucky Distinguished Service Award by the Department of Kentucky.

Funeral services were on Thursday, Sept. 5, at the Harris Funeral Home, Madisonville. Harold W. Fann, former National Vice Commander of The American Legion, represented the National Organization at the funeral. Major Gordon is survived by a nephew, James F. Gordon, who is a U.S. District Court judge in Louisville.

-alns-

"The record of Gen. Creighton W. Abrams' service to our Nation is one of unselfish devotion. As Army chief of staff, hero at Bastogne, and former U.S. commander in Vietnam, Gen. Abrams served our country tirelessly and faithfullty. He was the type of American whom we all respect—a fighter, a patriot, a leader."—American Legion National Commander James M. Wagonseller, on the death of Gen. Creighton W. Abrams. Commander Wagonseller also sent a message of condolence to General Abrams' widow on behalf of the Legion.

-alns-
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—Amnesty and the state of new GI Bill legislation were among topics discussed during a traditional courtesy call paid to President Ford by James M. Wagonseller, of Lancaster, Ohio, the newly elected National Commander of The American Legion.

Wagonseller gave the President a bound volume of resolutions passed during his organization's recently concluded 56th National Convention. In the course of the meeting, he expressed The American Legion's "extreme disappointment" in the recent action of the House of Representatives in cutting severely the new GI Bill legislation approved by House-Senate Conference Committee. Wagonseller expressed the hope the Senate would restore the loan feature and the extension feature when reconsidering the legislation. He also expressed a desire for prompt action on this legislation to provide "long overdue" relief for Vietnam veterans struggling to remain in training.

On the subject of amnesty, Wagonseller reiterated his organization's long standing position against proposals for both conditional and blanket amnesty. The American Legion advocates trial on a case by case basis, in appropriate courts for draft evaders and deserters. Wagonseller said "Anything less would be a gross insult to those who served."

The Legion chief said it was his impression that the Legion and President Ford were not too far apart on the question.

He said President Ford indicated that he had not yet decided the precise actions that should be taken on amnesty.

But, he said, the President indicated that he is studying proposals for draft dodgers to work in hospitals, the Peace Corps and other public jobs for 18 months to wipe the slate clean.

The new National Commander commended President Ford for his prompt action in naming a new Administrator of Veterans Affairs, terming Administrator-designate Richard Roudebush "exceptionally well qualified in the field of veterans affairs."

-ALNS-

INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—"The first obligation of our government is to take care of the Americans who served our country honorably, when they were told to—and where they were told to...," American Legion National Commander James M. Wagonseller told the Indianapolis news media here.

In fielding a question from a newsman regarding amnesty, the newly-elected Legion chief pointed out further that our government should give first priority to "those honorably discharged veterans who served" and consider amnesty later.

(More)
Commenting on a newsman's question regarding a program allowing draft evaders to "work their way back into the American society," Commander Wagonseller pointed out that giving jobs to draft evaders would further "deprive" honorably discharged Vietnam veterans from obtaining government service jobs. "I feel very strongly against giving draft evaders government jobs," he added.

In the opening statement of his first news conference here, Commander Wagonseller reaffirmed the Legion's opposition to blanket amnesty for draft dodgers and deserters. "Those who fled to avoid service are law violators. They should be tried individually and their guilt or innocence determined on the merits of individual cases," he said.

The Legion chief also praised President Ford's Veterans Administrator designate, Richard L. Roudebush, and reconfirmed the Legion's support for a "strong system of national defense."

-alns-

For release 9-6-74

COLUMBUS, OHIO--(ALNS)--The homecoming for The American Legion's new National Commander, James M. Wagonseller of Lancaster, Ohio, has been set for October 4-6, at the Sheraton-Columbus Motor Hotel, North Third at Gay St., Columbus, Ohio.

According to Department of Ohio Adjutant, Pat Hone, an interesting schedule of events has been laid on for those Legionnaires planning to attend.

After registration Friday, October 4, there will be a reception and buffet in the evening at Fairfield Post No. 11 in Lancaster, Ohio. Bus transportation will be provided from the Sheraton-Columbus to the Post.

On Saturday, October 5, a special reception/luncheon and stageplay is scheduled. The reception is from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon, followed by lunch and then the stageplay, "Fallen Angels" starring Dorothy Lamour. Bus transportation will be provided.

Saturday night, the homecoming banquet honoring Commander Wagonseller is scheduled to kick-off with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. The banquet will be held in the Sheraton-Columbus Motor Hotel.

On Sunday, October 6, charter buses are scheduled to leave the Sheraton-Columbus for Indianapolis at 9:00 a.m. for Legionnaires who will be attending the Commanders and Adjutants Conference and the National Executive Committee meeting. A buffet breakfast will be served before departure.

A highlight of the bus trip to Indianapolis will be a stop at the U.S. Air Force Museum and a reception and lunch at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio.

For additional information, it is suggested that Legionnaires planning to attend the homecoming for Commander Wagonseller contact the Department of Ohio Headquarters, P.O. Box 3778, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

-alns-

Known to several generations of veterans as a Legionnaire's Legionnaire, Mr. Dudley retired Dec. 31, 1956, from Legion National Headquarters after twenty years of service. Eight of the twenty years he held The American Legion's top administrative job as National Adjutant.

A veteran of World War I, Mr. Dudley served overseas with the AEF from July 1918 until October 1919, first as a railhead officer in advance sectors and later at Coblenz, Germany.

Mr. Dudley joined The American Legion in October 1919 even before his discharge from World War I service. In 1930 he was named Department Adjutant of the Nebraska American Legion. He held that office until 1936 when he joined the national field staff of The American Legion. In 1941 he became director of the new Division of National Defense at American Legion National Headquarters here.

For 18 months during World War II Mr. Dudley was on loan to the Office of Civilian Defense as head of the veterans' section of that agency. Upon his return to The American Legion in 1943, he was promoted to director of Field Service.

He became The American Legion's sixth National Adjutant May 3, 1948, upon the appointment of James F. O'Neil, then National Commander. Previously he had served as assistant National Adjutant for nearly five years.

Funeral services were on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at St. Roberts Church in Omaha with burial in Omaha's Calvary cemetery.

Mr. Dudley is survived by the widow, Helen, 7300 Graceland Drive, Omaha; a brother, Thomas, of Enid, Okla.; and a sister, Mrs. George Scott, of Glendale, Calif.

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.--(ALNS)--Rud G. Espy of Post 34, Nixa, Mo., temporary winner of one of the four 1974 Seagram Fords has been disqualified. Herbert A. Hutsell of Post 214, Phillipsburgh, Mo., replaces Espy as winner.

The four new Fords were presented to American Legionnaires during the 28th annual Seagrams Posts Ford Awards at the Legion's 56th National Convention here.

AIKEN, S.C.--(ALNS)--Audley H. Ward, 63, former National Vice Commander of The American Legion (1951-52), died here recently.

A veteran of World War II, he also served as South Carolina Department Commander in 1946-47.
WASHINGTON--(ALNS)—The 15th Annual Armed Forces Chess Championship Tournament is scheduled to get underway Friday, Sept. 6, in the Hall of Flags atop The American Legion's Washington Headquarters building here, it was announced by the Legion's National Commander James M. Wagonseller.

The tournament, jointly sponsored by the American Chess Foundation, The American Legion, the U.S.O., the U.S. Chess Federation, and the Department of Defense, will feature six man teams from the Army, Air Force and Sea Services (the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard) competing in the 12-round tournament.

Schedule of play calls for two rounds each day 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Visitors are welcome at all matches in the tournament.

Each contender will play against every member of the other two teams, and the player with the highest final score becomes champion for the year. The defending champion is Air Force Sergeant Don C. Sutherland.

The winning team will be awarded the Emery Team Trophy, presented in honor of Thomas Emery, honorary chairman of The American Chess Foundation.

The Legion and the American Chess Foundation will co-host a buffet/reception Friday evening, September 13, in the Hall of Flags at which time awards will be presented to the winners. The reception begins at 6:00 p.m.

-alns-

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Benjamin A. Brown of Bloomington, Minnesota, the 1974-75 President of The American Legion's Boys Nation, visited with President Gerald R. Ford on Aug. 30, here.

The 17-year old youth was invited to the White House as a guest of the President. He spent about 40 minutes with President Ford in the Oval Office "discussing world affairs." He returned to Bloomington immediately after the visit.

Brown was elected President of the 29th annual Boys Nation program in mid-July, during a week-long exercise in Federal Government operations here at the American University. He will continue to serve as President of Boys Nation until elections are held next July.

Sponsored by Bloomington American Legion Post 550, Brown has compiled an impressive record in his three years in high school. He was School President during the 1971-72 school year and is Student Government Chairman through the 1974-75 school year. In sports, he has played football, basketball and baseball.

-alns-
AMERICAN LEGION NEWS BRIEFS
FOR WEEK ENDING 9-13-74

Clarence M. Kelley, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will be the featured speaker at American Legion National Commander James M. Wagonseller's banquet for the Legion's National Executive Committee at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, at the Indianapolis Athletic Club.

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To focus attention on the employment of the handicapped, especially disabled war veterans, The American Legion's National Economic Commission has announced its 28th annual observance of "National Employ the Handicapped Week" scheduled October 6-12, 1974, in conjunction with The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

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The National Commander of The American Legion, James M. Wagonseller, of Lancaster, Ohio, has reiterated his organization's strong support for efforts aimed at securing a proper accounting from Hanoi, Laos and Cambodia of U.S. prisoners of war and missing in action.

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American Legion National Commander James M. Wagonseller departed Tuesday, Sept. 10, for a fact-finding tour of the Far East.

***

Top ranking American Legionnaires from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and seven foreign countries will attend the annual fall meetings of the Legion here over a period of nearly three weeks, starting Sept. 21, through Oct. 10.

***

The American Legion's National Public Relations Division has developed a number of new promotional items to help National Commander James M. Wagonseller continue with the "Be Counted Again For America" theme.

***

The Veterans Administration has reported that the GI home loan program closed out fiscal year 1974 on a strong note despite limited availability of financing. A June upturn in home loan activities brought the fiscal year 1974 total to 306,200 loans -16 per cent below fiscal year 1973 - but it was considered a good year, because except for 1972 and 1973, fiscal year 1974 was the best since the peak years of the mid-1950s.

-alns-

"Be Counted Again For America"
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—Clarence M. Kelley, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will be the featured speaker at American Legion National Commander James M. Wagonstoller's banquet for the Legion's National Executive Committee at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, at the Indianapolis Athletic Club.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., a city which he later served with distinction as its chief of police, Kelley is a 1936 graduate of the University of Kansas and earned his LL.B. Degree from the University of Kansas City Law School in 1940.

He was appointed a Special Agent with the FBI in October of 1940 and served in a number of field offices until July 22, 1944, when he joined the U.S. Navy. He served aboard a transport attack ship in the South Pacific until the end of hostilities and returned to civilian life in April of 1946.

Returning to the FBI he held additional assignments which took him from Kansas City, to FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C., as a supervisor, back to Kansas City then on to Houston, Seattle and San Francisco, serving as Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in each of the latter three cities.

In 1957 he returned to Washington as an Inspector in the Training and Inspection Division and later served as Special Agent in Charge of the Birmingham and Memphis Divisions until his retirement from the FBI in 1961.

He then took over as police chief of his native Kansas City where under his innovative leadership programs were introduced that have resulted in a decrease in the area crime rate every year since 1969.

He was selected by former President Richard M. Nixon to head the FBI, and was sworn in as FBI Director on July 9, 1973, by then Attorney-General Elliot L. Richardson.

WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—To focus attention on the employment of the handicapped, especially disabled war veterans, The American Legion's National Economic Commission has announced its 28th annual observance of "National Employ the Handicapped Week" scheduled October 6-12, 1974, in conjunction with The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

This employment program is culminated with National recognition bestowed upon employers recommended by Department Officials whose personnel policies favor the employment and retention of handicapped workers.

The Legion's National Economic Commission is making a special appeal to all departments to participate and recognize employers by the presentation of the Legion's National Handicapped citation.
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—The National Commander of The American Legion, James M. Wagonseller, of Lancaster, Ohio, has reiterated his organization's strong support for efforts aimed at securing a proper accounting from Hanoi, Laos and Cambodia of U.S. prisoners of war and missing in action.

Following the mandate of the Legion's recently concluded National Convention, Wagonseller made clear the position of the nation's largest veteran's organization during a meeting with President Ford on September 3rd. The National Commander promised to explore means for securing a satisfactory solution to the issue during his official visit to the Far East beginning on September 10th, and will supply the President with any significant information on the subject accrued in the course of the trip.

The American Legion has had a long standing position in favor of a strong national effort to resolve the POW-MIA issue, and has furnished rent free office space in it's Washington office for the National League of Families of Prisoners of War-Missing in Action since 1971.

-Alns-

INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—American Legion National Commander James M. Wagonseller departed Tuesday, Sept. 10, for a fact-finding tour of the Far East.

His itinerary calls for a four-day stopover in Alaska where he is scheduled to make a courtesy call on Gov. William A. Egan and to speak before Alaska Legionnaires and Auxiliary members during his official visit to the Alaska Legion Department.

Commander Wagonseller left Fairbanks, Alaska on Friday, Sept. 13, for Tokyo, Japan. He will leave Tokyo for Seoul, Korea, on Wednesday, Sept. 18. After his visit in Seoul, he is scheduled to arrive in Okinawa on Friday, Sept. 20, and depart on Sunday, Sept. 22, for a short stopover in Taipei, Republic of China.

Following a three-day visit in Hong Kong, the Legion chief is scheduled to arrive in Manila on Friday, Sept. 27, where he will make a courtesy call on Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Republic of the Philippines.

After a two-day stopover in Honolulu, Commander Wagonseller is scheduled to return to the mainland on Thursday, Oct. 3.

-Alns-

Vietnam-era veterans make up more than 98 per cent of the more than 1,300 Vet Reps selected and trained by the Veterans Administration to implement its new "man on campus" program with the fall enrollment. Average age of the Vet Reps is 29 and there are 28 women among the counselors. Also included are some 150 representatives of minority groups.

-Alns-
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—Top ranking American Legionnaires from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and seven foreign countries will attend the annual fall meetings of the Legion here over a period of nearly three weeks, starting Sept. 21, through Oct. 10.

Climaxing the event will be the meetings of the National Executive Committee, the Legion's policy-making body between National Conventions, to be conducted Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 9 and 10, at the National Headquarters building, 700 N. Pennsylvania St. These sessions will be presided over by National Commander James M. Wagonseller, of Lancaster, Ohio, and highlighted by the Commander's banquet for the NEC at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, at the Indianapolis Athletic Club.

Featured speaker for the banquet will be Clarence M. Kelley, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Major National Commission and Committee meetings will be in progress at National Headquarters on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 7 and 8, at the same time as the annual meeting of Commanders and Adjutants will be taking place in the NEC room.

The C. & A. Conference is for the purpose of familiarizing newly-elected Department (State) Commanders with the Legion's national program for the year. While most Department Adjutants are continuing in service, the annual briefing sessions serve to emphasize the changes which have taken place each year.

The first of the Legion's planning sessions here will be the 14th Annual National Conference on American Legion Baseball on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 and 22, at Legion National Headquarters.

The object of the baseball conference is to evaluate the 1974 baseball season, to discuss proposed rule changes for 1975, and to make recommendations as the chairman feel necessary, to the National Americanism Commission, for the improvement and expansion of the program.

On Sept. 28 and 29, the 5th Annual National Oratorical Conference of Department Chairmen will be held at National Headquarters and on Oct. 5 and 6, the 39th National Boys State Conference will be in session in the NEC room at National Headquarters here.

-ALNS-

Veterans recently separated from military service should check the timetable on certain benefits to make sure they don't lose out through oversight, the Veterans Administration advises. For example, veterans have 120 days to convert, without physical examination, their Servicemen's Group Life Insurance to the new Veterans Group Life Insurance.

-ALNS-
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—The American Legion's National Public Relations Division has developed a number of new promotional items to help National Commander James M. Wagon seller continue with the "Be Counted Again For America" theme.

Among the promotional items produced was a full-page membership testimonial ad placed in the world-wide Sept. 4, editions of the Army Times, Navy Times, and Air Force Times suggesting that "Staying In - Or Getting Out - Write to The American Legion now so your years of service don't get written off later."

Inserted in the ad are pictures of eight Vietnam era Legionnaires, with captions stating why they joined The American Legion. The eight Legionnaires, female and male, represented a cross section of the United States with reasons for joining the Legion ranging from The American Legion's "strong position against amnesty for draft dodgers" to "supporting the Legion Baseball program."

Other promotional material developed for this year's Legion theme are: Thirty-second radio and television "Be Counted Again For America" public service spots, including radio tapes in Spanish, directed at the large Spanish speaking audience in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Also, again this year, the Legion's PR Division has developed an advertisement designed for placement in National Football League programs. Built around the "Big Team" theme, the ad shows prominent pro football players along with a Vietnam era veteran, with the slogan, "On the big team, there is no off-season. You never hang up your uniform."

Additional promotional items are planned by the PR Division and will be announced as they become available.

WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—The Veterans Administration has reported that the GI home loan program closed out fiscal year 1974 on a strong note despite limited availability of financing. A June upturn in home loan activities brought the fiscal year 1974 total to 306,200 loans - 16 per cent below fiscal year 1973 - but it was considered a good year, because except for 1972 and 1973, fiscal year 1974 was the best since the peak years of the mid-1950s.

The 306,200 loans closed in fiscal year 1974 had a face value of $7.7 billion. Some 8.8 million loans, worth $106.3 billion, have been closed since the program's inception shortly after World War II.

VA officials expect the housing situation to improve somewhat this fiscal year because of the boost in the maximum interest rate and the Administration's program for pumping approximately $10 billion into the housing market through the Government National Mortgage Association Tandem Plan. Under this plan, the government subsidizes interest rates above specified levels, lessening the interest burden on the buyer.
"The American Legion is unalterably opposed to President Ford's proclamation announcing a program for the return of Vietnam era draft evaders and military deserters," American Legion National Adjutant William F. Hauck noted in a recent statement to the news media. Adjutant Hauck issued the statement after conferring with National Commander James M. Wagon(A)eller, who is on a Far East trip for military and diplomatic briefings.

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The American Legion has urged the Senate to elevate the Veterans Administration to a Cabinet-level Department.

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A limited number of billboard posters promoting the Legion's theme, "Be Counted Again," are available through the Legion's National Public Relations Division. The price is $5 each, including shipping charges.

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A "Veterans Roundup" to reach Ohioans who are eligible for the Ohio Vietnam Veterans Bonus and haven't filed their claims, is in the making by the Ohio Vietnam Veterans Bonus Commission, according to its director, John W. Bush.

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Dates and sites for the 1974-75 Joint American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - Legion Children & Youth area conferences have been announced by the respective Legion commissions.

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Applications for enrollment in the 29th term of The American Legion Extension Institute will be accepted through November 1, 1974, at National Headquarters.

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**Speeches Available**

Suggested Addresses 261 and 262, "Prepared Address For Veterans Day" and "Veterans Day, 1974 Before Youth Audiences" are now available for distribution. Also, Suggested Address 260, "American Education Week 1974" is available and may be obtained from Department Adjutants or through the National Public Relations Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—American Legion National Adjutant William F. Hauck has issued the following statement with regard to President Ford's announced plan for amnesty for Vietnam Era draft dodgers and deserters:

"The American Legion is unalterably opposed to President Ford's proclamation announcing a program for the return of Vietnam era draft evaders and military deserters. The proclamation violates the principles for which millions served their country honorably, thousands died in combat, thousands more were wounded, many are hospitalized, while others remain missing in action.

"The American Legion, based upon its national policy, has proposed to the President that the duly constituted courts, military and civilian, remain the means for fostering justice for draft evaders and deserters of the Vietnam era."

-alns-

WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—The American Legion has urged the Senate to elevate the Veterans Administration to a Cabinet-level Department.

Speaking to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on September 19, E. H. Golembieski, Director, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission said, "Our nation's policy on veterans affairs should be molded by the head of the Veterans Administration under the direction of the President and established by Congress." He added that "...a Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs would have better access to the President to furnish him facts and counsel and, in turn, receive the President's guidance and support."

Golembieski said that, "In our experience, this is the first open hearing associated with a nomination requiring the confirmation of the United States Senate," and added that the Legion was pleased to be given, "...the opportunity to participate in the hearings on the nomination of Richard L. Roudebush to be Administrator of Veterans Affairs."

He noted that The American Legion does not participate in the selection and appointment of any individual to any government office, but "...we believe that an individual being considered for Administrator of Veterans Affairs should have a personal conviction in the principles that have served as guidelines for The American Legion over the past half-century."

Comparing the size and budget of the various agencies of the Executive Branch, Golembieski said that, "If ever an agency so responsibly and effectively affected the lives of the American people, that agency is the Veterans Administration." He added that veterans and their families make up about 47 percent of the total population of the United States—better than 29.2 million veterans.

-alns-
FOR RELEASE 9-20-74

INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—A limited number of billboard posters promoting the Legion’s theme, "Be Counted Again," are available through the Legion's National Public Relations Division. The price is $5 each, including all shipping charges.

If your Department or Post has not ordered this inexpensive promotional tool, the Legion's PR Division suggests you place your order as soon as possible while the posters are still available.

This is a full-size, 24-sheet poster, similar to those you see along highways throughout the country. Actual size is 19½' x 8½'. Designed to catch the eye and convey its message easily to the motoring public, the poster is offered in dramatic color matching the "Be Counted Again" bumper stickers and display cards.

Many outdoor advertising firms will make unused billboard space available to non-profit organizations such as The American Legion for little or no cost. Contact your local outdoor advertising firm now for possible arrangements to bring this Legion message before the public.

Use the coupon below to order posters. Send orders with payment to National Public Relations Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

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Please rush shipment of ______________ American Legion 24-sheet "Be Counted Again" billboard posters to:

NAME ______________________________ ADDRESS ______________________________

CITY ______________________________ STATE ______________________________ ZIP

(Make checks or money order payable to: The American Legion)

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"BE COUNTED AGAIN FOR AMERICA"

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COLUMBUS, OHIO—(ALNS)—A "Veterans Roundup" is in the making by the Ohio Vietnam Veterans Bonus Commission, according to its director, John W. Bush.

"A special and intensive drive is being launched to all over the United States and around the world," Bush said, "to reach Ohioans who are eligible for the Ohio Vietnam Veterans Bonus and haven't filed their claims."

Bush said that he intends to write personal letters to commanding officers at military installations around the world asking their help. This would supplement the assistance he hopes to get from all elements of the news media, plus veterans organizations in this all-out effort.

Bush emphasized that every bona fide Ohio resident who served on active duty in the United States, in Vietnam, in any other part of the world, or in any combination of locations during the compensable period of the bonus Aug. 5, 1964 to July 1, 1973, is eligible to apply. Anyone who served in Vietnam only, between the dates of Feb. 28, 1961 and Aug. 5, 1964 is also eligible.

"Although original estimates indicated nearly 500,000 veterans were eligible," Bush said, "just over half this figure have applied and nearly 80,000 of those filed in the first days after applications were available."

- alns -

INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—Following are the dates and sites for the 1974-75 Joint American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - Legion Children & Youth area conferences. The first two days are for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation sessions, with Children & Youth meetings convening the evening of the second day and continuing through the closing date.

Oct. 30–Nov. 2, Wade Hampton Hotel, Columbia, S.C. (Southern area);
Nov. 13–16, Sheraton-Wayfarer Motor Inn, Manchester, N.H. (New England area);
Dec. 4–7, Annapolis Hilton Inn, Annapolis, Md. (Middle Atlantic area);
Jan. 8–11, Villager Motel, Lincoln, Neb. (Midwestern area); and
Jan. 22–25, Ramada Inn, Casper, Wyo. (Western area).

- alns -

WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—Aug. 15, 1974—approximately one year after the cessation of hostilities in which U.S. forces were involved in Southeast Asia—has been announced as the termination date for the award of the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM).

The NDSM was originally established for honorable service for any period between June 27, 1950 and that same date in 1954. The award was re-established for service in the Vietnam-era beginning Jan. 1, 1961 through Aug. 14, 1974.

- alns -
For release 9-20-74

INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--Applications for enrollment in the 29th term of The American Legion Extension Institute will be accepted through November 1, 1974, at National Headquarters.

The Extension Institute is a home study plan, consisting of six monthly lessons: (1) History and Organization; (2) Service Divisions and Sections; (3) Americanism and Children & Youth Programs; (4) Veterans Affairs - Rehabilitation and Economic Programs; (5) Legislative Program and Public Relations; and, (6) National Security and Foreign Relations Programs.

Students check their own progress through a series of review questions at the end of each lesson. Those who pass the final examination (the only test which is returned to National Headquarters for grading) receive a certificate of graduation. Legionnaires and members of the Sons of The American Legion receive a colorful blue and gold mortarboard cap patch. Auxiliary graduates receive an attractive mortarboard pin and chain.

To date, the Extension Institute has graduated some 75,000 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion, many of whom have since attained distinction within the ranks of their respective organizations.

The tuition: $5.00 each for one to three enrollments submitted as one application; $4.00 each for four or more enrollments submitted together. Use the handy application form below to enroll. If more enrollments are desired, type or print the requested information on a blank sheet of paper and attach it to the enrollment application. Make all checks or money orders payable to: National Treasurer, The American Legion.

AMERICAN LEGION EXTENSION INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Enclosed is a check or money order for $_____ Please enroll the following in the 29th term. Total enrollments with this application _______.

Name ___________________________ (Last) (First) (Middle)

Address ____________________________

City ___________________________ State ________ ZIP ________

Card No. __________ Post No. __________ Unit No. __________
AMERICAN LEGION NEWS SERVICE
NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION—THE AMERICAN LEGION

C. D. DeLoach, Chairman
James C. Watkins, Director

HEADQUARTERS
1608 K St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006
(202) 393-4811

P. O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
(317) 635-8411

AMERICAN LEGION NEWS BRIEFS
FOR WEEK ENDING 9-27-74

American Legion National Commander James M. Wagoner has rejected the
suggestion of Sen. Alan Cranston (Calif.), that draft evaders be used to fill jobs
in VA hospitals not wanted by other veterans. The suggestion was made by Cranston
during confirmation hearings for Richard L. Roudebush as VA Administrator before
the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

* * *

The American Legion has urged support of House Bill H. R. 982 by the Senate
Subcommittee of Immigration and Naturalization, prohibiting employment of illegal
aliens, by providing penalties for the employer.

* * *

Lincoln Post 3, Lincoln, Neb., with a membership of 7,421, has, for the third
consecutive year, maintained its hold on top position among king-size American Legion
posts.

* * *

The American Legion National Public Relations Division has produced three Veterans
Day television spot announcements. The spots will be mailed directly to television
stations throughout the nation.

* * *

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(ALNS)—The 32nd Annual Bill of Rights Defense Gold Medal Award
has been presented to Past National Commander James F. O'Neil, publisher of The American
made the presentation on the steps of the Federal Hall National Memorial here on
Sept. 25.

The 26th U.S. Army Band from Fort Wadsworth in Staten Island gave an outdoor
performance during the ceremony. Following the presentation, a luncheon was hosted by
the Wall Street Post at historic Fraunces Tavern located near the Post.

Past Commander O'Neil, the surviving member of a three-man amnesty board appointed
by the late President Truman following World War II, discussed the history of The
American Legion and its present stand on amnesty. He also related some of his service
experiences extending back to service on the Mexican border prior to World War I and
brought it up to the period during World War II when he was Service Assistant to the
Secretary of the Navy.

Past recipients of the medal include the late Cecil B. De Mille, prominent motion-
picture producer and director; the late Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; the
late Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, World War I ace; William Randolph Hearst, Jr., President
of Hearst Publications; William F. Buckley, Jr., author and columnist; and Henry J.
Taylor, columnist and news commentator.

-alns-
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—American Legion National Commander James M. Wagonseller has reacted to suggestions made during confirmation hearings for Richard L. Roudebush as VA Administrator before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on Sept. 20, that draft evaders and military deserters be given opportunity to perform alternate service in VA hospitals.

The Legion Commander said: "To allow draft evaders and military deserters to work in VA hospitals would be a direct insult to the Vietnam veterans who accepted and fulfilled the obligation of service during the Vietnam war. It would be especially shameful to have draft evaders serving at the bedside of men who were wounded in action."

Wagonseller rejected the suggestion of Senator Alan Cranston of California, that draft evaders be used to fill jobs in VA hospitals not wanted by other veterans, such as pushing medicine carts and lighting the veterans' cigarettes. The Legion Commander pointed out that unemployment rate for Vietnam veterans in the 20-24 age bracket is currently 9.4%, nearly twice the national unemployment rate of 5.4%. "There are plenty of honorably discharged veterans," Wagonseller said, "who want and need any jobs that are available in VA hospitals. In addition to which, honorably discharged veterans are justly entitled to veterans' preference in government hiring."

Wagonseller said that The American Legion would vigorously oppose any effort to assign draft evaders and military deserters to perform alternate service in VA hospitals. He voiced approval of opposition by Senator Strom Thurmond and 32 other Senators to Cranston's suggestion.

The Legion had earlier come out in opposition to the President's Proclamation offering conditional amnesty to draft evaders and military deserters. "The Proclamation," the Legion said, "violates the principles for which millions served their country honorably, thousands died in combat, thousands more were wounded, many are hospitalized, while others remain missing in action."

WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—The American Legion has urged support of House Bill H. R. 982 by the Senate Subcommittee of Immigration and Naturalization, chaired by Sen. James O. Eastland of Mississippi.

The American Legion adopted a resolution at its 1974 National Convention, urging the enactment of legislation prohibiting employment of illegal aliens, by providing penalties for the employer.

Congressman Peter W. Rodino of New Jersey introduced H. R. 982 on Jan. 3, 1973 and the bill was passed by the House on May 3, 1973. The bill is now pending further consideration by Eastland's Subcommittee. If H. R. 982 is enacted, it would satisfy the Legion's resolution.
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—Lincoln Post 3, Lincoln, Neb., with a membership of 7,421, has, for the third consecutive year, maintained its hold on top position among king-size American Legion posts.

Minneapolis Richfield Post 435 of Richfield, Minn., with 6,833 Legionnaires, was runner-up for top membership among 28 posts with 2,000 or more members in the National Organization for 1974 as of Aug. 15.

The complete list of king-size posts follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POST</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>MEMBERSHIP</th>
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"BE COUNTED AGAIN FOR AMERICA"
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—An estimated 2.7 million Vietnam Era veterans, separated from the military services between April 2, 1970 and July 31, 1974, are eligible for low-cost Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI).

This insurance is designed as interim protection during readjustment to civilian life, but those veterans discharged during this time period must apply before August 1, 1975. Servicemen discharged since August 1, 1974, receive application forms automatically.

VGLI is a nonrenewable, five-year term coverage, available in $5,000 increments up to $20,000. The monthly premium for the maximum coverage is $3.40 for veterans aged 34 and under, and $6.80 for those 35 years of age and over.

Application forms (VA Form 29-9715), together with the necessary premiums, should be sent to the Office of Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance, 212 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102.

-ALNS-

INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—The 54th anniversary of American Education Week will be observed during the week of Oct. 27-Nov. 2.

AEW, held annually since 1921, is sponsored by The American Legion, the National Education Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the United States Office of Education.

Under the theme—"Stay Involved"—the sponsors of AEW will again extend invitations to other national organizations to participate in the observance during this special week.

The week of October 27th will be observed in 1974, since this date is established one year in advance.

American Education Week promotional packets can be obtained by sending $3 to: National Educational Association Order Dept., The Academic Bldg., Sawmill Rd., West Haven, Conn. 06516.

-ALNS-

INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—The American Legion National Public Relations Division has produced three Veterans Day television spot announcements. The spots will be mailed directly to television stations throughout the nation.

Similar Veterans Day spots have been made available to a select group of radio stations.

-ALNS-
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—The Air Force chess team took all honors, except the award for the most brilliant game, in the 15th Annual Armed Forces Chess Championship Tournament, held in The American Legion’s Hall of Flags, recently.

The Air Force players won the Thomas Emery Trophy by amassing 49 points in the twelve rounds of play to 37½ for the Army and 21½ for the Sea Services (Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard).

Air Force players took first, second, third and fourth in the competition for the individual championship. The new champion, SGT Richard R. Bustamante of Castle AFB, California, had a score of 10½. Airman 1CL Charles Unruh of USAFE, Ramstein, Germany, was second with 10; defending champion SSGT Don C. Sutherland of Lowry AFB, Colorado, was third with 9½; and SGT Michael E. Ellis of USAFE, Rhein Main, Germany, followed with 8½.

Army’s Captain Richard H. Olsher of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., was fifth with 8½ points. Navy’s ETR3 Charles A. Lawton of the USS Nautilus was sixth with 7½.

The speed tournament ended in a three-way tie for Sutherland, Unruh and Lawton. Sutherland took the honors in the play-off.

AWC Johan A. Hansen of Naval Air Station, Brunswick, Me., was selected by Tournament Director L. Randall Rogers to receive the award for the most brilliant game.

Concluding event of the 1974 tournament program was an awards buffet in the Hall of Flags with the American Chess Foundation and The American Legion as co-hosts, represented by Foundation Board Chairman Thomas Parsons, III, of New York, and Erle Cocke, Jr., Past National Commander of The American Legion.

The Thomas Emery Trophy was presented to Brigadier General Andrew P. Iosue, Air Force member of the Honorary Committee for the tournament. SGT Bustamante, the new champion, received the Bulova Watch-Time Award and The American Legion-Veterans Affairs Award.

The 15-year old tournament is a project of the American Chess Foundation and The American Legion, endorsed by the President and the Secretary of Defense, and has the cooperation of the U.S. Chess Federation, United Services Organizations, and recreation authorities of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

-CHEVY CHASE, MD.—(ALNS)—Lee R. Pennington, 79, former District of Columbia National Executive Committeeman of The American Legion (1952-53), died here Sept. 17. A veteran of World War I, he also served as D.C. Department Commander in 1944-45, and as Director of the Legion’s Counter-Subversive Division of the National Americanism Commission from 1953 to 1959.