Summary of Proceedings

Twentieth Annual National Convention of The American Legion

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
September 19, 20, 21, 22
1938
FORWARD

☆

THIS booklet has been prepared for the information of members of The American Legion. It has come to be known as the Summary of Proceedings of the National Convention for the current year.

It is a comprehensive resume, in as small space as possible, of what officially took place at the Twentieth Annual National Convention in Los Angeles, Calif., September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938, inclusive.

The financial statement of the National Organization for the period ending July 31, 1938, is included in the summary.

To make a quick distribution, speed has been necessary. Every precaution has been taken to avoid errors, but some may have occurred in the rush of convention happenings and the haste of printing.

Frank E. Samuel

National Adjutant.
The Twentieth Annual National Convention of The American Legion convened in the Shrine Auditorium, in Los Angeles, California, on the morning of September 19, 1938. National Commander, Daniel J. Doherty presided.

National Chaplain Rev. Frank J. Lawler pronounced the invocation and the colors were advanced.

John Boles, official soloist of the convention, rendered "The Star Spangled Banner" while the convention stood at attention.

National Commander Doherty introduced Governor Frank F. Merriam of California.

ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR FRANK F. MERRIAM

His Excellency, Frank F. Merriam, Governor of California, addressed the Convention as follows:

"Mr. National Commander, Distinguished Guests who are present and Friends: It is a very happy thing indeed to have the privilege of welcoming to California such a distinguished delegation and group as are here at this time in attendance upon the National Convention of the Legion. It is a happy thing to have you here. We admire you for what you were. We admire you for the things that you have done. We admire you for what you are at the present time. We admire you for the things that you are doing at this time. California perhaps as great as any state in the entire nation appreciates the Legion and the things for which they stand. We here in California perhaps have to contend with more opposition than you have in many other localities and therefore is greatly appreciative of your attitude toward our public questions and on these controversies that confront us here at the present time. We hope that you will enjoy your stay in our state and in our city. We realize that there are many questions under discussion. We hope you will not be misled by the arguments you hear from day to day regarding ham and eggs. We are not in distress here as much as might appear but nevertheless we will appreciate your reaction to that question. I think it was ably demonstrated this morning as I came into the room. A good friend of mine said he was willing to waive the ham and eggs but he would like ten cents to get a cup of coffee this morning. We are happy that the ladies are here. I understand this is one of the meetings of the conventions in which the ladies are present. We are very delighted to have them here. We do not under-rate the work of the women of the state of California or of the nation in connection with the affairs of the Legion. We know that it speaks well and means well and decides the question of success when they are present. There are other reasons we like to have them here. I heard two men the other day discussing lie detectors. One of them favored it and believed it and the other did not. One of them said, "No doubt, you haven't seen a lie detector." The other fellow said, "Sure, I have married one." We realize that with the ladies being here there is going to be a much more truthful report when they return home than it would be otherwise.

"We are delighted to have you in California. Those of you who have not been in our great commonwealth before we invite to see this great city that we have here and its surroundings. As the Governor of the state we invite you to see the entire state. We have everything in California that you have in all the other states put together, that is, everything that is good. And unfortunately we have imported some things that are not so good from the other states. We are made up of people from the other states. It is said if you remain here in California for ten years you will meet every person you ever knew. And so it is. We are happy to have you here to meet our friends, but we want you to see California. It is a great state. I hesitate to take you away from the city of Los Angeles but we do wish you would see the beauties that we have, the mountains and the valleys. We have scenery, as you will probably hear from everyone who tells you anything about the state. We have the great forest, the oldest living thing in the world today. We have the highest mountain in North America and we have the lowest desert. It is said that you can go to the top of Mount Whitney and converse with you friends who have gone above, and if you want to, you can go down to Death Valley, 300 feet below the level of the sea, and meet your friends who have gone in that particular direction. So we invite you to be here. We invite everybody to see it. We invite you to enjoy it. While we have much to say of the scenery of this great state and its advantages and all of that, we would not have you forget its people, too, for its people came from your respective states. We know that they will be happy to make your stay here a most pleasant one. I want to warn those of you here from outside of the state in regard to one matter which came to my attention the other day. A gentleman who had been visiting here in the southern part of the state on going across the line into Arizona at Needles, learned back in his seat on reaching that sister state of
Arizona and said, "I am glad to get out of California."

"The man in the seat in front turned around and said, "Why do you take that attitude?"

"He said, "I came out of California with $600 and I am happy that I am out of the state."

"How did you do that?"

"They never found out I had it."

"Our friends who are visiting here, don't be so secretive about things of that kind. Let us know what you have. We will try to change it for the things that we have, if we can.

"We are happy to have you here. California welcomes you. Its people welcome you. You will find a smile on the faces of the people of this city and of this state. You will find here a model at work. Every man here in California smiles and will join and combine to bid you a hearty, delightful welcome. When you find it necessary, if you do, to return to that other home that you have, may it be with a feeling that you have had a delightful time in the city and in the state and there may be a yearning in the heart to sometime come back again to this great golden empire on the Pacific Coast. California welcomes you."

ADDRESS OF OTTO J. EMME
Otto J. Emme, Director of the Metropolitan Water District of the City of Los Angeles, address the convention as the representative of the Mayor of Los Angeles. The Mayor had wired National Commander Daniel J. Doherty indicating his inability to be present to present the welcome in person. Mr. Emme said:

"National Commander, members of The American Legion, I am indeed pleased to have the privilege of representing His Honor, the Mayor, on this occasion.

"I am not going to present to you the key to the City, because that was presented to you a year ago, and you accepted.

"You have come within the confines of our gates and have taken over our city, and we are all mighty happy by reason of that fact.

"Hospitality is a tradition with us here in the City of Los Angeles. We come by it rightfully. In the days of old when the Franciscan Padres built the missions, they invited the people of the world to the missions and exchanged views and ideas, and it was a gay occasion when those people came from outside of the gates of their immediate communities.

"That same thought and those same ideals came with this community when it joined the union of states and became one of the states of the union.

"We are indeed proud of our position and we are indeed pleased to know that you joined with us here in this great city and caused the eyes of the world again to be centered upon Los Angeles.

"The eyes of the world are here, because this is another milestone in the history of America.

"The men and women who have blazed away the trail and kept the faith has assembled here today, and we hope and trust that we will have many such occasions, and we hope and trust that when you leave this great city of ours, that you will have many pleasant associations.

"You know, we are the playground of the world, or we think so—and we know it. It is encompassed between the snow peaks of the Sierras and the white capes of the Pacific, with the blue sky above looking with favor upon us. We have been given everything that God can give to man, and we are highly elated over the fact that you have come to us and joined with us in this community, because it will be a great source of benefit to this community.

"It will be a betterment in the views and ideas of the citizenship of this community. We feel that it will radiate to every state in the union, and when you and I walk off into the evening of our existence, we will have in our own minds a great source of satisfaction in knowing that we played part and parcel in this activity of this convention, and that the world is just a little better off by reason of the fact that the convention was again held and radiated those American ideals in the great City of the Angels.

"I welcome you in behalf of the great City of Los Angeles."

ADDRESS OF JOHN R. QUINN
John R. Quinn, President of the 1938 American Legion Convention Corporation of Los Angeles, addressed the Convention as follows:

"As President of the American Legion Convention Corporation of Los Angeles, I bid you welcome.

"I trust that delegates to the convention will find here inspiration in their deliberations in keeping with the indomitable spirit of California. I trust that the fun you have outside the Convention Hall may come up to the standard which Southern California, as the playground of the West, strives always to make available to visitors.

"I could tell you a lot about Los Angeles. But I am going to tell you only a little.

"In this City, you can stray farther and see more without stepping outside the city limits than in any other city in the world.

"In this city the lights by which you read find the source of the energy in mountain streams hundreds of miles away.

"In this city the water which you drink—I said, THE WATER YOU DRINK—is piped from mountain lakes as far away from here as New York is from Boston.

"In this city—but why go on. Many of you, here for the first time—will probably become permanent residents. Most everybody does. And you'll discover our wonders for yourself. But, if you don't settle down here, the Convention Corporation has provided you with coupon books which will take you most any place you'd like to go. I advise you to use them. And if you use them ALL you're sure to stay.
"A word about the Convention Corporation. Before you delegates, I want to express my undying thanks to the comrades who have worked so diligently and energetically on the details of this event.

"Los Angeles waited a long spell to get you here. But once you decided to come the boys out here pitched in with a will that made my task as president of the Corporation an easy one. I want to thank them sincerely.

"The people of Los Angeles know that there are really two Conventions in progress here. One is a meeting for the discussion and determination of a program vastly significant to our country. The people of Los Angeles will take inspiration from these deliberations. The other is a reunion of comrades who gather to renew acquaintances and raise the roof.

"The people of Los Angeles will enter into the spirit of this roof-raising. The more fun you have the better Los Angeles will like it.

"And so Comrades—in Both Conventions—Welcome from the Convention Corporation."

ADDRESS OF JOSEPH S. LONG

Joseph S. Long, 1937-1938 Department Commander of California addressed the Convention as follows:

"Commander Doherty, Distinguished Guests, Delegates to this Convention, and Friends: Way back when the dreamers were here in California, the social life of the communities centered around the haciendas of the home places on the great ranchos. The easy, comfortable life of the early Californians was made more happy by their ability to entertain their neighbors, the guests and visitors who came from time to time to participate in the fiestas and also in the entertainment of those weary, travel-worn strangers who came across the great country.

"California has changed considerably since then. The pueblos and presidios are great and thriving cities. The great ranchos have been developed into flowering gardens, beautiful groves and vineyards. And yet that spirit of early California still lives on.

"The greatest privilege is ours in this hospitality. Your comrades in this Department of California, 65,000 strong, extend to you that spirit of welcome. They want to tell you the thing that appears over the doors of those early haciendas. They want to give you the words of greeting that greeted their forefathers when they came to this state. Those words I will give you in Spanish, and then through him, speak for all the members of our organization in answering these addresses of welcome.

"And so Comrades—in Both Conventions—Welcome from the Convention Corporation."

ADDRESS OF FRANK N. BELGRANO, JR.

Responding to these addresses, Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., of California, Past National Commander of The American Legion, addressed the Convention as follows:

"Mr. Commander, Distinguished Guests, Friends, and Members of The American Legion: I am signally honored in having my good friend, the National Commander of The American Legion, ask that I act in his stead and, through him, speak for all the members of our organization in answering these addresses of welcome.

"It is difficult to express one's feelings in simple language, and still, if you choose, may I speak a word in response to each of the distinguished gentlemen who have just spoken.

"To His Excellency, the Governor of the State of California, my very good friend, Frank Merriam, tried and true friend of the veteran and in this State, may I say to you that we thoroughly appreciate your kind expressions of welcome here made today. I expected you to say most of the things that you did this morning, because we know that in speaking for all of the people of this State you spoke for a people who respect the emblem of The American Legion. We know that on innumerable occasions they have shown that expression by voting time after time to give us, to lend us the credit of the State of California in order that we might be able to proceed with our Veteran Home Act. Today, eight million dollars of the credit of the State of California is being used in order that our veterans may purchase a home on a long-term payment plan. We have had evidences in every city of this great State of ours of the respect that the people of the State of California hold for The American Legion, and we are grateful to you, Mr. Governor, for having come to us and expressed their welcome to us here in convention assembled.

"To the Honorable Commissioner, representing the Mayor of this magnificent city, may I say that we, each of us, are grateful for the many preparations made for our benefit during this Convention. We have all heard of this great city of Los Angeles from every corner of the globe, and today we are happy to be able to be here to partake of the hospitality of this great city here in southern California.

"To you, my good old friend, my predecessor, my colleague, my buddy, one of the greatest men the Legion has ever produced, Past National Commander John R. Quinn, may I say to you, as President of the National Convention Corporation and, through you, to all of the Legionnaires who worked so faithfully during this past year, we are grateful to you for the hours of tedious endeavor you all put forth in order that our every wish might be granted upon our arrival in the city of Los Angeles. We know it is a man's job to take care of the many details in

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connection with a convention, such as one of this character, but, John, we have seen you in action before. We well remember the year you were National Commander, and every member of this organization knew when we arrived in Los Angeles we would find a job well done.

"To you, Joe Long, Jr., Past Commander of our Department, you expressed a sincere welcome from all of the Legionnaires of our great State to our brother Legionnaires throughout the nation. We are happy to be with you, but we are happy for another reason, because we have watched the activities of your great department throughout the Legion in the advance of the Legion program, and I am sure I voice all of our expressions when I say that many of us were anxious to come to California to have an opportunity to shake the hands of most of these 65,000 members of yours, so that we might be better acquainted and look forward to even closer cooperation in the years to come.

"So, to each of the distinguished gentlemen who preceded me, may I close by simply saying to you that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, we are glad to be here, we know that we are going to experience one of the finest, grandest conventions yet experienced by The American Legion."

PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION
Past National Commander John R. Quinn of California, presented a medallion in the name of the Legion to the Honorable Floretta H. LaGuardia, Mayor of the City of New York, where the 1937 National Convention was held. In presenting the medallion Mr. Quinn said:

"Comrade Mayor LaGuardia: It is the custom of The American Legion each year to present to the Mayor of the city in which a National Convention of the Legion was last held, a token of the organization's appreciation for hospitality and favors extended.

"It is my privilege today to act as the agency through which the Legion expresses to you, as Mayor of New York City, our sincere thanks for all that you, the City of New York and the people of the great City, did to make our Convention of last year such an outstanding success.

"A year after that great Convention the memories of its excellence remain fresh in our minds. We owe many a debt of gratitude for the Convention. Make no mistake about that. For example—we shall never forget the good grace with which you surrendered Fifth Avenue to our needs. We shall always recollect the grand manner of your capitulation when the visiting veterans transformed Times Square into a picnic grounds—to the exclusion of everything else. You were very nice about these things, Comrade Mr. Mayor.

"But aside from these manifestations of the rollicking spirit of reunion which so strikingly demonstrated the enthusiasm of New York's way of life to us, there are other more serious matters of which I feel I should speak.

"The American Legion believes in democ-
"We do want so much to have you there again; and I again thank you on behalf of the City of New York.

"May I now just say one word, as a Legionnaire, to say how refreshing and encouraging it is to attend these great gatherings. My job as Mayor keeps me pretty busy most of the time, but it is so restful to get away and to attend these meetings.

"It is so restful to come here after reading the news in the morning papers, and noting what is going on in other parts of the world, to see the fighting men of our country gathering together, recalling recollections of 20 years ago, and hoping and praying that we may keep out of war.

"And while we note that in other parts of the world there are threats and danger of another world conflict, we today, in the best of friendship, are talking about two great world fairs dedicated to the peace of the world, and the world of tomorrow.

"Whatever position our government may take in regard to foreign affairs is the position of the American people. While we may disagree among ourselves in local and domestic matters, in keeping with the rights and privileges of American citizens in a democracy, I know that it is the spirit of the members of The American Legion, and every service man, to say, 'Mr. President, whatever our Government decides to do in the defense of our country for the protection and peace and happiness of our people, whatever it decides to do in relation to foreign affairs, we stand by our government a hundred per cent strong.'

"And I take back to New York your kind memories of a happy week, with the hope and wish that the record will soon be broken and you will be back again with us another time."

REPORT OF PERMANENT ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Frank N. Sawyer, Chairman, of New Hampshire, reported as follows:

"To the Twentieth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938:

"Thirty-nine members of your Committee on Permanent Organization met at 1:35 p. m., September 18, 1938, in the Biltmore Hotel and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

"That the National Adjutant be made permanent Secretary of the Convention with power to appoint such assistant secretaries as may be deemed necessary.

"That there be the following convention committees, each committee to consider such subjects as may come within the limits hereinafter set forth, and in addition thereto, any question which may be specifically referred to it by the convention:

Americanism
1. To receive report of the National Americanism Commission; to receive all resolutions on immigration; to recommend to the convention the program of our National Americanism Commission for the ensuing year.

Child Welfare
2. To receive report of the National Committee on Child Welfare and to recommend to the convention the program of our National Child Welfare Committee for the ensuing year.

Constitutional Amendments
3. To receive and consider all suggested amendments to the National Constitution and By-laws and report approved amendments not later than morning session of September 21st.

Education of War Orphans
4. To receive and study the annual report of the Director of the standing national committee on Education of War Orphans. To study and report upon plans for further aiding needy and ambitious children of all classes of veterans in obtaining higher education, including business and vocational courses.

Finance
5. To receive the report of the National Treasurer and of the National Finance Committee; to consider all questions relating to national per capita tax and to recommend to the national convention the amount of national dues for 1939; to consider any plans relating to finance or financial policy that may come before the convention; to consider all matters pertaining to the Legion Publishing Committee, The American Legion Magazine and the National Legionnaire publication, as regards finances or financial policy. Members of the National Finance Committee are requested to sit in with this Committee.

Foreign Relations
6. To receive the report of the World Peace and Foreign Relations Committee and to consider and study all questions pertaining to the relations between the United States and foreign countries.

Internal Organization
7. To study all phases of the Legion program and policy of operation which affect the physical development and recommend to the convention definite plans for correcting and improving these conditions. The work of the committee shall be divided as follows:

National
(a) To consider all questions affecting the operation of the National Organization; and to recommend to the convention any changes in the editorial policy of The American Legion Magazine or the National Legionnaire.

(b) To consider all questions affecting operation of the several departments as they relate to the National Organization.

Departments
8. To receive report of the National Legislative Committee, to consider legislation now pending before Congress directly affecting service men and women and their dependents, and to recommend legislation not specifically falling within the jurisdiction of other convention committees, Sub-committees of three
are authorized to meet with similar sub-committees from other convention committees receiving resolutions recommending legislative action by the Congress. The recommendations of these joint sub-committees for Congressional action will be made to the Convention Committee which was originally in receipt of the resolutions in question.

National Defense

"9. To receive the report of the 1938 Standing Committee on National Defense. To sub-divide itself into three sections specializing on the subjects of Military Affairs, Naval Affairs and Aeronautics. To finally coordinate these three sub-committees' reports and present them in composite form as a definite recommendation for action of the National Convention."

Rehabilitation

"10. To consider all questions pertaining to disabled veterans and their dependents; to study carefully the work of the Veterans' Administration and recommend such changes as are considered necessary and to receive the report of the national Rehabilitation Committee."

Resolutions

"11. To consider all questions referred to it by the convention; to formulate such convention resolutions as may be appropriate, proper and necessary and not specifically falling within the jurisdiction of some one of the other committees; and in addition, all resolutions received too late for the attention of other convention committees.

"In accordance with previous recommendations of the National Executive Committee and the policy followed in past years, all matters relating to time, place and arrangements for National Conventions be automatically referred to the standing National Convention Liaison Committee.

"It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that a resolution referred to this committee by the Resolutions Assignment Committee, dealing with the Merchant Marine Division of the National Defense Committee, be referred to the Convention Committee on National Defense.

"Resolution adopted by the New York National Convention, pertaining to a Convention Committee on Sons of The American Legion, was discussed. It is the opinion of your committee that the creation of a Convention Committee on Sons of The American Legion would create a dual authority for the governing of this organization. Previous action of our National Convention lodged full authority for the governing of this organization with the National Executive Committee. It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the creation of a Convention Committee of Sons of The American Legion be indefinitely postponed."

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Carl R. Moser, Chairman of Oregon, reported as follows:

"To the Twentieth Annual National Conven-
tion, The American Legion, Los Angeles, Cali-
ifornia, September 19, 20, 21, 22, 1938:

"Thirty-four members of your Committee on Credentials met at 1:00 p.m., September 18th, 1938, in Committee Room No. 1, in the Biltmore Hotel, and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

"It was regularly moved, seconded and carried, that outlying posts be allowed one delegate and one alternate in the Convention, provided said delegate and alternate were present and fully qualified to represent said outlying posts.

"It was regularly moved, seconded and carried, that the chairman and secretary be authorized to hear protests and receive credentials of delegates from the various outlying posts not present.

"It was regularly moved, seconded and carried, that the National Commander by virtue of his membership on the National Executive Committee be allowed one vote in the convention, to be cast with this delegation.

"The certified reports from the Finance Division of National Headquarters was adopted showing the voting strength of this convention to be as follows:

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The Report was adopted.
REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES
William T. Comer, Chairman, of Florida, reported as follows:

“To the Twentieth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938.

Thirty-six members of your Committee on Rules met at 1:30 p.m., September 18, 1938, in Committee Room No. 1 in the Biltmore Hotel and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

1. We recommend that, with the following modifications, Robert’s Revised Rules of Order be adopted for this Convention.

2. When a delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention, he shall rise, address the chair as ‘Mr. Commander,’ and state his name and the name of the Department, before proceeding.

3. That debate be limited to five minutes for each speaker.

4. That debate on any one subject presented to the Convention be limited to two hours.

5. That but two delegates from any one delegation be permitted on the floor on any one subject.

6. That the floor be permitted but once to any individual delegate on any one subject, except by the consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present, excepting that Chairmen of Convention Committees may speak as frequently as may be necessary in conenction with the reports of their committees.

7. That all resolutions offered on the floor at the convention or otherwise shall, in writing, automatically and without reading, be referred to the Resolutions Assignment Committee.

8. When the poll of any department is demanded by a delegate of such department, the secretary of the convention shall poll the vote in this department by delegate without discussion of the question being voted upon.

9. That on roll calls the chairman or acting chairman of each delegation shall poll his delegation on the floor and shall announce the vote of his delegation.

10. That the vote of the Past National Commanders shall be cast with the vote of their delegations.

11. That no person not a duly accredited delegate, or alternate taking the place of absent duly accredited delegate, shall participate, directly or indirectly, in a viva voce on any subject before the convention.

12. Delegations may arrive at a vote in any manner they see fit but shall announce it in terms of full units and not in terms of a fractional part of a vote.

13. Unit rule of voting shall not be allowed in this convention.

14. Voting shall be by acclamation except where a roll call be demanded by the chairman or acting chairman of at least three departments, and except in the election of National Officers and in the vote on next convention place.

15. Nominations for National Officers shall be from the floor on a roll call, the departments alphabetically arranged. Each department may present as many candidates as it chooses.

16. Nominating speeches for the National Officers shall be limited to five minutes each and speeches extending the invitation to the next convention shall be limited to ten minutes. Not more than two seconding speeches shall be made for any candidate and not more than one seconding speech for convention city; and said speeches are not to exceed three minutes.

17. In the event more than two candidates are nominated for any office, the balloting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes of the convention.

18. At the conclusion of balloting on National Vice-Commanders, the chairman of each department delegation shall deliver to the tellers on the platform the written ballot. The entire lot of such written ballots on National Vice-Commanders shall be in the hands of the tellers before the result of such vote is communicated to the National Commander for announcement to the convention.

19. Delegates and persons recognized by the chair shall be entitled to a respectful hearing, and the chair shall have the authority to clear the gallery or the floor or have the Sergeant-At-Arms escort from the auditorium any person or persons who may create any disturbance which interferes with the orderly procedure of the convention of The American Legion.”

The report was adopted.

ADDRESS OF MRS. MALCOLM DOUGLAS
Mrs. Malcolm Douglas, National President, American Legion Auxiliary, addressed the Convention as follows:

“Commander Doherty, et al.: Two years ago at Cleveland 420,000 members of the Auxiliary voiced their greetings and pledged their fealty to the Legion program. In New York City last year our then national president reiterated that pledge for a membership that had grown to the impressive number of 440,000. Today it is my proud privilege to report that, keeping step with the Legion and bearing their share of the burdens on each of your far-flung battlefronts, are 465,000 patriotic women enrolled as paid-up members of the Auxiliary.

This robust growth in membership is, of itself, perhaps of no great consequence. More significant is the corresponding increase in our influence on the community, on the thought of the country, and consequently upon national policy. Particularly in the field of national defense we have seen our dreams of a few years ago become the realities of today. Practically every major point in our defense pro-
gram has been adopted by Congress and written into the federal statute books.

"While we recognize that the sweep of international events has been responsible in a considerable measure for the more favorable attitude now evidenced by the American people toward our military policies, nevertheless we of the Auxiliary feel that we can claim some credit for the change of sentiment that has come about. To women everywhere for more than a decade we have preached our program of 'peace through preparedness.' Against the pacifists' policy of national near-sightedness we have urged the Legion policy of national common-sense. The long campaign is finally attaining its objectives. A formidable and rapidly augmenting number of American women now share our belief that if we are to guarantee the blessings of peace to this nation of ours, one of the indispensable factors is to keep the United States independent, strong and well-armed.

"In this regard we are certain that we have made a definite contribution to the cause of peace. May I express the hope that out of this convention will come a program defining new objectives in this cause that is so close to the hearts of women everywhere and that the Legion will assign us the sponsorship of a sound and practicable peace program that eventually will win the support of all thoughtful American women.

"In other fields of endeavor, such as community service, rehabilitation, child welfare, Americanism and the rest, thousands of our members have labored sincerely and untiringly for the public welfare. A record of their fine accomplishments would literally fill volumes. Yet no one can realize quite as well as they that these problems will always be 'matters of unfinished business,' and that as long as America endures there will be great tasks remaining to be undertaken.

"One challenging responsibility is imposed upon us by the very nature of things. Just as the world was the home, so the American Legion is the standard of ideals and sentiments which characterize that home, so the women of a country are the collective guardians of the national sentiments and ideals. What a boy thinks of his country still depends greatly upon what he learns at his mother's knee and upon what the other women he knows think of that country.

"There is much cynicism and indifference among some of the youth of today regarding American institutions and traditions. This is because the Americanism of the grown-ups is so often of a namby-pamby variety. Travelers returning from Italy, Russia and particularly Germany state that the young people of those countries are inspired with a zeal for their national objectives that gives them the fervor of crusaders—that the apologetic and critical attitude of our own young people offers a sorry contrast. This must not go unchallenged.

"We are the legatees of a political system that is unsurpassed. It has its faults to be sure, but it also has its glories and its blessings. Every word in the Constitution serves to safeguard us in our life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Let us not be deceived. Nowhere in the world today are the liberties of the citizen safe except under the constitutional democracies. As long as the Constitution of the United States endures, no Nazi 'blood purge,' no liquidation of Trotskyites, no anti-semitic persecutions can stain the soil of America. The Constitution was designed and it has served as a protection against such dangers.

"So let us have faith in our own democratic institutions. Let us make it our paramount concern to enthrone the youth of our land with an unyielding purpose to preserve, protect and defend them. Before worrying about the fate of democracy in other parts of the world, let us first safeguard democracy here at home. By taking the leadership in this cause, we can let the mothers of America know that we have gotten away from selfish aims and that in the Legion and the Auxiliary there is a mighty force working for the welfare of this beloved land of ours.

"Commander Doherty, it has been a privilege to serve during the past year under your brilliant leadership. No note of discord, no bit of friction has marred the harmony of our cooperation. To you and to your successor I can say on behalf of The American Legion Auxiliary: Where the Legion marches, we march; what the Legion orders, we execute; the charge the Legion gives us we assume."

**ADDRESS OF FRED G. FRASER**

Fred G. Fraser, Chef de Chemin de Fer, Forty and Eight addressed the Convention as follows:

"To Voyageur National Commander, Distinguished Guests, My Comrades: The American Legion Year of 1938 is about to close. It is therefore fitting and proper that I report to you, Voyageur National Commander, the accomplishments of my comrades of The American Legion, in convention assembled, the accomplishments of your affiliated organization, La Societe Des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.

"It is with considerable pride that I inform you that we have given to The Child Welfare Fund of The American Legion, an amount of over $18,000 in order that The American Legion's Child Welfare Committee could dispense same to further the Child Welfare Program of The American Legion. Grand Voitures of La Societe have expended thousands of dollars in rendering efficient and capable Child Welfare service in such a way that the child does not feel that he or she has been made an object of charity; Numerous iron lungs have been purchased through the efforts of Voitures Locales, the scores of blood donor groups have brought many a child back to health. Our constant efforts in helping carrying out The American Legion's Child Welfare Programs are known to you all.

"Voyageur National Commander, I have travelled approximately 164,000 miles since September 1937. It was my privilege to have been associated with you and several thou-
sand comrades of The American Legion, on a holy and sacred pilgrimage to the battlefields of France. You are aware that some of the time I spent abroad, was used to make hospital visitations. I was shocked at what I saw in the way of treatment, accorded ex-service men in foreign countries. Joy came into my sorrowing heart when I compared the conditions of foreign lands with that of my own dear country. Here in America, we give to the disabled ex-service men efficient hospitalization, that is capably managed in modern structures and in most instances in the midst of pleasant surroundings. This great hospitalization and care of the disabled has been brought about by the constant surveillance of The American Legion.

"I have visited forty Grand Voitures during my term of office and received much kindness and many courtesies from department officials of The American Legion during these visitations. Wherever possible Grand Officers of La Societe, department officials of The American Legion, escorted to a Veterans' Hospital. In no instances did I find a complaint. My escorts were loud in praise of the service and care given to the disabled. I received an inspiration from Voyageurs who gave so freely of their time making visitations to hospitals, furnishing entertainment and comforts to the disabled. Constructive suggestions were made. We are happy to report, carried out.

"Finanically La Societe has shown a surplus rather than a deficit for its year of operation.

"Membership is the largest in the history of La Societe. We are glad to say that our membership is based on service to The American Legion. It is a strong, vital force working for the good of The American Legion.

"We are indeed proud of our records in legislative matters and, therefore, to The American Legion, during the year about to close, we have brought 169,000 new and reinstated members. Those figures are based on reports submitted to us by Voiture Locales and Grand Voitures. Unfortunately, some failed to make report and had they been submitted, we would have shown greater membership activity.

"To you my Comrades, of The American Legion, in convention assembled, the membership of La Societe is most grateful to you in giving to us as National Commander, Mr. Doherty, a re- spected and outstanding citizen of my own State of Massachusetts, and one whom I have long held in high esteem and with warm personal regard.

"At the outset, I need hardly remind you of my deep interest in legislative matters affecting the veterans—an interest that has continued unabated since the commencement of my service in the Senate in 1919, when I inaugurated the investigation of deplorable conditions in veterans' hospitals, which culminated in the present excellent hospital facilities, and moved to enact the first of the presumptive clauses into veteran legislation.

"I will continue, as in the past, to exhibit that concern for veterans and their dependents, disabled or otherwise, who may seek governmental assistance. Your members may be assured that the Congress will be appreciative always of receiving suggestions and recommendations from this organization for legislative action beneficial to your comrades.

"You have come from all parts of our great nation to transact the routine business of this historic organization, and what is more important to the welfare of our beloved country you have gathered here to renew and rekindle the blessed associations of your sacrifices in the greatest military adventure since the dawn of history.

"You have come to pledge anew your fealty and devotion to the exalted cause of your country for which you offered on the altar of imperishable patriotism everything that human-
kind holds dear—your unremitting service, your youthful hopes and ambitions, your precious blood, and where necessary, your very lives.

"No man in whose veins flows the warm love for our great and dear America could fail, in the presence of this great concourse of patriots and saviors, to feel a deep inspiration from the sacred memories this occasion evokes in our hearts—the stirring days of 1917 and 1918, the bugle call to arms, ten million willing men marching to martial strains, surging fearlessly to combat in a thousand fields and forests of France—struggle, sacrifice, slaughter, death, and, at last, victory.

What tragedy, yet what glory did those war-time scenes encompass! Through travail and death to victory! That is the unerasable record stamped upon the sands of time—to live forever as imperishable testimony of the glorious ideals of America, fought for and die for by you and your comrades! And for what? All for the salvation of our American institutions, the preservation of our self-government, and the maintenance of our best traditions. All these sacrifices meant so much to you who consecrated everything you had to your country's cause, in order that (as we were told at the time) 'Democracy here and throughout the world might live.'

"Those words, 'That Democracy might live,' is almost an irony as we survey the world about us. Nearly twenty years have passed since that eventful Armistice Day in 1918 when the peoples of the allied nations riotously celebrated with unabated joy the end of the World War. Regardless of what officials may have thought on that day, there is no doubt that the people believed that they had fought and won a war to end all wars.

What a disillusionment has followed! Who can assert today, who were the victors, or who were the victims of that war? We do know your sacrifices were non-productive of peace or progress. We have not even the consolation of feeling that the dead who lie in unmarked graves, the millions maimed and slain, the blind and the halt commanded to a life of suffering, was an actual contribution to the preservation of world peace or the protection of freedom for the human family. We only know the names of the victors and the vanquished. But who can proclaim any enduring truths and principles won for the welfare of humanity?

"Today at home and abroad we behold the very negation of the ideals of Democracy. In some of our former allied countries and their adversaries of 1917, Democracy has been cast into scorn and contempt. Force and tyranny have replaced moral suasion and individual freedom as the most modern instruments of government. Coercive dictatorships, suppressing most of the principles we have cherished, in some cases contrived by tyrants more ruthless than the primitive savage, are the order of today. In those beleaguered countries the rights of free men for which you fought and your comrades died to preserve have been shamelessly cast into the discard. The individual is effaced, his conscience and his soul stagnated, while the corporate influence of the supercilious and imperial sway by means of the mailed fist, carnage, and murder.

"Insolent aggressors in control of millions of enslaved subjects, who recognize the law of neither God nor man are planning and pursuing policies which, in the disregard of the lessons of the World War. They have forced nations and people everywhere, crushed by staggering taxation, seeking and praying for peace, to maintain heavy armaments to build and maintain huge engines of war in self defense. In the midst of a darkness and despair that hangs over the world, with human beings crying out everywhere for peace, I plead with this powerful and patriotic organization to accept the challenge of peace and order here in our own America, and to continue ceaseless devotion to the claims of justice.

"On this memorable occasion, with fitting solicitude for you in a desire for brevity, I propose to discuss with you some of my views on three subjects of current and critical importance: neutrality, national defense and radicalism.

Neutrality

"We are told by some who profess altruistic theories of international co-operation, that America cannot fail to draw a disregard of the next war unless we join with other nations of the world in efforts to prevent it. Some of these sincere advocates to pacifism and internationalism are urging upon us, even now, a policy of intruding into the muddled and menacing affairs of Europe and the Orient in order, as they assert, to preserve peace and promote justice. With these views I cannot agree. Instead I urge a policy of unquestioned and affirmative neutrality.

"We must strain every effort, employ every means of vigilance, exhaust every alternative short of mischievous meddling to prevent another world conflict. But, even more important, we must protect our country from becoming entangled in the mesh of international rivalry and conspiracy which inevitably leads to war.

"Our primary duty in this regard is not to other nations who urge impressive claims on our friendship, not to the property holders who dominate our own great munition industries, not to our financial interests who may have foreign commitments, not to any of the groups of our nation who have gainful economic enterprises abroad which they primarily seek to protect. Our first solemn duty is to the millions of young men, standing in the same position as you brave citizens stood in 1917, upon whom all the heavy burdens, the sacrifices of war would fall.—to their mothers, their wives, their families and to those dear to them. The problems of youth of America are complicated and serious enough as it is, problems growing out of our own economic troubles, without our nation involving them
in the frightful events of another organized international cataclysm.

"There is no doubt in my mind—and I am sure all those who are mindful of the World War will agree—that the American people will never tolerate an involvement in any war to settle European troubles, to salvage the foreign holdings of our own 'follow the flag' dollar diplomats and capitalistic groups. 'With malice toward no nation in the world but with charity and justice to all,' we must courageously and tenaciously cling to the Washingtonian policy of minding our own business, tending to our own affairs and letting all other nations do likewise.

"As a nation, we have no preordained mandate to police the rest of the world. To meddle with the explosive rivalries of Europe—rivalries, jealousies, animosities and enmities which antedate our own origin as a free independent government, is to invite disaster.

"American neutrality must be real and genuine, fearlessly asserted and meticulously enforced, if we are to avoid international bad will and possible complications likely to lead to war. The policy—'Avoid entangling alliances'—can be transgressed by indirectness and implication as well as by express language.

"Our own experience has proved how dangerous it is to carry on trade and commerce with belligerents in time of war. An offer to trade on equal terms with all the nations engaged in war is not equal treatment, in fact, inasmuch as circumstances will very likely permit one of the belligerents to obtain supplies from us while the other is cut off. We then become, perhaps unintentionally, the ally of one and invite the enmity of the other. This is precisely what happened after the outbreak of the World War in 1914 and prior to our entry into the War.

"In my opinion the only course that will actually assure our peace if we are to remain truly neutral, in fact, is to suspend all trade and commerce with all the belligerents in time of war. Such a course may occasion some economic loss, but it will be unmistakable evidence of our neutrality.

"The present neutrality act, in my judgment, requires substantial amendment if it is to serve its intended purpose. It is dangerous to leave the imposition of embargos to the discretionary judgment of government officials, however highly placed, however great our confidence in their judgment, however good their intentions. This policy permits, in a sense, a variable and changing attitude by our government instead of a positive inflexible fixed position requiring complete detachment.

National Defense

"The realities of today in the world at large admit of only one construction; namely, that strong and adequate national defense, coupled with absolute good faith and perhaps the only assurance of peace. The war to end all wars has been followed by every nation outdoing every known effort to prepare for war on land and sea and in the air.

"The most striking lesson of the present war spirit in the world is that weakness encourages aggression. We must act upon the belief, amply supported by the record of history, that a nation is seldom attacked if its weapons of defense are so strong that attack is foredoomed to fail.

"We are committed to a policy—and we must militantly defend it—of strong national defense. The naval expansion bill which was enacted with overwhelming approval at the last session of Congress must provide not merely a 'blue print navy.' But the policy enunciated by the Congress must be translated into the actual building up of the Naval strength declared therein to be our needs.

"We must not be content until we have an American Navy of such size that it may single-handed be a match at sea against any foreign power or combination of powers, a Navy of such sufficient size and mobility as to afford adequate protection to both the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard, under any conceivable set of circumstances. This means a large navy, in every category—fighting ships, auxiliaries, aircraft, naval bases, and all else. It entails large expenditures of money. But under the conditions prevailing in the world today, it is the only sure course open to us.

"It cannot be emphasized too often that we are not proposing to enter into a competitive armament race with the other Naval powers. The size and character and extent of our naval strength should be determined solely by what we conceive to be our own needs for our own national defense in the light of all the circumstances. One of the circumstances, of course, is the actual and growing up of the Naval armament built and maintained by other countries.

"We cannot emphasize too often that we are whole-heartedly in favor of disarmament as an avenue to peace, provided the disarmament is mutual and universal. Personally, I have supported every disarmament conference and every effort to secure disarmament treaties. The American people know that every war veteran can be counted on to support every move looking to the avoidance of another war for the United States unless we be attacked; and to support every move calculated to the preservation of peace. This is not only the course of true patriotism but one of the imperishable purposes that has penetrated, never to be eradicated, the very souls of you veterans who have experienced the social, political and economic evils of war.

"Such a policy does not mean we are too proud to fight. Through shunning war as we would a poisonous reptile, we must be prepared to defend and protect our shores, our people, our property and our homes against invasion or foreign aggression. We must let the other nations of the world know with positiveness and finality that although we love and cherish peace, and will strive mightily to achieve it, yet we are ready at all times to ward off and destroy any enemy who, attempts to wage war against us.
Communism

“War from without is not the only danger that America is facing today. We have enemies within our gates, enemies that are challenging our basic ideals secretly and stealthily, striving in devious ways to undermine them, and whose ultimate aim is to overthrow our system of organized economic and social activity. The democratic Constitutional government that has flourished here for more than 150 years, they would replace with a proletarian dictatorship.

“Some may deride those who recognize this danger to American institutions as unduly disturbed by sporadic outbursts of radical agitators. But discerning American patriots can no longer afford to ignore the widespread campaign of radical ideas in our country today. No strata of our social and economic structure is free from the encroachment of extremely radical thought and action which have as their major objectives a new political and economic system in America.

“The American Legion, whose members have never failed to be interested in the public affairs of the nation, received a shocking illustration of the activities of these radicals at a national convention of educators recently held in the city of New York. At this meeting of educators and teachers gathered from the entire country, a paper was presented which cast aspersions (not I am sure with the approval of all the members) upon your organization. In substance, you were branded as Fascists and reactionaries, your leadership as unattuned to modern social needs, your membership as moribund and unenlightened; all this because you have opposed dangerous radicalism.

“That you will continue to oppose subversive doctrines with all the zeal, with all the force, with all the great influence at your command the American people may be assured. Your service, your sacrifice for our nation in time of war are contributions that the American people can never forget, and you are not going to fail them now by battling less bravely than in 1917 to preserve their freedom, civil, religious and political.

“Veterans, the record of your service is immortal, ineffacable. It will live gloriously forever. But your service in peace is not yet finished. You must gird yourselves now against the subtle enemies within our gates. We seek not to suppress the right of any man or woman to think and speak freely. That is their god-given right as American citizens. But we must exert our utmost influence in thought, speech and action, against the apostles of foreign philosophies, alien to American ideals, who would, if they had their way topple our most precious institutions about us, and erect on the ruins, the superstructure of destructive authoritarian government.

“Guarding the destinies of America against the perils that threaten to entangle it from abroad and the sinister enemies that would undermine it at home is more than ever a cause to which you may well dedicate yourselves. As was once said of the great First President of the United States, let it with deserving reality be said of you, The American Legion, by the grateful appreciative citizens of America:

“First in War, first in peace, and first in the hearts of your countrymen.

“Veterans, as in 1917, the command is forward—forward, not for World Democracy but for Peace and Democracy at home here in America.”

INVITATIONS

Mayor Edward Kelley of Chicago presented a formal invitation to the convention to meet in his city in 1939. He was applauded enthusiastically. Philip Collins of Chicago, Past Department Commander of Illinois, then delivered a check for $27,050 to National Commander Doherty on behalf of the City of Chicago to bind the contract for next year’s assembly.

Mayor Maurice J. Tobin of Boston, Mass., extended an urgent invitation to the convention to hold its 1940 session in the Hub City. He received an enthusiastic greeting from the delegates.

ADDRESS OF GEORGE RIVOLLET

Mr. George Rivollet, General Secretary of the National Confederation of ex-Service Men and War Victims, former Cabinet Minister of France, addressed the Convention as follows:

“My dear Comrades of The American Legion: It is a great pleasure for my friend Boe and myself to bring to you the fraternal greetings of four million French ex-service men grouped in our National Confederation.

“Until now, other duties have prevented me from personally filling this agreeable mission which eminent friends have accomplished in my stead. We know that they have won your hearts for it is sufficient to recall the enthusiasm with which you received them on your soil and the readiness with which so many of you came to France in 1937.

“Paris and the other cities that welcomed you then retain an unforgettable souvenir of the entertainment organized in your honor during the pilgrimage headed so brilliantly by National Commander Doherty and your other leaders.

“On your side, during that too brief visit, you had the opportunity to verify once again how deep-rooted is the love of the French nation as a whole, how the remembrance of those cruel hours lived in common has continued ardent and how all French people preserve in their memories a sacred place for those who fell by our sides in defense of right and liberty.

“It is also comforting for us to find ourselves again invited to your National Convention in this magnificent city of Los Angeles for we are living in troubled times when calmness and coolness are necessary. These qualities, the ex-service men of France and
the United States possess in quantity and the sincere friendship which has always united them, permits them to face unflinchingly whatever events may happen.

"We, like you, are profoundly attached to our republican institutions and we know that the great democracies faithfully retain the ideal of liberty for which millions of men sacrificed their lives.

"We, like you, are profoundly attached to peace for which we poured out our blood in common.

"To the assembly of forces which should assure and consolidate this peace, again menaced, the French Republic brings without reservation the weight of its intense determination assured by the voices of eminent American statesmen, who recently acknowledged the necessity for this human and civilized action, that the Government of the United States appreciates its efforts.

"That is why, as a Frenchman, as a comrade of the front and as General Secretary of the National Confederation of Ex-Service Men and War Victims, I am proud and happy to find myself among you and to express to you, with my Comrade Boe, simply, but with all of our heart, the sentiments of unalterable friendship of your French comrades."

**GREETINGS PRESENTED**

National Adjutant Frank E. Samuel read messages from The Honorable Harry H. Woodring, Secretary of War, and Honorable William T. Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, expressing their regret for their inability to attend the convention sessions.

"I regret exceedingly that I am compelled to cancel my plans to attend and address The American Legion Convention. Please convey my sincere regrets to my comrades. I am confident your deliberations will continue to reflect the primary purpose of our organization—the welfare of our country, our democracy. It is also a keen disappointment that I am unable to attend the sessions of the convention presided over by one of the most able National Commanders that our organization has known. The American Legion has risen to new heights of constructive leadership under your sincere and able command. I am proud as a comrade to salute you and as a friend to greet you. My continued good wishes for The American Legion, my comrades and my commander.

"HARRY H. WOODRING, "Secretary of War."

"I sincerely regret it is impossible for me to respond to the cordial invitation you extended me to attend and address the Twentieth Annual Convention of The American Legion which convenes at Los Angeles on September 19. The convention of the American Federation of Labor will meet at Houston, Texas, on October 3. I will be thoroughly occupied for an entire week prior to the date on which this convention meets in making preparations therefor. You can see by this brief explanation how impossible it is for me to make a trip to Los Angeles at this time.

"In view of this fact that I cannot be with you, I am doing the next best thing. I am asking for the privilege of transmitting the following message...

"I extend to the officers and delegates in attendance at the Twentieth Annual Convention of The American Legion the fraternal greetings of the American Federation of Labor. The warm, cordial relationship which has existed all during the years since the formation of The American Legion has proved to be of benefit to all connected with our two great organizations. We have discovered through the development of our mutual relationship that there are many matters and many questions, some of great public concern, which are of common interest. The preservation of democratic principles and of democratic form of government is of paramount interest to us all. This fact is emphasized by reason of the growth of dictatorships of all forms and characters in a number of nations abroad. We are convinced that we must guard jealously and carefully our common heritage, the blessings of liberty, freedom, and self-government. We know now more than ever that the value of constitutional government, of our free form of government, and of our democratic institutions.

"I am pleased to renew the avowed purpose of the American Federation of Labor to resist and oppose communism, fascism, nazism, as autocratic, destructive and dictatorial. We are uncompromisingly opposed to the sort of a philosophy which all those forms of governmental control represent.

"During these trying days, when the shadow of war hangs heavily over all nations, the American Federation of Labor demands that our national government follow a policy of strict neutrality, and that it avoid the pursuit of any policy which would involve our nation in foreign conflicts.

"We stand on common ground in the support which we are according the proposal to adopt the Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Our joint efforts in the support of this great humane proposal have served to increase a feeling of good will among the members of the American Federation of Labor and of The American Legion.

"We are still grappling with the problem of unemployment. The American Federation of Labor is gratified to note the deep, sympathetic interest which the officers and members of The American Legion show toward this very important nation-wide economic problem. There are in excess of eleven million unemployed workers in the United States today. This army of unemployed creates a most serious economic and financial problem. We must find a real remedy for this economic ill. The American Federation of Labor believes that the real remedy will be found by reducing the number of hours worked per
day and the number of days worked per week, so that the amount of work available will be distributed among a larger number of working men and women; and through the re-absorption of those employed in private industry. We feel confident that The American Legion will join with the American Federation of Labor in all the efforts put forth to secure the application of this economic remedy to the unemployment ills of the nation.

"In conclusion, may I repeat the last two paragraphs of the address which I delivered at The American Legion Convention held in New York City beginning September 22, 1937:

"I am conscious of the fact that many members of the American Federation of Labor are members of The American Legion. This means that there is a blended relationship between our two great organizations. It is my earnest hope and desire that we shall manifest a most charitable attitude toward each other in the consideration of and in dealing with any differences which may arise or exist, and wholeheartedly cultivate and strengthen the fraternal policy which was formulated and followed ever since The American Legion was organized.

"We can stand together as two great American institutions, devoted to the promotion of American ideals and American policies. It is my opinion that we can help perpetuate the principles upon which our governmental structure rests and serve the public in a most valuable and unselfish way through cooperation and the maintenance of the fine, fraternal relationship which we have so fortunately established."

"Very Sincerely yours,
(Signed) WILLIAM GREEN,
President, American Federation of Labor."

REPORT OF
DANIEL J. DOHERTY,
NATIONAL COMMANDER

During the last twelve months, we have worked together in a joint undertaking that was originally begun in March 1919 when the foundation stones of The American Legion were laid. A great organization has now been reared. It is known throughout the world. It has served many because many have served The American Legion.

In this Legion year, I have been privileged to have the honor and responsibility of the National Commandership. As the conclusion of my term of office nears, it is appropriate that a portrayal of the results made. In making this accounting to the membership of the Legion, I am happy to be able to truthfully say that a substantial measure of progress on every side has been made.

The varied and extensive program that is ours requires for its fulfillment the services of a staff of more than two hundred with a great number of committees drawn from the ranks of the Legion virtually everywhere. Those having the responsibility of the direction of different programs and enterprises will account in detail for the general report which is annually prepared for publication. Thus the report of the National Commander may properly be limited to what in effect constitutes a resume of Legion affairs with appropriate observations and recommendations. An informed membership makes for better organization and I urge the membership of the Legion to have recourse to these original sources of information afforded by the detailed report.

Within a few hours after my election as National Commander, the first major duty of my administration was engaged upon. Twenty years had passed and our second pilgrimage to France was under way. This pilgrimage amply testified to the fact that time had not erased from our memory thoughts of the services and sacrifices of our comrades. Thousands of legionnaires and auxiliaries laid aside their everyday pursuits to pay homage at historic and sacred shrines to those who gave their all in the defense of democracy. As your National Commander, I was privileged to lead this great pilgrimage.

The last resting places of America’s honored dead were visited and appropriate tribute paid. Wreaths were laid at the Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers of four Allied Nations. Dedication exercises were held at Chateau Thierry and Versailles. The National Commander was accorded the signal honor of Rekindling the Flame at the Arc de Triomphe, using the sword of General Gouraud, and of presiding at the Chateau Thierry dedication. Many addresses were made in France, England, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy, the keynote of all touching wartime associations, the profound significance of our return two decades later, and international peace and good will.

Elaborate preparations were made for our reception as the guests of the Republic of France. The genuine hospitality accorded us will long remain as a most enjoyable memory. During our brief stay in England, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy, the graciousness of our hosts was ever manifest.

France honored our former Commander-in-Chief General John J. Pershing and Lafayette of imperishable memory at dedicatory exercises when the equestrian statues of these two heroes were unveiled at the entrance to the historic city of Versailles. Your National Commander participated and voiced the tribute of The American Legion.

It was gratifying to observe how well the last resting places of our heroic dead were cared for. Many Battle Monuments had been erected and dedicated immediately prior to our coming. The outstanding events of this 1937 Pilgrimage have been recorded in The American Legion Magazine and so will be preserved as an official record of this great pilgrimage. In its very essence, this was a sacred mission and the conduct and demeanor of those privileged to participate truly exemplified the significance of our presence in places.
hallowed by the sacrifices of brave men and women.

Our pledge kept, a great measure of international good will and understanding achieved, the name of The American Legion enhanced, we returned to our beloved America with a greater resolution and more determined purpose to complete their unfinished task and ever to defend the principles for which they died.

**Legislation**

Ours was the realization in the aftermath of war that lack of preparedness for that eventualty contributed in substantial measure to the premature, if not unnecessary death, of many of our comrades. We reflected upon the inequalities of the burdens of war. Our thoughts were uplifted by the sight of ouracci, widows and orphans. The time for preparation of our legislative program was imminent on our return from this pilgrimage. The Legion year was yet in its infancy. Our efforts during those early months, on through to the adjournment of the Congress, were concentrated especially on our legislative objectives. How well have we succeeded? The answer is contained in the final report of the National Legislative Director. It reveals in detail the great measure of success achieved.

Legislation essential to the establishment of an adequate National Defense was secured. A Legion goal of long standing was thus reached. The best guarantee of peace for America was accomplished. Its effect on world peace will undoubtedly be far reaching in an atmosphere of great tension with the dangers of dictatorships alarmingly prevalent.

Adverse public opinion, born of apprehension of the possible establishment of a dictatorship, precluded the legislative consideration of our proposal for Universal Service in time of war.

Thousands of communications in opposition to the May Bill were sent to members of the Congress, many of them evidencing a poverty of understanding of the proposed legislation. An anomalous feature of the situation was the acceptance of the principle by many of the remonstrants but rejection of the means to give it practical expression. Great divergence of opinion on this score obtained. The opposition came from many quarters. It is futile to force consideration of this essential and vital issue until a substantial stabilization of public opinion obtains, with accompanying clarity of reasoning predicated upon facts rather than fiction. Success in reaching this long sought goal has again been deferred.

The plausible, but dangerous proposed Ludlow Amendment was defeated, with the Legion playing an important part. Without doubt, the proposal will be revived. I urge full consideration of the subject matter and a definite National Convention mandate thereon. It represents a concern of great import to our country in relation to National Defense in all of its varied ramifications.

The mandate of the National Executive Committee was fully carried out in the success achieved in preserving Veterans Administration from the provisions of proposed legislation eliminating it as a separate governmental agency dealing with veterans affairs. I recommend a well prepared National Convention mandate on this highly important subject.

Further progress was made in a long range program relating to the care of widows and orphans of world war veterans. Existing legislation was liberalized by the provisions of Public Law 514 and the wisdom of moderation in our requests again demonstrated. No subject is closer to The American Legion in the field of rehabilitation and it will continue to be a pressing concern.

The passage of the McCormack Bill requiring the registration of persons and agencies employed by foreign sources to disseminate propaganda in this country fills a long standing need in the interests of Americanism. It is to be hoped that the Congress will devote further consideration to an appropriate extension of such legislation in the light of manifest requirements. Registration under the terms of this Bill is now in process.

The Dies Committee, presently engaged in an investigation of subversive activities, is offered a great opportunity to be of real service in enlightening the American people as to the source and identity of un-American groups and individuals. It is to be expected that such a Committee will be subjected to ridicule by radical groups and skeptics. That procedure is designed to minimize the importance of its mission and the potentiality and opportunity of the Committee to justify the enactment of the legislation creating it. The American people are entitled to the facts. It is the responsibility of this Committee to carefully and courageously find and report the factual situation.

Armistice Day for all appropriate purposes was made a legal public holiday dedicated to the cause of world peace. The Legion has long advocated the enactment of this legislation.

Legislation seeking the elimination of the causative factor as a requirement of proof in the cases of Disabled Emergency Officers was subjected to veto action. The same fate attended legislation designed to redefine permanent and total disability and to increase from $30 to $40 monthly the rate in non-service connected cases in this category.

The heretofore immediately existing fund of $28,000,000 for added hospital construction and alteration was augmented by the further substantial appropriation of $13,000,000 which was allocated for this purpose during the current year. A substantial increase in hospital beds will thus be insured. This fills a long standing need.

Without attempting to record in detail the various legislative enactments of definite interest to The American Legion, it may be generally stated with accuracy that our legislative successes have been unusually great. Chairman Frank L. Pinola and his associates of the Legislative Committee labored industriously and cooperatively with the National
Legislative Director and the National Commander to the end that all legislative mandates be effectually and expeditiously carried out. For these constructive and valuable services, they are entitled to wholehearted commendation. Once again the ability and effectiveness of our National Legislative Director John Thomas Taylor has been demonstrated.

Membership

A substantial measure of stabilization has been effected in Legion membership. From the early days of this administration, the 1938 membership record has outstripped that of all other years on the same relative date. Despite widespread unemployment which unduly impinged upon those in the eligible veteran group, membership month after month continued to forge ahead. At the date of preparing this report, September 9th, the total 1938 membership had reached the great total of 972,933, thereby making our numerical strength the second highest in the whole history of The American Legion. The national quota this year was 935,112. We have far exceeded it. Eleven departments secured the largest membership in their history; eight others surpassed their 1937 membership and 1938 quota, and thirteen additional departments attained 1938 quota. This indicates the industry of effort employed in the various Departments and connotes an appreciation on the part of serious minded eligible veterans of the splendid accomplishments of the organization. It effectively disposes of the unwarranted, although oft-repeated, assertion that ours is a non members make it possible for such assertions to be made. The Legion has never neglected its membership responsibilities. It is a source of deep concern that only one in four of those eligible belong to the American Legion. The underlying thought is to blame the Legion for the shortcomings of those who for one reason or another remain aloof from its ranks. Those from whom such statements emanate employ such a course merely to attempt to disparage the organization and minimize its strength and influence. Eligible non members make it possible for such assertions to be made. The Legion has never neglected its membership responsibilities. It is a source of deep concern that so many who have the priceless privilege of Legion membership at their disposal never have taken time to properly evaluate its worth or accepted the opportunity to render peace time service to country and the war's disabled.

The Legion is rich in the quality of its membership as amply demonstrated by the character and extent of the service rendered. Each Post being the judge of its membership, predicated upon fundamentals of eligibility, should exercise great care in admitting applicants to membership. Bare requirements of eligibility are not sufficient. Belief in American principles and institutions is an essential requisite for the good of the Legion and that for which it stands.

Rehabilitation

Ever since the distressing days of the Economy Act, The American Legion has constantly striven to eliminate the direful effects of this carelessly considered and unjustifiable legislation. To a substantial degree, this objective has been attained. Liberalization of administrative procedure has been secured from time to time. Recommendations from the field have been studied and presented to the Administrator. During the current year, especial attention has been directed to this source for remedial measures. Last June, an extended conference was held with General Hines at which time extended recommendations were made and the facts to sustain them presented. The utility of this procedure has been well demonstrated. It is reasonably expected that decentralization of death claims will be effected shortly. Legislation has been obtained to alleviate the aggravated situation respecting the disposal of personal effects of veterans whose deaths occur at Veterans Facilities.

I strongly urge adherence to the procedure of these periodic conferences believing that in no better way can mutual understanding be arrived at and progress made. Because of my long standing interest in the rehabilitation program, I have given an unusually large portion of my time and effort as National Commander to the considerations involved. Coordinated effort on the part of the Field Service, the Central Office staff and the Liaison Committee is an absolute essential to an efficient rehabilitation service. The latter Committee during the short years of its existence has performed valuable work. With a constantly changing picture, great care and study should be given to policies. Rehabilitation is an undertaking of tremendous ramifications and will always present varied and challenging problems.

In order to maintain the efficiency of the rehabilitation service, a reallocation of territory was made in the setup of the Field Service. This was effected after serious study and upon the recommendation of the Director of Field Service. A reallocation of territory has been made to better equalize the task in the field. The services of two Field Secretaries have been eliminated after thorough consideration of the field problem and upon definite recommendation of the Director of Field Service. In this work of reorganization, the welfare of The American Legion and the better maintenance of the rehabilitation service in the field were the controlling considerations. It is quite natural that a difference of opinion will obtain respecting such reorganization. However, the facts indisputably sustain the necessity for this change if the considerations hereinbefore referred to are to be recognized as controlling factors.

For many years, service of varied character has been given directly to world war veterans by The American Legion. It is now evident that our organization is made up of Posts, Districts and Departments has apparently overlooked in this respect. The result has
been a great volume of work not justified by the requirements of the situation and a lack of coordinated procedure. The Post is the source of Legion activity in virtually all of its many phases. It is the judge of its own membership. Requests for service should, in the main, in keeping with proper organization policy, come through the various Posts. The new policy inaugurated in May of the current year, after approval by the National Executive Committee, recognizes the utility of this procedure. It violates no fundamental obligation of The American Legion and the experience of the period since its adoption has demonstrated its practical worth. No other service has had and presently does have as great a call upon Legion funds as that of rehabilitation. It represents a primary and basic concern of the organization. There is the ever present requirement that these funds, as with all Legion resources, be expended so as to most effectively carry out the program of service. Thus will true service be perfected to a greater degree.

To Chairman Walter J. Kress of the Rehabilitation and Paul G. Armstrong of the Liaison with National Rehabilitation Committees, respectively, together with the personnel of these Committees and all who contributed in carrying out this major program, I express my deep appreciation.

**Employment**

Every effort has been made to carry out the mandate of the New York National Convention making employment a major concern of The American Legion. A committee of nine was appointed to formulate a policy whereby the work entailed could be most effectively done. It was readily recognized that the local Post in large part was the medium through which the man and the job must be brought together. Virtually all Departments designated an Employment Chairman. Registration with U. S. Employment Service was urged. Further registration with State Employment Service was advised.

Supplementing the work of the National Committee, a Director of Reemployment was named to function primarily from Washington so that direct contact might be maintained with all governmental agencies. Similarly in the field, the Director of Field Service was designated as a co-director. The American Legion Magazine was utilized for the purpose of making a survey. Despite the distressing economic situation, a substantial measure of progress was made in alleviating an acute condition. During the entire year, I have laid particular stress upon this subject in all addresses. It is now generally conceded that our efforts to break down the age bar in industry have been fruitful. It is likewise recognized that until a definite and substantial upturn in business generally is experienced, the results to be expected from the work of the National Committee and cooperating agencies will perform be limited accordingly.

The efforts of Chairman Jack Crowley, the personnel of his Committee and all who have assisted in the furtherance of this important task are sincerely appreciated.

**Americanism**

A great number of varied activities all directed to a common purpose have been carried out under the direction of the Americanism Commission. Our work in this field is inseparably interwoven with the welfare of our country. I regard it as of greater import now than at any time in the history of the Legion. Subversive groups have increased tremendously. America has been flooded with propaganda. Advantage has been taken of the trying conditions under which our country has been laboring. A well known leader in the field of subversive activity has asserted, “We have penetrated with our program into every agency of American society.”

No portion of the entire Legion program has claimed my attention and effort to a greater degree than that of Americanism. I have earnestly striven to arouse the American people to the danger that confronts the nation. Our program to meet the challenge of this menace has been widely publicized in the press, by radio, in all public forums and through the columns of the National Legionnaire and The American Legion Magazine. We must continue to lead in this fight and to marshal public opinion and active interest to the end that the efforts of these un-American agencies will be abortive.

It has been a source of great satisfaction to note the splendid increase in the numerical strength of the Sons of the Legion, Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, Boys State and the Junior Drum and Bugle Corps and Bands. The importance of further building up these junior groups cannot be overstated.

Oratorical contests, school awards, state essay contests and other activities to interest the youth of America in worthwhile endeavors should be continued and extended. Study of The Constitution of The United States, Flag Education and intimate knowledge of our ideals and processes of government cannot but be continued and extended. Study of the youth of America in worthwhile endeavors should be continued and extended. Study of The Constitution of The United States, Flag Education and intimate knowledge of our ideals and processes of government cannot but be continued and extended. Study of The Constitution of The United States, Flag Education and intimate knowledge of our ideals and processes of government cannot but

**Safety and Community Service**

Our Safety and Community Service programs have been splendidly advanced year by year.
My thanks are expressed to Chairman Chadwick and his associate members of the Americanism Commission for their fine work during the current year.

**Organization Revision**

The National Executive Committee at the November meeting authorized the appointment of the Organization Revision Committee after a factual portrayal of the financial and administrative status had been presented. The work of the Committee contemplated a study of the structure of the Legion, as then existing, with a view to recommending consolidations, curtailments and elimination of non-essentials. In effecting reorganization, impairment of essential services has been avoided. The Committee has met a number of times, interviews have been held with the various department heads and a report has been made to the National Executive Committee and by that body adopted. The work has not yet been completed and a further report will be made to the National Executive Committee at the National Convention meeting.

In appointing this Committee, I selected the personnel with regard to the essential requirements of marshaling the best available knowledge of the workings of the organization in its varied phases of endeavor. The makeup of the Committee reflects the considerations given in this respect. It is confronted with a task of wide ramifications entailing much sacrifice of time and requiring considered judgment and the courage to make constructive beneficial recommendations. Personal factors and considerations should yield to a high regard for the present and future welfare of the organization as a whole. This Committee should have the unqualified support of all who are in a position to know the facts and to portray these facts to those not in a position to acquaint themselves with the varied details of the structure of the organization. In practical effect and purpose, a serious endeavor is being made to build for the Legion against the inevitable limitation of future income to obviate a curtailment of basic services essential in the years ahead. The wisdom of such a program cannot be seriously questioned. I strongly recommend the continuation of the Organization Revision Committee as an essential factor to this end.

No great organization can be continuously successful without adhering to well-defined policies. This undertaking contemplates the formulation of sound and constructive policies that will presently and in the future redound to the welfare of the organization and its broad program. The local Posts are the units of initial activity and as the Posts collectively function, the record of the National Organization is in the main established in each successive year. It is my judgment that a logical and well balanced policy should be presently initiated looking to the curtailment of far reaching and expensive National Organization functions which, combined with the complete elimination of non-essentials and judicious expenditure of funds, will in the near future enable the National Executive Committee to recommend a reduction in the National per capita and allow the differential to remain with the Posts and Departments to sustain them in the lean income years inevitably to be faced. This can be appropriately accomplished with no deficiency of proper and necessary National Organization functioning. The support of all is necessary to the success of such a program.

**Finance**

At the beginning of this administration, a budget was presented to the National Commander that contemplated expenditures of $30,000 in excess of anticipated revenue. Firmly believing that each administration should operate within the limits of reasonably to be expected revenue, the process of revising the budget was employed. After revision by the National Finance Committee, a budget of more than a million and a quarter dollars was submitted to the National Executive Committee and approved. The differential between budget expenses and revenue was the infinitesimal amount of $383.00. This situation substantiated that a policy of judicious expenditures be employed, and the judgment of the National Executive Committee as thus expressed has been carefully observed. It is worthy of note that fifty-three thousand dollars of this expected revenue represented gifts from the Auxiliary and Forty and Eight, their contributions being $35,000 and $18,000 respectively.

As a result of careful management and administration, our activities have been carried on efficiently and successfully during the current year, as evidenced by the fine record established. Substantial savings have been effected within the limits of the approved budget so that the succeeding administration may begin another year’s work under most auspicious financial circumstances. Business principles have been employed, insofar as appropriately applicable, to the operations of what is primarily a service organization. The relatively few who have voiced opposition to this program of sound and judicious administration have admittedly been guided by considerations that would not stand the analysis of careful thought and the application of sound Legion policy, sincere though they may have been in asserting their judgment.

I am greatly indebted to the National Adjutant, Frank E. Samuel, National Treasurer John R. Ruddick and Comptroller Glenn Crawford for their constant helpfulness and good counsel.

To Chairman Sam Reynolds and his associates on the National Finance Committee, I express my sincere thanks for their constructive endeavors.

**Emblem Division**

The Emblem Division has been a substantial source of revenue that has materially aided in supplying the wherewithal to carry on the Legion program each year. It has been efficiently managed by Director E. O. Marquette under adverse economic conditions and currently has been maintained on a splendid profit basis. To Director Marquette and the members of the Emblem Committee, I express my appreciation for work well done.
Endowment Fund

Over one-seventh of the contemplated budget revenue is derived from the earnings of the Endowment Fund. To attempt to analyze the status of the resources of the Endowment Fund Corporation in this relatively brief report would be futile.

Suffice to say, under the supervision and direction of the officers, directors and members of the Corporation and the Investment Policy Committee, these resources have been invested and reinvested with careful regard for safety of the principal and at the same time with a view to obtaining the greatest possible yield. To all especially interested in the status of the resources of the Endowment Fund Corporation in this relatively brief report their findings and recommendations to the full Commission at Los Angeles.

To all who have contributed to a fine discharge of the great responsibility involved in properly caring for our resources, approximating the great value of nearly five million dollars, I am deeply grateful.

Overseas Graves Decoration Trust

The trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust have fully complied with the terms of the Trust Agreement in force and reference is made to the Report for ascertainment of the status of trust funds and securities.

Sons of the Legion

The Sons of the Legion have experienced their greatest year since the date of organization. Squadrons have now been formed in every continental Department and in a number of foreign Departments. More Squadrons now exist than ever before and membership has reached its greatest peak. The record as of August 31st shows 36,412 Squadrons and a membership of 53,918. Having a deep personal interest in this junior organization, it is heartening to observe the fine progress made. This year a Director was appointed for the first time. The value of having a definite directing officer to guide this junior organization in cooperation with the Sons of the Legion Committee has been demonstrated by the results produced.

Under the direction of Chairman T. C. Kasper, the Sons of the Legion Committee made constructive recommendations and aroused renewed interest in this junior organization. Chairman Kasper, the personnel of the Committee, and Director C. M. Wilson are to be commended for the fine work that has so definitely redounded to the welfare of these Sons, their organization and program. Specialized and appropriately planned activities should have the utility of strengthening this organization and building fine citizens. The Legion Heir was published for the first time during this administration and without question has been of great value in creating enthusiasm and interest in the organization and its program yet in virtually the infancy of its development. I express the sincere hope that the success achieved in 1938 constitutes but the forerunner of a greater year in 1939.

Legion Publications

At the time of writing this report, a survey of our Legion Publications is in process. Authorization therefore was given by the National Executive Committee through the adoption of the report of the Organization Revision Committee. The subcommittees of the Legion Publishing and Publicity Commission will report their findings and recommendations to the full Commission at Los Angeles.

In addition to serving the dual purpose of being a medium for the dissemination of Legion information to our membership in one instance, and that of providing an outstanding Magazine in the other, no small consideration involved is the fact that as well a business enterprise is represented thereby. Definite attention has been given to the latter aspect during this administration. It is confidently expected that the ultimate result of the survey will be a better Magazine and an improvement in administrative and business operations.

The members of the Commission have spent much time and effort with substantial personal sacrifices entailed in the performance of their official duties. I acknowledge this contribution to the welfare of the Legion with sincere thanks.

Veterans Preference

The Veterans Preference Committee worked in close cooperation with the Employment Committee throughout the year. Close liaison was also had with the Legislative Committee. Reference is made to the Reports of the Chairman of these Committees and that of the National Legislative Director for detailed information concerning the year's deliberations and the measure of progress accomplished. Chairman Frank Matthews of the Veterans Preference Committee has given generously of his time and ability. To him and his associates, my appreciation is extended.

Fifty and Eight

The fine record achieved by the Forty and Eight but reflects the caliber of leadership that organization has had. Chef de Chemin de Fer Fred G. Fraser has put his heart and soul into his work and left no stone unturned in his efforts to help your National Commander. In addition to the substantial contribution made by the Forty and Eight to the membership progress of The American Legion, a donation of $18,000 was made for the purpose of better carrying forward the Child Welfare program.

For this whole-hearted cooperation, I express the great appreciation of The American Legion.

I acknowledge with thanks the many courtesies and constant assistance of this fine leader and his equally able associate National Correspondent Charles W. Ardery. It has been a great privilege to have been so intimately associated with them in the year's work.

I commend the Eight and Forty for its fine work successfully carried on through the year.
Child Welfare

Second only to that of Rehabilitation is the call the Child Welfare program has upon the funds of The American Legion. Throughout the nation, thousands of men and women of the Legion and Auxiliary center their chief interest in this humanitarian work.

The comprehensive report of Child Welfare activities during the current year is worthy of study and analysis by every member of The American Legion. In no other way can a better understanding be had of the far reaching extent of this work, its varied phases and the ultimate disposition of the funds allocated thereto.

The sum of $10,000 was earmarked for Special Services to Departments during the course of the current year. Without question, a number of Departments have unusual problems due to their geographical location and the conditions created by reason of factors beyond the control of the Departments involved. In the main, however, this program should be temporary in operation. Every Department could find some reason warranting subsidization to a lesser or greater extent than those presently being so served and such a plan is not only unnecessary, but not feasible, in the light of the ability of the National organization to provide the wherewithal.

The urgent need is to secure legislation in every state to provide funds to meet the requirements of the problem therein. Too great emphasis cannot be laid upon this basic essential.

Recognizing the necessity of keeping constantly abreast of all legislation touching this subject and providing agencies through which this information may be effectively disseminated, yet it should always be borne in mind that distressful conditions are alleviated or eliminated to the extent that direct and expeditious relief is brought to bear thereon. Accordingly, elaborate administrative setups and procedures should not be encouraged or countenanced. The most direct approach to the problem should be constantly striven for.

The subject is one of too great ramifications to be even superficially discussed in this report. It represents an endeavor that from its very nature should excite the active interest in this humanitarian work. Glen R. Hillis made a splendid Chairman, bringing to this work sincerity of purpose, clarity of judgment and practicality of administration. To him, the members of his Committee and all who have actively worked for the success of this phase of our program, I express my thanks.

War Orphans Education

The children of those veterans who were killed or died as a result of service during the official period of the World War have long been the deep concern of The American Legion. We have endeavored to make educational provisions for their future to compensate in some measure for the death of their fathers. War orphans education legislation has been secured in 38 States with further opportunities offered for enrollment at West Point and Annapolis. Many individual scholarships have supplemented our legislative accomplishments in this respect.

The great majority have now been provided for. Many have availed themselves of these educational opportunities. The question of liberalization of existing laws as a definite part of the Legion program should be considered with great care by those of the many factors necessarily involved.

It has been my great privilege to have actively served in official capacities in this truly fine endeavor and thus to have a true understanding of all that has been accomplished.

My appreciation is extended to Chairman James V. Demarest, the Directors and Members of the Committee for their work this year.

The American Legion Auxiliary

The true worth of the American Legion Auxiliary has long since been firmly established through the medium of the splendid accomplishment of the organization.

Again this year, further evidence has been given of its great force for good. The American Legion owes a deep debt of gratitude to the American Legion Auxiliary. Year after year, in addition to a great contribution of personal service, the Auxiliary has donated substantial amounts to assist the Legion in financing its program. This year the sum of $35,000 was given for the purpose of assisting in the financing of our rehabilitation and child welfare programs. For this generous action and substantial gift, I express to the National President and every Auxiliary member my sincere gratitude.

Mrs. Douglas has been a splendid leader and has repeatedly manifested sincerity of purpose, intelligent understanding of our broad program of activity and the ability to forcefully carry a great message of unselfish service to her associates and our citizenry generally. It has been my good fortune to have served in this year's great undertaking with her. Nothing has been left undone by the Auxiliary to support and sustain the efforts of the Legion. I extend my congratulations to the National President and members of the Auxiliary everywhere for the record membership established this year and the unselfish endeavors that constitute so bright a page in current Auxiliary history.

National Defense

For the first time in the history of The American Legion it can accurately be stated that legislation of far reaching import has been secured to provide for the establishment of an adequate National Defense. Greater progress to this end was made in the last session of the Congress than in any other year. The most important factor contributing to this undoubtedly was the disturbed condition of world affairs with force being the dominant element in shaping world events. Congress recognized the utter danger of further neglecting the defense of the nation. A timely message from the Chief Executive lent the
essential impetus to legislative action. National Defense was a part of the four-fold major legislative program of The American Legion.

As National Commander, I treated the subject accordingly and in all my addresses urged the support of our citizenry generally in what truly is a major concern of the nation at large.

The National Legislative Committee and the National Defense Committee watched the progress of this legislation carefully and urged upon the Congress the absolute necessity for adequate appropriations to meet the requirements of the situation.

Chairman Roberts and his associates of the National Defense Committee merit thanks for their cooperative efforts.

Publicity

This year will stand out in the history of the Legion for the generous amount of favorable publicity given the organization by the press of the nation. If there was any lingering doubt as to the status of our organization at the court of public opinion, this doubt has been effectually dispelled. Editorial after editorial appraised The American Legion in terms that gave the organization prestige of the highest order. Organs that previously had adjudged The American Legion adversely because of non-agreement with some isolated phase of the general program joined in this general expression of commendation. The publication of an attack on the organization by one of its own members precipitated a newspaper onslaught of condemnation of the attack and a militant editorial defense of the organization never heretofore equalled. Again on the occasion of an address by the National Commander at Teachers College, Columbia University, the untoward conduct of a small group provided the opportunity for a reply which was received in a manner graphically demonstrating that freedom of speech is truly evaluated and appreciated as a priceless attribute of American democracy. Many communications attested the valuable and sustaining commendatory press comment on this feature of the address on "The Position of The American Legion in American Democracy."

The National Publicity Division under the direction of Edw. McGrail and his assistant Jack Cejnar functioned efficiently throughout the year. Appropriate contacts were maintained with the four large press associations, Post and Department Publicity Officers, our own Legion Publications and other media for the distribution of news. The radio time enjoyed this year was arranged for in the main through the Publicity Division. By maintaining better liaison with the Legion Press in Posts, Districts and Departments, complaints heretofore made have been eliminated. Letters and expressions of appreciation from this source are indicative of the substantial measure of improvement made. A perusal of the report of the National Publicity Officer will disclose the varied services rendered by this Division.

I am greatly appreciative of the wholehearted cooperation constantly given by the National Publicity Officer and his capable assistant throughout the year.

National Convention Liaison Committee

The makeup of the National Convention Liaison Committee gave definite assurance of an able and conscientious discharge of the important functions of this Committee. These duties have become increasingly important with each passing year. This fact is clearly reflected in the conduct of our National Conventions. By the maintenance of contact with the National Commander, the National Executive Committee and the Convention Corporation all Legion requirements have been met and essential and desirable policies adhered to.

My thanks are given to Chairman James F. Ringley and his associates of the Committee for their constructive and conscientious endeavors.

Pershing Hall Committee

For the last few years, the matter of determining the final position of The American Legion with respect to the administration of the Pershing Hall property and its operation has occupied much of the time and thought of my predecessors. My experience has been no exception.

It is a concern of great import, and no doubt this has been a governing factor in deferring positive action. Serious effort was made during the current administration to effect a final disposition of the matter. The Pershing Hall Committee met a number of times. After fully discussing and analyzing the entire situation in its many aspects, a comprehensive report with definite recommendations was made to the National Executive Committee at the May meeting. This report was adopted. Since that time conversations have been had with the Treasury Department of the United States. It should be noted that title to the property is vested in the United States. In order for the government to have authority to administer the property new legislation is required. Under existing legislation, an opportunity is given The American Legion to assume this function. Financial considerations of substantial magnitude are involved and due to the possibility, if not likelihood, that The American Legion would eventually be charged with obligations serious in nature and extent, the proposal has been considered with great care.

A supplementary report, based on the conversations referred to, will be made to the National Executive Committee at Los Angeles. As Chairman of the Committee, I commend my associates, Past National Commanders Murphy, Spafford and Drain, together with Past Dept. Commander John L. Sullivan, for the patience, understanding and fine judgment so splendidly exemplified during the course of our extended discussions.

National Headquarters

The American Legion is exceedingly fortunate in having at National Headquarters a staff that functions with remarkable efficiency. During the course of this year many oppor-
tunities were offered to me to make the ob-
servations upon which the foregoing appraisal
is based. Required information was furnished
with accuracy and expedition on every oc-
casion. Staff members repeatedly demon-
strated their intimate knowledge of diverse
Legion problems and all phases of an exten-
sive program built up over the years of Legion
existence. My association with the staff has
been a pleasant one. They have been of great
assistance in the fine administration of the
year's work. I take this opportunity to sup-
plement my oral thanks expressed on the oc-
casion of my leaving Headquarters on August
26th by herein recording my gratitude for the
constant cooperation given me.

My illustrious predecessors who served dur-
ing the incumbency of the present National
Adjutant have all paid their tribute to him.

One of the most pleasant memories of my
service as National Commander will revolve
around my association with National Adjutant
Frank E. Samuel. Possessed of rare judg-
ment, tactful but firm, the very essence of
loyalty, an indefatigable worker and wholly
devoted to The American Legion, he has been
a tower of strength and a fount of knowl-
edge, all of which have definitely left their
imprint on the organization. I am deeply
grateful to him, officially sever an enjoyable
association with him with profound regret,
but do so with a lasting appreciation of his
value to The American Legion.

The National Judge Advocate, Ralph Gregg,
has devoted much time to the increasing num-
er of intricate legal problems confronting the
organization and has given splendid exempli-
fication of his professional attainments. The
organization is fortunate in having him as
counsel.

Equally fortunate are we in having a Na-
tional Treasurer of the calibre of John R.
Ruddick. Ample manifestation of his sound
judgment has been given. Working coopera-
tively with the National Treasurer, Com-
troller Glenn Crawford has definitely proven
his value to the organization.

Asst. National Adjutant H. L. Plummer has
performed his duties faithfully and conscien-
tiously.

My contacts with our Washington Office
naturally have not been so extensive as with
Headquarters. Official requests were promptly
responded to and throughout the year a spirit
of cooperative helpfulness obtained.

General

The full scope of the activities of the vari-
ous Committees has been recounted in all es-
sential details by the Chairmen of those Com-
mittees. Valuable information is contained
therein and the broad program of The Ameri-
can Legion can more fully be appreciated by
even a cursory examination of these reports.
Some of the functions necessarily are of
greater import than others. All are of mo-
moment. I have endeavored to review the year's
work as concisely as possible consistent with
the relative importance of the activity treated
to the general program.

The work of the following Committees, not
hereinbefore discussed, has engaged the at-
tention of many legionnaires and specific ref-
ence is hereby made to the reports thereof,
rather than to unduly lengthen my report by
extended analysis.

National Marksmanship
World Peace and Foreign Relations
National Contests Supervisory
Aeronautics Commission
Constitution and By-Laws
Fidac
Graves Registration
Law and Order
Pilgrimage
Trophies and Awards

An extended resume of the various Conven-
tion actions taken with respect to World Peace
has been compiled by Chairman Darrell T.
Lane.

Due to the current year being an off-meet-
ing year for many State Legislatures, the Law
and Order Committee perform could not fully
engage in that part of its program having
definite relationship with these law-making
bodies. The year to come will bring greater
opportunity for the committee to function in
this respect.

The work of the Marksmanship Committee
and the Aeronautics Commission has a very
definite relationship to the subject of National
Defense, as a survey of the reports will
disclose.

The former functions of the Trophies and
Awards Committee have in large measure been
absorbed by the National Contests Supervisory
Committee by appropriate authorization.

Protracted discussion has been had on the
subject of Fidac by the National Executive
Committee.

Each year brings a greater measure of effi-
ciency in the registration of graves which pri-
marily is the responsibility of the various
Posts collaborating with the proper authori-
ties.

Action on the recommendation of the Com-
mittee on Constitution and By-Laws will be
taken by the Los Angeles Convention.

My deep appreciation is extended to the
Chairmen and members of the above-named
Committees for the industry they have dis-
played and the sacrifices entailed in furthering
their particular programs.

Conclusion

Within a few days my official duties will be
concluded. A new leader will take the helm.
I now look back over a year of service that
at times has been exacting, but always inter-
eting and tremendously challenging. It will
always remain as a year of happy memories.
It has been my privilege to visit in the
various Departments and to observe the Le-
gion at work. I have seen the splendid results
of collective unselfish endeavors. My life has
been enriched by the intimate and extensive
associations the Legion has afforded.

By train, plane and motor transportation I
have crossed and recrossed a great country.
The second session of the Convention met in the Philharmonic Auditorium at 9:45 a.m. National Commander Doherty presiding.

The colors were advanced, following which the Rev. Frank J. Lawler, National Chaplain, pronounced the invocation.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE

Education in citizenship was designated as great field in which The American Legion can render invaluable service, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a message sent to the 20th annual national convention.

The President's letter was read at the opening session of the convention. Its text follows:

"My dear Commander Doherty: I extend to you and to our great organization my sincerest greetings on the occasion of the Twentieth Annual National Convention. I wish that it were possible for me to accept the cordial invitation, which you extended earlier this year, to attend the Convention and I regret exceedingly that I shall be unable to be present in person. I recall with pleasure the warmth of the welcome you accorded me when I attended the Convention in Chicago five years ago.

"About this time twenty years ago, many of you had just participated in a great victory in France. You were preparing to engage in the great offensive which brought the war to a close. Your services in France and at home earned your membership in The American Legion.

"You have devoted yourselves to the preservation of peace since then. You have emphasized the importance of good citizenship, love of country and national defense. Surely such service to one's country brings rewards as glorious as those in war. Your voluntary effort to place a limitation upon war profits which members or others might gain in time of future wars, which we pray shall never come, is an evidence of highest patriotism.

"Each of you today is in a position to promote responsible American citizenship. In many communities there is a need of such..."
education in citizenship. How better can you now serve than as missionaries in American democracy?

"Your war services to your country have earned you the admiration and commendation of the nation. In turn the nation has not been unmindful nor lacking in gratitude. It has made generous provision for veterans and their dependents who suffered during the war.

"Happily, we are now at peace but there is work to be done. The American Legion will assist, as it always has done, in maintaining and defending those true American principles of freedom, tolerance, justice and humanity, which are part of our priceless heritage.

"I congratulate you upon the great progress the organization has made and send my best wishes to all of you.

"Very sincerely yours,

"(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT."

GREETINGS FROM GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING

General John J. Pershing sent a greeting to the convention which was read by National Adjutant Frank E. Samuel. The message follows:

"My dear Commander Doherty:

"Your very cordial invitation to me to be the guest of the Twentieth Annual National Convention, which is to be held in Los Angeles next September, should have been acknowledged long before this, but my illness and long stay in the hospital will account for the delay.

"As a charter member and Honorary National Commander, the progress made by the Legion during the twenty years of its existence has been particularly gratifying to me; and it is a source of real regret that circumstances have in late years prevented my participation in any of its great annual reunions. I should so enjoy meeting again with my comrades in one of their national assemblies, and wish it were possible for me to arrange to be present this year. But, unfortunately, due to my health, it will be necessary for me to forego the pleasure.

"Recalling pleasantly our association in France last fall, and with kindest personal regards, I am,

"Yours very sincerely,

"(Signed) JOHN J. PERSHING."

ADDRESS OF W. FRANK PERSONS

W. Frank Persons, Director of the United States Employment Service, addressed the Convention as follows:

"Mr. National Commander, and Members of the Convention: It is a proud and happy privilege, again to represent, at this Convention, the national work of the Veterans Placement Service.

"That work has been carried on, during the past year, in closest cooperation with your National Commander, with Jack Crowley, the Chairman of your Veterans' Employment Committee and the members of that committee; and with Paul Griffiths, your National Director of Reemployment.

"At the local offices of the United States Employment Service, during the twelve months ended on June 30, 1938, 245,000 veterans applied for work through our Services. The number of jobs found for veterans, during the same year, was 138,000.

"Because of your cooperation, the number of such applications increased by 100,000 over the preceding year. The number of placements was 84,000 less than in the preceding year.

"During the past year, because of the business recession, the number of placements for all applicants was smaller than last year. But, in every month last year, the ratio of placements for veterans was substantially greater than the ratio of placements of non-veteran applicants.

"This has been accomplished despite the fact that veterans as a group average about ten years older than do the non-veteran men. When comparison is made of placements of non-veteran and of veteran men of the same age group, then our records show that the veterans received about sixty percent more jobs than did the non-veterans.

"The United States Employment Service has had a sincere interest in the work. Our cooperation with you has been genuinely satisfying. We have worked earnestly with you in the discharge of a public duty which we ever desire to fulfill more completely.

"We shall make ever effort to deserve and to retain your good will—and your national and local cooperation.

"We pledge the constant purpose of the United States Employment Service to work with your national and department organizations, and with your local posts, to the end that the veterans who served their country in the time of greatest need may be helped to secure at least one reward—the reward to which they are primarily and justly entitled—suitable employment for those who are able and willing to work.

"The United States Employment Service is enlisted for the duration of the need, to help to realize that objective."
"That Article VIII which reads:

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by any National Convention of The American Legion by the vote of the majority of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been read at said Convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote thereon.

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any National Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the several Departments and members of the National Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; and, provided further, it may be amended by unanimous vote at any Convention without notice."

The report was adopted.

ADDRESS OF JAMES A. DRAIN

James A. Drain, Past National Commander of The American Legion, addressed the Convention as follows:

"Mr. Commander, Men and Women of the American Legion: It is a great privilege to be able to speak to this National Convention upon any subject, but to me there is a special satisfaction in an opportunity to talk to you for a few minutes about social security and the intimate relationship of Legion ideals and activities to this vitally important subject.

All of you know something of my Legion background. Most of you are aware that for some time I have been a member of the staff of the Social Security Board. You and I know that under modern conditions the full resources of the Nation are needed to make good the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to every citizen—in short, to give our people a practical social security.

"If we do less than our best to advance a cause so just we have failed in our plain, simple, imperative duty to our country, its people, our families and ourselves.

"Doubtless, you are all aware that the Social Security Act was born as are all new creatures or creations in something less than final form although much study, months of research indeed, were devoted to its preparation by a large body of experts and that study included a careful examination of the systems of social security in use by thirty or more Nations.

"Extended hearings by Senate and House committees of the Congress followed the introduction of the bill which was passed by a nonpartisan vote of 77-6 in the Senate and 372-33 in the House. As is seen from this vote it can in no sense be called a politically partisan measure but rather one which represents the best thought of the time upon a subject so intricate and vast that a good beginning is all one could expect of an initial law.

No. 1

"That Section 2 of Article I be amended by deleting the word "representatives" and placing in lieu thereof National Executive Committee, so that said section shall read as follows:

"The National Executive Committee shall meet within twenty-four hours after the adjournment of the National Convention and shall also meet in November and May and immediately preceding the holding of the succeeding National Convention. Special meetings may be held upon reasonable notice at the call of the National Commander. The National Commander shall call a meeting of the National Executive Committee upon the written request of National Executive Committee from fifteen or more Departments.

No. 2

"That Article III be amended by adding thereto Section 6, to read as follows:

"Section 6. The National Executive Committee shall provide a uniform code defining the procedure to be followed in the revocation, cancellation or suspension of Post charters and providing for a method of appeal and further providing a Code of Procedure for the revocation or cancellation of Department charters with continuing power to revise said Code, providing, however, that the procedure now in effect shall continue until such Code is adopted.

No. 3

"That Section 4 of Article IV be amended by deleting the following:

"Members in arrears four months in payment of dues shall be classed as delinquent, and six months' arrearages, shall automatically impose suspension from all privileges, and one year's arrearages shall automatically forfeit membership in The American Legion, and placing in lieu thereof the following:

Members whose dues are in arrears February 1st shall be classed as delinquent and remaining in arrears March 1st shall be suspended from all privileges. Any member who is in arrears one year in the payment of dues shall forfeit membership in The American Legion, so that said Section shall read as follows:

"Section 4. Members whose dues are in arrears February 1st shall be classed as delinquent and remaining in arrears March 1st shall be suspended from all privileges. Any member who is in arrears one year in the payment of dues shall forfeit membership in The American Legion. Any member so delinquent or suspended who is not in arrears for as much as one year may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post upon payment of all amounts due by such member to the Post for arrears, in addition to the dues for the current year in which the reinstatement occurs, and any member whose membership has been forfeited for non-payment of the amount due may be reinstated by vote of the Post upon payment by such member of one year's arrears in dues in addition to the dues for the current year in which such reinstatement occurs.
"It is accurate to say that the Social Security Act is a good beginning. Mark you, there is nothing sacred about it except the principles upon which it rests. As experience brings knowledge the Act will be amended many times.

"The difficulties attending the writing of an adequate Social Security Act are enormous. The subject in this form is relatively new, reliable data are scarce. Besides, social security must rest upon a razor edge. Its purposes to aid must not pauperize but should stimulate effort, initiative and thrift on the part of all those able to help themselves. It must be soundly based upon justice, justice in higher terms than those usually known and practiced. Quite clearly to draft and pass such an Act is no easy task. Nor is the administration of it, especially in the beginning, without great difficulties.

"The bill approved by the Congress provided for Federal Old-Age Insurance on a basis of earnings and without reference to need. "It offered a framework within which the States could adopt unemployment compensation laws to help those who have lost their jobs to live while they were unemployed and to assist them to new ones. "It gave authority for grants in aid to the States for the needy aged, dependent children, and the blind in need conditioned upon the adoption of suitable State laws and financial participation, with further grants in aid to the States, again on a partnership basis, for maternal and child health services, preventive steps and the care and cure of crippled children, child welfare services and vocational rehabilitation.

"I assume you know that the Social Security Board, a bi-partisan body of three, administers most of the provisions of the law. The tax titles are under the direction of the Internal Revenue Bureau of the Treasury Department, and other features are directed by various Government bodies. But if you are not quite so familiar with the details of the law as you might wish you will find that any one of the twelve regional offices and more than three hundred field offices of the Board will be glad to supply you additional information upon request.

"The President signed the Act on August 14, 1935; appropriations were not available until February, 1936. Thus the law has been in full operation a little more than two and a half years. Judged by any standard substantial progress has been made. More than 40 million workers' applications for accounts under the Federal Old-Age Insurance system have been filed.

"All of the States, Alaska, District of Columbia and Hawaii have passed unemployment compensation laws and by the end of May 1938 over twenty-seven and a half million workers have earned credits toward unemployment benefits. Each of the State laws provides for the accumulation of a reserve before paying benefits but more than half of them are now paying and all will be doing so by the middle of 1938.

"Over 1,708,000 old people in need are receiving Old Age Assistance cash payments from combined Federal, State and local funds. At present assistance is now being given to more than 689,000 dependent children and nearly 40,000 needy blind.

"Some of you have heard me say possibly more than once that the heart and soul of the Social Security Act are found in its provisions for the aid of children. Nothing could be more true. The children cannot care for themselves. Someone must look out for them, and if their parents or relatives are unable or unwilling, then generous individuals, private organizations, or political agencies must do so, and obviously the more comprehensively and systematically this is done, the better.

"In no one of its many services to the community, State and Nation has the Legion shown a greater interest or more effective accomplishment than in the field of child welfare. Legionnaires are entitled to just pride on that account.

"The life of our nation, the welfare of its people, depend upon the moral, mental, and physical health of our children. Some may doubt the existence of a future life in the terms of any conventional religious belief, but no one can disprove that we live again in our children, that in them there is a life for us beyond death which we can foresee with our earthly eyes and understand without spiritual vision.

"If I have seemed to overemphasize the dependent-children and child-welfare provisions of the Act, you will realize without being told that what is done for the children affects and is affected by every other operation sanctioned by the law. Yet it is not accurate to say that any part of the Social Security Act is of greater consequence than any other. Actually all are interlocked and in purpose and effect are intended to be parts of one interdependent whole.

"The public health features of the law have favorably affected so many people that no accurate estimate may be made, but we know the number runs into the millions. The effect upon welfare operations in all parts of the country has been very great. Of course, many of you will have observed in your own departments the direct and indirect benefits to our men, women and children. In many localities you will have seen the early laws which progressive States passed to provide mothers' pensions and aid to the needy aged are the direct and indirect benefits to our men, women and children. In many localities you will have seen the early laws which progressive States passed to provide mothers' pensions and aid to the needy aged given new life, hope and scope by the Social Security Act. Notwithstanding all that has been accomplished and the greater advances yet to come in aid to those who need and deserve help, public-spirited organizations and individuals will still have to concern themselves not less than before. Rather I should say there is more for them to do than ever before. It is impossible to carry on such a program as that contemplated by the Social Security Act without the cooperation of men and women in public and private life everywhere.

"Occasionally I have heard the Social Security Act referred to as an emergency measure
in a way to suggest that it might be expected to vanish when the emergency has passed. I submit that the Supreme Court has held that such a law, since the President and the Congress and the people have shown that they wish such a law, the statute books and the early improvement of the laws, Federal or State, whenever experience justifies change.

"You and I are sure members of the Legion may be relied upon closely to examine the laws, national and State, and to keep in touch with the administration of those laws, that they may be able to carry their share of the responsibility for the successful administration of any social security law which stands upon the statute books and the early improvement of the laws, Federal or State, whenever experience justifies change.

"You will indulge me I am sure for a personal word in closing. I see in this audience many who attended the 1924 Convention at St. Paul which honored me by election to be National Commander. In acceptance of that high office, I said to the convention these words: '"'We were in the military forces of our country during the war to protect that country and to help make this a better world. We are in The American Legion for the same reason. The American Legion exists to make better citizens and so a better country and thus a better world. As members of the American military forces in war we were thinking in unselfish terms; as members of The American Legion in peace we are thinking in unselfish terms, thinking of what we can give and not of what we can get.

"How do you want me, you want me to stand in everything I do for and with you first of all for the rehabilitation of our disabled comrades, next for our orphaned children's welfare and for good citizenship. In all these efforts you want me to stand so firmly for God and country that no one can dispute that a thoroughgoing law dealing with this subject seems imperative, since the President, the Congress and the people have shown that they wish such a law, since the Supreme Court has held its purposes to be constitutional, we may safely look upon a social security system as a permanent part of the American program of government.

"It should be a source of gratification to all of us that State and county officials, employers and employees, and almost all of these who could help have been doing their best to make social security succeed.

"Legionnaires in every part of the country have been usefully active in their own communities and States to make the social security program effective. They have helped to pass needed State laws, to amend constitutions, to encourage the selection of suitable persons to administer laws. They have accepted appointment to State and local advisory boards, and through these and other consistently appropriate activities, they have done much to smoothly gear together the national and state operations. We of the Legion know, as it is not possible for anyone else to know, how deeply our roots go down into the heart of our communities, or how widespread and strong is the influence we can exert for all worthy causes.

"Our members come from every walk of life. Each reached his proud place as a Legionnaire through the good fortune which allowed him to be part of the military forces of his nation in war.

"At that time I had been in charge of the then Veterans' Bureau just seven months. I told you something of the problems which faced us and asked for the wholehearted cooperation of the Legion in the great constructive work which had to be undertaken.

"I wish to say here—after the passage of fifteen years—that we have received the cooperation which I sought at San Francisco, and I take this occasion to express my deep appreciation for the help you have given me and the organization which I administer.

"Before I go further please let me extend to you the cordial greetings of our Commander-in-Chief — the President of the United States. President Roosevelt has expressed the hope that your Twentieth National Convention here in Los Angeles, will be the most successful of any in the history of The American Legion. He sends you his very best wishes.

"It has been my pleasure to have had a number of conferences during the year with Commander Doherty, and representatives of your Rehabilitation group. These meetings have been helpful in our mutual problems and I am confident they will lead to improvement in service to the veteran and his dependents.

**Decentralization**

"As a result of the several conferences held with your Commander and his staff, certain policies and principles early announced in my administration of the Veterans Bureau and the Veterans Administration have been restated and emphasized. We have more recently conducted certain studies having to do with
improvements in service, more particularly that dealing with the request of The American Legion for the decentralization of the adjudication of death claims.

"The test of decentralization in eight Regional Offices on an experimental basis, has resulted in the production of very interesting facts and data. A study of these has been made and certain conclusions reached. I am not sure from my review of the reports rendered that the conditions under which this test of decentralization was conducted were as satisfactory, either to the field or to Central Office, as they might have been. Having in mind first, that both the Legion and the Veterans Administration are looking for improvement in service, even though such improvement may result in a slight increase in administrative expense, I have always felt that in this work, we must put service ahead of cost.

"With this in mind it would appear to be logical to regard under more favorable conditions whether we can decentralize the adjudication of current death cases without too great an increase in administrative expense and thereby improve service to dependents. To give the best results it would appear to me that we should proceed to decentralize not only to a designated number of offices, but to all field offices, and that this should be done without any definite period of time being indicated. The results obtained during the period will indicate the workability of the plan. Within funds available I am willing to undertake such trial. From the results so far obtained I am convinced that the present death cases now in Central Office should not be decentralized as this would in no way help the adjudication of new cases which, after all, is the important factor in the Legion's recommendation.

Front Line Service

"We have recently given serious study to a proposal by Commander Doherty that special consideration be given the veteran who had extended front line service — but who lacks proof that his disability resulted from such service.

"The present law requires us to consider all factors in making an award. A veteran is not required to prove his case beyond a reasonable doubt. Where such doubt arises, it is our policy to resolve it in favor of the veteran — but all factors must be considered.

"If factors other than extended front line service are to be excluded or disregarded, then I must say to you in all candor, that the remedy lies with the Congress and not with the Veterans Administration. However, instructions definitely determine under more favorable conditions whether we can decentralize the adjudication of current death cases now in Central Office, as they might have been. Having in mind first, that both the Legion and the Veterans Administration are looking for improvement in service, even though such improvement may result in a slight increase in administrative expense, I have always felt that in this work, we must put service ahead of cost.

Hospital

"The reports of your own officials on Re-habilitation and Legislation which you have received, are quite detailed and informative. I will endeavor to avoid duplicating the information they contain, by commenting only upon a few of those activities with which the Veterans Administration is directly concerned.

"The best news I have to give you deals with the important subject of hospitals. A very gratifying number of additional beds have been provided. Most of these are now under contract, or will have work started upon them within a short space of time.

"When our present hospital program has been completed, we will have about 15,000 more beds in modern fireproof veterans' hospitals, than we had on June 30 a year ago. This increase equals the total number of beds in our veterans' hospitals, when I joined the Veterans Bureau fifteen years ago. It represents an increase of about 32 per cent in the total bed capacity we had last year. About two-thirds of these are for mental cases, the other one-third being for general medical and surgical beds.

"The greatest contribution toward this program was a Public Works allotment by President Roosevelt of more than $13,000,000. Congress also appropriated $4,500,000. Then we received W.P.A. funds of about a million dollars for landscaping, to improve and beautify the grounds surrounding our hospitals and homes.

"More than 4,500 beds were brought into use during the past year. These were built with funds previously obtained. Upon completion of the programs which I have outlined, we will have 62,000 hospital beds and 19,000 domiciliary beds, all within our own facilities. These do not take into account beds which are available in other Government hospitals.

"Of almost equal importance to the new hospital beds obtained is the new and simplified procedure for obtaining beds in the future, which has been put into effect by the Federal Board of Hospitalization with the approval of the President. This will provide beds with greater dispatch and in a more scientific manner, than has been possible heretofore. The plan is both simple and direct.

"After receiving the approval of the President and the Budget as heretofore, the recommendations of the Veterans Administration for new beds now go directly to the Appropriation Committee of the House of Representatives, for the funds needed.

"This simple plan was restricted heretofore to money for the improvement and extension of existing facilities. Its adoption for new construction by President Roosevelt's order, now provides a short cut which should prove very beneficial.

"This plan contemplates funds being requested annually to provide the anticipated number of beds which mental patients will require. General beds will be provided so as to balance the bed capacity with the veteran population which is served in a given area.

"Additional construction for tuberculosis cases is not contemplated in the future. As
this load declines the beds released will be used for general hospital purposes.

"The new policy will definitely prevent over-building. It greatly simplifies the steps necessary to obtain additional beds, and will undoubtedly supply these more rapidly, as need requires.

Dependents

"Because of your interest in the dependents of our veterans, I know the pleasure you must feel over the recent Congressional enactment for the widows and orphans of compensable veterans.

"The provisions of the Act of May 13, 1938, to which I refer, allow compensation to the widow and orphans of any World War veteran, with a service-connected disability of 10 per cent or more at the time of death. Where such a veteran dies or is killed, regardless of the cause of death, his widow and orphans may now receive compensation at about three-fourths of the rate paid for service-connected death cases.

"You may recall that the Rankin Act of four years ago provided such compensation for a limited group of widows and orphans of this type. Since then various enactments have gradually reduced eligibility requirements, until the recent Act lowered these to 10 per cent service-connected disability at the time of death. Thus, no widow of a compensable man will go un cared for.

"The new law also broadened eligibility to service-connected death payments for widows and orphans, by advancing the marriage date about eight years, to May 13, 1938. This provides a new definition for "Widow of a World War veteran," bringing in marriages contracted almost 20 years after the cessation of hostilities.

"An amendment of this general type has been on the Legion legislative program for many years, and I am sure you appreciate its final enactment.

Other New Laws

"Other beneficial laws enacted at the last session include, the removal of a limitation which prevented payment of compensation for disability incurred while on furlough, and a modification of misconduct restrictions. The compromise of insurance suits by the Government was legalized, and authority was granted officers in charge of Government facilities to dispose of personal effects of veterans dying there under workable conditions. We hope that this will solve a problem which has been vexing to both of us for some time.

"The Works-Progress Act of 1938 gives first preference in employment on emergency relief projects, to veterans who are in need, and preference in retention in employment to veterans, widows or wives of veterans. None of the money appropriated in the Act may be used to pay any alien who has not filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen. This is also true of the money appropriated this year for the operation of many of the Government departments, including the Veterans Administration.

"Armistice Day at last was made a legal holiday.

"There is much detail regarding the work of the Veterans Administration that could be given you here but I am sure that those particularly interested obtain our detailed reports and perhaps know the subject as well as I do.

Employment

"I do, however, wish to again stress the importance of the splendid work being carried on by The American Legion Committee on Employment and other allied veterans’ organizations. I know of no item of greater importance upon the Legion program, with the possible exception of Americanism and national defense, than obtaining permanent employment for the many veterans now out of work. It would appear to me at this time what with possible making of a start on the upgrade that opportunities will be offered for veterans. Many of the American employers are recognizing the proven patriotism of veterans and their reliability when given positions. During the past year it has been noted that while there was a general increase in the unemployed, the veterans fared better than other civilians.

Conclusion

"Twenty years ago, for the first time in history, the valor of American troops had turned the tide of war upon the battlefields of Europe. You had halted the advance of the enemy, and driven him back from the Marne to the Vesle. In the words of General Pershing, you had committed the Germans wholly to the defensive.

Twenty years ago, with hardly an intervening breathing spell, you were about to engage in the greatest battle in the history of American arms — the Meuse-Argonne — from which you emerged victorious, and ended the war.

"The cost of this great victory in lives, and wounds, and physical and mental vigor, was very great. But it was the price which the sons of a great nation must pay, in times of stress, to preserve their country in independence and freedom. The American people are grateful to you, for your services and sacrifices, and I think you will agree that they have endeavored, through their Congress, to show this gratitude in an adequate manner.

"As I watched your great parade pass for hours on yesterday, I was intensely proud to feel that I am one of you. The men and women, the boys and girls, marching carefree in the uniforms of peace, were truly representative of this great nation.

"I have watched many Legion parades. But somehow the one yesterday made me realize that such a parade, such gaiety, could be possible at this time, only here — in free America.

"As I looked I thought — there go descendants of pilgrims and cavaliers marching in comradeship with the children of the immigrants of yesterday. The sons of the Blue and Gray swung by, with the daughters of those who built up this magic west-coast country.

"Descendants of all nations — English, Spanish,
ish, Irish, Scotch, French, Dutch, Italian, Welsh, German and Scandinavian—Russians, Poles and Greeks too, all marched in harmony, in the kinship of brothers and sisters. Some wealthy, some poor, but all loyal Americans.

It reminded me that the boys of 1918 came from mountain and plain, valley and seaside—that North, South, East and West had each contributed its portion—as well as Protestant, Catholic and Jew. All fused today into one harmonious whole: The American Legion—the greatest in numbers and most democratic organization of its kind, in the history of the United States.

"And I thought—such harmony among groups of diverse origin, reflects the opportunity which free America holds for her sons—for there are no Franchisés or aliens of members of The American Legion. That word disappeared here with the winning of the west. Frontier today has a distinctly Old World meaning, where it is linked with quarrels, unhappiness and fear which had been left behind you—and have no place on this side of the Atlantic or Pacific oceans.

"The splendid heritage of liberty, freedom and democracy, which our ancestors developed while conquering the forests and plains, is yours to carry on and hand down. You believe in this nation, and the self-evident truths upon which it was founded, and will resist to the utmost of your strength, any outside attempt to change our form of government to one which is alien to our free ideals.

"Service is your keynote. War service made you eligible for membership. Peace service is your goal—service to God, to country; and to your comrades and your fellow man.

"Not the least of this peace service has been your insistence upon a strong national defense, of the type which President Roosevelt and the Congress have been preparing for our protection. You went into the World War as crusaders. It is very likely that the recruiting sergeants would not accept all of you for another war, but I believe you are determined if such a war should come, that your sons shall be better prepared to do their part, than you were 20 years ago.

"I am also confident you believe that adequate preparedness for war, is our best insurance against being provoked into war. Nobody is more resolutely opposed to war than those who know what war actually means. And by insisting upon proper defense measures and true Americanism, you are promoting the cause of American peace—which you earnestly hope may ever be preserved.

"Mr. Commander, I thank you for the opportunity of addressing my comrades of The American Legion in your present great Convention."

ADDRESS OF REUBEN T. SHAW

Reuben T. Shaw, President National Education Association of the United States, addressed the convention as follows:

"I am happy to bring the greetings of the National Education Association to this great convention of The American Legion. I have always been proud of the fact that I had a small share in the conferences which led to the establishment of American Education Week, during which the Legion, jointly with the National Education Association and the United States Office of Education, encourages in every way a better understanding of our schools and what they are doing.

"In writing into its platform the objective of reducing the amount of illiteracy in the United States, and of fostering in educators of its citizens, native as well as foreign born, those ideals of democracy which actuated the founding fathers of this country, the Legion has made an aggressive attack against the only enemy which has the power to destroy free self-government.

"In his comments the other evening, J. Edgar Hoover stated, I have found through experience that education of the proper kind is one of the most potent factors in America in combating crime. Certainly, illiteracy must not be countenanced in our National Life for it goes hand in hand with crime. In combating illiteracy we are combating crime.

"A study of the progress of communism and other anti-Americanism brings out the fact that they thrive only in a soil of ignorance fertilized with poverty.

"The peoples of democracy have long realized that self-government could survive only when the people were intelligent enough to govern themselves. Our early legislatures appropriated lands and money for the support of schools. But the movement for education was not a dream only of the nation's leaders. In many communities the keepers of taverns, early centers of news and information, were forced to exhibit placards requesting that "Those who are learning to read please use last month's newspapers."

The efforts to realize the equality of educational opportunity was one of the basic ideals of our forefathers. The right to an education at public expense is recognized principle everywhere. School systems have now been created in our forty-eight states and all of the territories.

"Compulsory attendance at school is required of children up to a certain age in every state and territory. More significant than these is the lack of regimentation, and the insistence upon freedom to learn in the American schools. Our school systems are not organized in such a way that educational opportunity is restricted for any racial or social or economic class, as is still the case in some of the Old World countries. Not only elementary school but high school and college are, in theory at least, available and free to ambitious and capable youth regardless of the race or wealth or social position of their parents.

"In 1923 the National Education Association led in the creation of the World Federation of Education Associations, organized for the purpose of developing through the teachers, better understanding among nations. We crave the cooperation of the Legion in this enterprise.
"The extent to which young people are taking advantage of educational opportunity in the United States today cannot be paralleled in any other nation of the world. There are as many children enrolled in the schools of the nation this month as there were citizens in the United States a few years before the Civil War. Increased interest and achievement in education at the secondary and college level is especially remarkable. In 1890, the census year nearest the birth date of the average Legionnaire, there were 300,000 young people in American high schools. Approximately seven million have enrolled this month in those institutions. In 1890 there were 150,000 college and university students. That number has bounded to an estimated total of 1,200,000. Nothing like this has ever happened before in any country at any time. We have reason to be proud of the progress education has made in the United States. That progress has been made only because the education of their children is close to the hearts of the American people, because education and the opportunity to achieve that it offers is part of the New World dream of democracy. To the members of The American Legion—the fathers of millions of American school children—interested in the schools as Legionnaires, interested as parents, interested as American citizens, is due great credit for the recent pronouncement advance in educational opportunity in the United States.

Yet I come to you today as a representa- tive of the nation's teachers to say that the American school is far from meeting the needs of our free government. The threat to democracy as a way of life, manifested in some parts of the world today makes imperative a rapid and intelligent adjustment of our schools to meet these needs.

"The success of a democracy is gauged perhaps most completely by the effectiveness and universality of the education of its citizens. The raw material of American democracy in 1938 is the 130 millions of men, women, and children who make up the nation's population. Some 75 million of these are adults. Of these adults, it is estimated that only two million are college graduates, nine million are high school graduates, 32 million are elementary school graduates, and another 32 million have not even completed the work of the elementary school. With this equipment, the American population is required to grapple with complex and vital problems—issues of economic adjustment and equity; delicate issues of foreign policy, peace, or war; problems of amending constitutions, and other problems of an evolving industrial society.

"In spite of our high ideals, therefore, the American people have never really given a fair trial to adequate education for the entire population as a preventive of social ills and as a method of solving the perplexing issues of social adjustment, social stability, and social progress.

"The extent to which educational opportun- ity is still unavailable may be seen from these facts:

1. Nearly one million children between the ages of seven and thirteen are not going to school, because schools are not available for them to attend or are so located that attendance is practically impossible.

2. Approximately three and one-half million youth of high school age are not enrolled in high school, because high schools are not available in their communities, or do not provide courses suitable to the abilities and needs of these forgotten youth.

3. At least three million children of school age in the United States are handicapped—blind, deaf, or crippled. Most of these children are not receiving the education necessary to make them self-supporting citizens.

4. More than one million school children are attending school where the term is less than six months in length—that is, they have about two-thirds of the average school term each year.

"These conditions exist largely because we have never really accepted education as a national responsibility. We have assumed that local communities, or the states, could cope with the situation in a manner advantageous to the nation as a whole. We have associated our ideals of states' rights with states' responsibilities.

"Insofar as the responsibilities for education are concerned, state boundary lines mean less with every passing year. There are few communities today where more than half of the present residents grew up and were educated in those same communities. On the contrary we find in most localities a constant migration.

"Recently at a meeting attended by practically all of the principals and superintendents of schools in a New England state, where there is least mobility of all in this country, the following questions were asked and the indicated answers were received:

1. How many of you are now working in the locality where you received your common education?
   Answer: 5 out of the 200 present.

2. How many of you now rendering school service in this state received your common school education in this state?
   Answer: Approximately 90 of the 200 present.

"What was true of this group of educators is true of the entire population in New England. By 1930 the Northeast states contained more than three million persons who were born South of the Mason-Dixon Line, and nearly 1,650,000 persons who were born West of the Mississippi River. In the decade between 1920 and 1930 nearly a million Negroes, mostly from the farms of Southern states, found homes in Northern cities.

"Even more extreme mobility characterizes our population in the West. More than one-half of the American-born residents in the state of California were born outside that state.

"There is no indication that in the near or distant future this mobility will cease to characterize our population. On the other hand, because the means of travel increase, the population shifts will grow greater and more sig-
nificant with the years. We are fast becoming a nation in contrast to an aggregation of communities absorbed in local interests. The denial of educational opportunity, therefore, in any one section of the nation is likely to react to the disadvantage of some other, regardless of the reason for that lack of opportunity. A boy who was ill-prepared for vacation and citizenship in Alabama may ultimately find his life occupation in the automobile factories of Detroit, the orchards of the Hood River Valley, or the oil fields of Texas. Far from being a weakness, the mobility of our people gives the American nation a unity which it never had before. Truly the American people are one people, and as one people they must solve their educational problem.

"Under our democratic system every individual has a right to an education. Even from the most selfish viewpoint it can be seen that every child in America should have the fundamentals of a common school education including the knowledge of our government—how it came into existence, and how it functions. Educated or uneducated, the people are sovereign. It is a threat to our national security to put the ballot box in the hands of those to whom we have not given the essential education concerning our country and that for which it stands. James Madison's statement is just as true today as it was when he made it:

"A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both."

"It is fortunate that the Legion is a representative organization, that its members come from every economic level, from every geographic center, entertain all points of view religiously and politically, practice all the professions and vocations in which the American people engage. Because of this representative character, it can bring to bear upon the improvement of our schools all that the American people do or think."

"I count it fortunate too that the Legion includes in its membership thousands of American teachers. For only through the cooperation of the professional educators with representative lay citizens of the United States may our schools go forward. The advancement of the schools is a constant concern of every teacher. Our great national professional organization commends the Legion for all that it has done to provide better schools for American children, especially for those efforts they have made to make the schools in part an obligation upon the people of the country. We have been making resolutions; let us go to work."

"A good many years ago I heard a story which left a definite impression on my mind. It was the story of a little golden-haired, four-year-old girl whose home was in Nebraska. She had all of those attributes which made her attractive to members of the community. Everyone loved her. Surrounding her home town were great wheat fields that extended as far as the eye could reach. One day in the season when the grain was turning to the golden hue of that little girl's hair, she disappeared. When last seen she was playing near a great wheat field. It was supposed she had wandered into the tall stalks of grain and had lost her way. Her mother and her brother hunted for her. They floundered around in the wheat until it was dark, and they did not find her. They returned to the village, and members of the community joined the search with lanterns, and on into the night they tramped the wheat with no results."

"Nearby villagers came in groups each with its own theory as to what had happened to the girl, and each following his theory independently of the others. The second day was gone and the little girl was not found. Conferences were held. Differences of opinion were expressed. Vigorous expressions of what should be done were offered. No agreement was reached. Individual efforts continued through the second night and the third day. The news spread slowly, and helpful and curious seekers came until the population of the little village was mobbed. Finally on the fourth day someone suggested that the search be definitely systematized and organized. As a result, long lines of men joined hands so that no small area of the wheat field could be missed. In a uniform plan they systematically covered the entire area. On the sixth day the search was completed. The child was found, but the child was dead."

"For many years we have talked about providing public education for all the children of all the people. We have adopted resolutions, we have appointed committees, we have planned and worked, some in one direction, some in another. Now it is time for the people of this country to join hands."

"President Roosevelt's Advisory Committee on Education, after an eighteen-month study, has given us a sound basis for procedure. President Roosevelt himself has recently set forth the need for federal school support. A bill recognizing the principles of equality in educational opportunity will be introduced at the next session of Congress. The proposed measure is the result of long and careful deliberation of both professional educators and lay citizens. In the preparation of this bill, the American Legion has played a part. It is my hope that when this great convention of the Legion closes you will have taken definite steps for united action—that you will create a committee of this organization, which in the name of God and Country, will cooperate with a similar committee of the National Education Association looking forward to the early passage of federal legislation which will finally and completely eliminate from America the injustice of unequal educational opportunity."

ADDRESS OF OWEN A. GALVIN

Owen A. Galvin, National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, addressed the convention as follows:

"National Commander Doherty, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Legionnaires, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am happy today to be able
to bring to you not only the best wishes and the sincere greetings of the Disabled American Veterans, but also to express to you our profound gratitude and our deep appreciation for all that you have done for us in the years that have gone by, and if we secure that, we don’t give a continental damn who takes the disabled man gets the benefit of the laws.

American Veterans are not proud, we are not light their hospital cots, that it may create a torch that it may send a ray of light to their arms outstretched toward you, asking for your interest in national affairs, your prestige, and the influence in your local communities and the high caliber of the men who make up the membership of your great organization.

“I want to compliment you on the alert, aggressive and uncompromising stand you have taken on veterans’ matters. It shows that you have not forgotten the ideals for which you fought and that you are ever willing to maintain and sustain them in peace as you were to defend them in the days of war. In that respect, I want to particularly express my appreciation of the work of your National Commander, Mr. Most of your program in an able and intelligent manner and has defended it in a fearless manner, and for his work in that line alone he merits the unqualified approval and thanks of every delegate to this convention.

“I pay tribute to you for your work in child welfare. It evidences as nothing else can the great humanitarian heart and unselfish devotion of your organization. Also your stand for some of your national interest. And lastly, I would indeed be devoid of all sense of human emotion and human gratitude if I did not thank you again for your rehabilita-

Memorial Address

Rev. Frank J. Lawler, National Chaplain, addressed the convention as follows:

"The American Legion assembled here today in convention pauses, as it should, to pay reverent tribute to its departed comrades.

"There are some things in life greater than money, or family ties, or even that which we hold more precious than all else—life itself. For there are times when we must sacrifice our worldly possessions; or cut asunder the ties that bind us to home and all that we love; or even yield our very life itself. For who would not do these things for a great and worthy cause—for principle, for truth, for justice, for right, for virtue? Was it not the cause of liberty and justice that fired the patriotism of the founders of our great Republic, and caused them to pledge for the cause their all—their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor? It is with still greater pride that we recall the generous sacrifices of our comrades over there—in the trenches, on the seas, in the air. We are inspired with their deeds and deeds of heroism and noble deeds of heroism and to the highest principles of life which has en-

"If we pause to enshrine more deeply their mem-

"But I do sincerely hope that that remains one of the main objectives of this great or-

"The American Legion, let me say to you that not a day will go by but that thousands of disabled men throughout the length and breadth of this land will breathe a fervent prayer to the eternal God that he has got behind him that magnificent, that unselfish, that truly American organization of the great American Legion. Thank you."

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war even more frightful than the last, and which might destroy civilization itself. Happily that final folly has been averted.

“...”

A democracy cannot flourish under war, for war means a surrender of rights and the seizing of authority by the strong and privileged. Another war means years of Fascism for America, from the grip of which the people of America may never be delivered.

“My fellow Legionnaires, may I urge you during these memorial services to make of these days of our convention not ones merely for merry making and hilarity, but with quiet reflections that balances the future against the past and views with something like reverential awe the swing and sweep of human affairs as revealed by history and forecast by current tendencies? We owe this to our departed comrades, to the mothers and wives and other loved ones of those who still sleep beneath European soil.

“May this memorial service bring to us all a message of hope—hope that the Armistice that was signed twenty years ago—on the morning of November 11—may last eternally, at least as far as this nation is concerned, and that our youth may never again be called upon to follow the beat of the war drums to the fray. The hope for the peace of America must not rest upon a foundation of avowed pacifism. You have not died in vain, my comrades, for your sacrifice and your death have made us mindful of the peace and security of America depends on friendly relations with all nations, but no entangling alliances.

“As we pass in silent respect our comrades who have gone to that Great Beyond from whence no man has ever returned—we pray God to grant them eternal rest—and may their sacrifice be for us an everlasting inspiration to carry on for God and Country.”

CONVENTION LIAISON COMMITTEE

James P. Ringley, Chairman, of Illinois reported as follows:

“The National Convention Liaison Committee met on Sept. 18, 1938 to consider final action on the city that would entertain the 1939 convention of The American Legion. The committee finds the city of Chicago has $100,000 in cash or pledges raised by the Citizens Committee, $50,000.00 in appropriation made by the State of Illinois, guaranteeing adequate financial capacity for the holding of this convention. It also has under contract sufficient rooms to properly house delegates and visitors. The rates for these hotel rooms that are under contract are at the regular prevailing rates assuring again that Chicago will give reasonable rates to us and all visitors.

“The Committee unanimously recommends that the next Convention of The American Legion be held in Chicago, Illinois, Sept. 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 1939.”

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

Walter Kress, Chairman, of Pennsylvania, reported as follows:

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

The Committee unanimously recommends that the next Convention of The American Legion be held in Chicago, Illinois, Sept. 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 1939.”

The report was adopted.
WHEREAS: there has recently been some reduction in the number of persons engaged in this work in the national organization through deaths and otherwise, and
WHEREAS: now and in the future we have no reason to expect any material reduction in the amount of work expected of the Rehabilitation Division, now, therefore.

BE IT RESOLVED: by this Convention assembled at Los Angeles on the 21st day of September, 1938, that this all important program of The American Legion be maintained on its present high standard.

Resolution No. 368: Reaffirms Legion’s policy that all cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis be granted a permanent and total rating when hospitalized.

Resolution No. 393: Reaffirms Legion policy as to review and rerating of service connected cases now rated as less than 10% disabling.

Resolution No. 594: Reaffirms Legion’s policy that there should be a minimum rating of 10% for service incurred gun shot wounds.

Resolution No. 157: Reaffirms Legion policy that contact service of the Veterans Administration be extended and approved.

Resolution No. 93: Asks that burial flags be available at all post offices in localities where there is a Post of veterans organization.

Resolution No. 156: Reaffirms Legion policy that testimony secured thru field investigation be considered literally and liberally by rating agencies and the Board of Veteran appeals.

Resolution No. 154: Reaffirms Legion policy that hearings should be permitted on all administrative reviews or appeals.

Resolution No. 153: Reaffirms Legion policy that the Board of original jurisdiction should have complete authority to allow a claim on the basis of new and material evidence without reference to central office.

Resolution No. 157: Reaffirms Legion policy that the spirit and policy of rating procedure expressed on Page 11 of the 1925 Rating Schedule be strictly observed.

Resolution No. 88: Reaffirms Legion policy that the Veterans Administration should be and remain an independent agency.

Resolution No. 1: Reaffirms Legion policy that full credence be always given lay evidence, although it be based upon memory alone, unless rebutted or conflicting in nature.

Resolution No. 58: As amended, reaffirms Legion policy that hospitalization and treatment for service connected disabilities be accorded our Veterans of the World War who reside in foreign countries, providing that payment shall be made in accordance with present fee table of the Veterans Administration and in U. S. dollars.

Resolution No. 290: Reaffirms Legion policy as covered by the fourth point on the 1933 four-point program—“that in no event shall widows and/or dependent children of a deceased world war veteran be without government protection.”

Resolution No. 185: Reaffirms Legion policy that the compensation payable for presumptively service connected cases be not less than that paid to directly service connected cases.

Resolution No. 507: Reaffirms Legion policy that there should be no time limit for making application for burial allowance.

Resolution No. 553: Is expressive of 29 resolutions reaffirming the Legion’s policy as to decentralization of activities of all kinds relating to death claims.

Resolution No. 14: Reaffirms Legion policy that the so-called “Misconduct clause” should be eliminated in legislation relating to World War veterans.

Resolution No. 508: Asks that each copy of a decision of the Board of Veterans appeals contain the name and signature of the consultant or consultants preparing the decision and of the members of the Board approving the decision.

Resolution No. 152: Reaffirms Legion policy that conditions termed as constitutional psychopathic inferiority be considered as a disease for compensation purposes.

Resolution No. 7: Reaffirming Legion policy that the chronic non-tuberculous respiratory diseases should be classed as chronic constitutional diseases and accorded a one year presumption of service connection.

Resolution No. 515: Asks that any hospitalized veteran, financially unable to pay for same, be allowed artificial limbs or other prosthetics which may be needed.

Resolution No. 2: Reaffirms Legion policy as to formation and continuance of Medical Council with provision for sufficient funds to operate effectively.

Resolution No. 486: Asks that administrative procedure and action in hospitalization of veterans be expedited.

Resolution No. 188: Asks that insurance payments awarded by judgment be not discontinued except upon decree of court of competent jurisdiction.
"Resolution No. 458: Reaffirms Legion policy that compromise of government (converted) insurance suits be permitted.

* * * *

"Resolution No. 187: Asks that Congress investigate equity and present costs of Government (converted) life insurance, that the Veterans Administration improve its service to holders of Government Converted life insurance, and that portion of the resolution dealing with the Non-assignable Clause of such contracts is referred to the Standing Rehabilitation Committee for study.

* * * *

"The following resolutions, referred to by number and subject, are referred to the Standing Committee for study and such action as may be indicated:

Numbers 292, 482 and 451 relating to alleged fraudulent statements and punishment thereof.

Number 239 relating to employment affidavits in claims for permanent and total disability.

Number 509 relating to double permanent and total disability ratings.

Number 10 relating to observance of Memorial Day at Veterans Administration Facilities.

Numbers 4, 324, 257, 414, 421, 559, 597, 151, 150, 71, 64, 171, 189, 149, 17, 78, 286, 255, 535, 504, 612, 555, 115, 95, 12, 199, 132, 554, 239, 97, 555, 505 and 630, relate to the subject of permanent and total disability ratings and increase in monetary allowance for those so rated because of disability not due to military service. Those relating to ratings are referred to the Standing Rehabilitation Committee. Those relating to increase in amount payable for permanent total disability not due to military service reaffirm Legion policy as expressed by the New York Convention.

Number 632 relating to the classification of Diabetes Mellitus as a presumptive disability under Section 200 World War Veterans Act as reenacted.

Number 68 to furnish insulin to diabetic veterans.

Number 282 relating to establishment of a medical corps in the Veterans Administration.

Number 200 decentralization of hospital transfers.

Number 196 decentralization of authority for out patient adjunct treatment.

Number 428 to liberalize regulations governing dental service.

Number 87 dealing with additional medical and clerical personnel in medical service of Veterans Administration.

Number 27 dealing to prevention and control of venereal disease.

Number 278 to improve hospital service so as to speed up medical attention.

Number 447 and 162 relating to transportation and attendants for veterans reporting for medical attention.

Number 173, 44, 49, 92, 400, 467, 357, 628, 495, 487, and 193, relating to betterment of Veterans Administration hospital personnel, working conditions and administration.

Number 470 relating to hospitalization of retired members of military establishment who had World War service.

Number 34 relating to reciprocal agreement for hospitalization between United States and Allies.

Number 133 relating to hospital care of criminal insane.

Number 561 increasing federal aid to State Veterans' Home providing they meet requirements of American Hospital Association.

Number 31 reduction of interest rate on Government Life insurance loans.

Number 475 relating to free annual physical examination for holders of Government Life insurance.

Resolutions numbered 45, 555, 191, 138, 172, 131, 136, 67, 76, 90, 94, 117, 19, 207, 560, 399, 611, 615, 363, 267, 383, 396, 403, 423, 401, 424, 444, 476, 480, 279, 231, 282, 284, 294, 392 and 656, dealing with hospital or domiciliary construction, improvement and contracts in Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Arkansas, Iowa, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, South Dakota, Arizona, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Texas, Washington, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Illinois and Massachusetts and referred to the Standing Committee under the terms of the Cleveland Convention Resolution No. 13 which expresses the Legion policy as to hospital construction and that policy is hereby reaffirmed.

Resolutions numbered 341, 277, 610 and 137 requesting additional contracts with Army, Navy and Marine Hospitals with the understanding that such contracts be on a temporary basis pending completion of Veterans Administration building program.

Number 134 relating to local visits by members of the Field service and the Rehabilitation Committee is referred to the Directors of Field Service and Rehabilitation for attention.

Resolution Number 638 was referred by the Legislative Committee to the Rehabilitation Committee. Unfortunately this action was taken after the Rehabilitation Committee had adjourned. Accordingly, your Chairman has referred this Resolution to the Standing Committee for attention. It asks study of the feasibility of using abandoned C.C.C. camps as domiciliary barracks for veterans.

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Glen R. Hillis, Chairman, of Indiana, reported as follows:

"To the Twentieth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938.

Thirty-one members of your Committee on Child Welfare met at 8:30 a.m., September twenty-first, 1938, in Committee Room No. 1 in the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, California,
and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

1. That The American Legion expresses its grateful appreciation of the invaluable support given the Child Welfare program in cooperative service and financial assistance by The American Legion Auxiliary, the Forty and Eight, and the Eight and Forty.

2. That the annual "Portfolio of Suggestions and Information" be given wider annual distribution to include copies to the Department Adjutants, Department Secretaries, Grand Chefs de Gare, Department Chapeaux and such district Child Welfare Chairmen as may be designated by the Legion Department Child Welfare Chairmen, this distribution to be in addition to that already approved by the National Organization.

3. That the National Child Welfare Committee and Division be instructed to put special emphasis on the need for and the benefit to result from a closer coordination in the Departments of the Child Welfare Committees of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, the Forty and Eight, and the Eight and Forty.

4. That, whereas the Child Welfare Program of The American Legion is designed to meet the fundamental needs of the "whole child" and to insure "A Square Deal for Every Child," and whereas there is continued tendency from various sources to emphasize unduly one or more parts of the program and to make them the major activity to the exclusion of other essentials of a well-balanced program, therefore The American Legion instructs the National Child Welfare Committee and Division to continue its program to meet the needs of the whole child and to avoid undue specialization where such would tend to exclude other essentials of the broad program.

5. That, inasmuch as many State Legislatures will be meeting during the coming year, the National Child Welfare Committee and Division be instructed to urge and assist the Departments to use every effort to protect existing constructive provisions and to secure improvements in laws affecting children, and that the existing and necessary facilities within that Division for providing assistance to the Departments in carrying out such legislative programs be maintained.

6. That, whereas in the establishment of public assistance programs the needs of children have not received the attention they deserve, and as a result there is need for a better balancing of the public assistance to insure adequate protection for children, it being vitally necessary to place the meeting of children's needs, and the providing of public funds therefor, on a plane financially comparable to other forms of public assistance, therefore, the National Child Welfare Committee and Division are instructed to work for the achievement of those ends.

7. That The American Legion reaffirms the action of the 1937 National Convention of the American Legion, recommending that the Federal Government match on an even basis state funds contributed for "Aid to Dependent Children" and recommends that the enactment into law of that recommendation through the adoption of the Bill known as S. 3759, now pending in Congress, or such other Bill including these provisions as may hereafter be introduced, provided that such Bill be otherwise in accord with The American Legion Child Welfare program as expressed in National Convention mandate, be made a major part of the Legislative Program of The American Legion for 1939.

8. That, whereas it is essential for adequately meeting the particular needs of children that the administration of aid and services for children be brought closer to those divisions of government established primarily for insuring proper care and protection, therefore the National Child Welfare Committee and Division are instructed to work for the accomplishment of those purposes.

9. That, since Child Welfare Area School-Conferences provide a very valuable means of furnishing information and instruction to members of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations as demonstrated through years of experience, therefore, the National Child Welfare Committee and Division are directed to continue the holding of such School-Conferences and to promote the attendance at these School-Conferences of officers and members of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations and that, when deemed advisable, such representatives of other organizations and agencies as can contribute information be invited.

10. That, since children in many states are being deprived of essential consideration for the care of crippled conditions and conditions leading to crippling, due to the varying policies, regulations and definitions in the several states, The American Legion accepts and offers to the Federal and State Governments the definition that "any person under the age of twenty-one years, who by reason of congenital or acquired handicap is deprived of a normal state of life, happiness and opportunity, by reason of defects and handicaps of sight, hearing, speech and articulation, facial defects and deformities, scars and burns, posture, locomotion, use of arms, hands and fingers, disabling heart conditions, deficiencies in the use of body or limbs — excluding serious mental abnormalities unless found in conjunction with physical crippling — shall be considered and legally defined as a 'Crippled child' and entitled to any and all benefits that are legally provided for crippled children’; and that "any condition that may be reasonably expected to lead to such condition as described, shall be legally defined as a 'condition leading to crippling';" and that The American Legion call upon the United States Children's Bureau and the state public health and welfare agencies entrusted with these services to extend their services upon the basis of these definitions, and that The American Legion nationally and in the Departments use...
its influence and efforts to initiate and assist in securing legislation to carry out this mandate.

"11. That La Societe Forty and Eight be commended for its far reaching preventive and protective services through the diphtheria immunization program and for its acceptance of the now termed "Indiana Plan" of procedure and that The American Legion calls to the attention of its Departments the importance of extending this program of prevention and protection of children against disease and illness.

"12. That, in the past year the Child Welfare Division of The American Legion has had the cooperation of the National Americanism Commission and the National Law and Order Committee, which has led to an increased interest on the part of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations in the prevention of juvenile delinquency; that in accordance with the mandates of the National Convention of The American Legion, 1931, 1932, 1936, 1937, the Child Welfare Committee and Division is directed to continue its work as the agency of The American Legion in the field of prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency, and that it further continue its efforts to elevate the standards for Training Schools for juvenile delinquents.

"13. That, because children in Puerto Rico are being deprived of care and assistance provided in the Federal Social Security Act, The American Legion brings to the attention of the United States Government the need for Puerto Rico to be included in these benefits and recommends that its National Legislative Committee use its efforts to accomplish that end.

"14. That, since designating a Child Welfare Month in The American Legion has proved an outstanding success in activity and accomplishment, the practice be continued, but that in accordance with the suggestion of American Legion Departments, the month designated be April instead of May.

"15. That, since the present definition of a "dependent child," as defined in the Federal Social Security Act and related state provisions does not include dependent children being maintained by public or private agencies in selected and supervised foster family homes with non-relatives, thus depriving many children of the care and protection necessary to prevent neglect and delinquency, The American Legion recommends that the Federal Social Security Act be amended and extended to include these children.

"16. That, special services to Departments shall be rendered on a temporary basis from the National Child Welfare Division and that the title for such services shall be "Services for Child Welfare Organization"; that said services shall be made available to Departments, provided that requests shall be made in writing from the Department in need of such services, outlining the purposes for which said temporary services are to be rendered, and subject to the policies of the National Organization and the approval of the National officials; that the Departments receiving such services shall file monthly reports with the National Organization covering expenditures for said services and showing progress being made, and that Departments receiving such services be encouraged to eliminate or minimize them to the end that more of the monies received by the National Child Welfare Division can be used for aid for children.”

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

James Favret, Chairman, of Ohio, reported as follows:

"Twenty-four members of your committee on Finance met at 3:15 p.m. September 19, 1938 in the Biltmore Hotel, also present Glenn D. Crawford, who acted as Assistant Secretary, Sam W. Reynolds, Chairman of the National Finance Committee, John R. Ruddick, National Treasurer, and James F. Barton, Director of Publications.

"Comrade J. Favret of Ohio acted as Chairman and Al. J. Haemerle of Missouri, as Secretary. A sub-committee consisting of J. Favret of Ohio, R. L. Gordon of Arkansas and Al. J. Haemerle, was appointed to consider the report of the National Treasurer.

"The Finance Committee recommends that each Department select their member on the Finance Committee at National Conventions as soon as the National Treasurer's report is received by the respective departments so as to allow the one selected or appointed to examine report and make the necessary study of said report before sitting in the Finance Committee at the National Convention, the name of member selected by Department to be forwarded to National Adjutant immediately.

"The Finance Committee further recommends as a substitute for information called for in resolution adopted by the Nineteenth Annual National Convention to be published in the National Legionnaire, that it be a mandate of this Convention that the Publishing Board set aside the necessary space in our publications to publish more comprehensively the budget in full, salaries and expenses of paid employees of the national organization.

"Your Committee adopted by motion, which carried unanimously, that the National Per Capita dues of The American Legion shall be $1.00 to be used for subscriptions to publications and other purposes as may be allocated by the National Finance Committee with the provision that not to exceed seventy-five cents be used for the cost of both publications.

"The sub-committee reported and recommended that the report of the National Treasurer as submitted be accepted. The motion was carried.”

The report was adopted.
REPORT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Omer H. McMackin, Chairman, of Illinois, reported as follows:

To the Twentieth Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 21, 1938.

“Sixty-four members of your Committee on National Defense met at 3:00 p. m., September 19, 1938, in Committee Room 8 in the Biltmore Hotel, and proceeded to organize by electing Omer H. McMackin of the Department of Illinois as Chairman and Robert J. Shaw of the Department of Iowa as Secretary. The committee then divided into three groups, representing the Army, Navy and Aviation.

“The Army group elected Frank Parker of the District of Columbia as Chairman and Norvin E. Smith of the Department of California as Secretary.

“The Navy group elected George F. Metcalf of Michigan as Chairman and Rev. D. J. Vallette of Iowa as Secretary.

“The Aviation group elected Harry W. Berdie of Mexico as Chairman and William G. Murray of Illinois as Secretary.

“On Exhibit ‘A’ hereto attached are the names of the members of this Committee.

“The Committee agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

“We recommend the following as our National Defense Program for the Army:

“I. Personnel:

“(a) Regular Army. Increase from 12,760 commissioned and 165,000 enlisted to 15,000 commissioned and 150,000 enlisted to meet the needs of armament already legislated.

“Enlisted Reserve of Regular Army. The past Congress has authorized 75,000 and provided for a first increment. Attention is called to the fact that the original estimate was, and remains, 150,000 men in this important element. An enlisted Regular Army Reserve of 75,000 men only covers in part this critical deficiency in the plan for bringing the Regular Army to war strength promptly and efficiently.

“(b) National Guard. 205,000 officers and men are now legislated, but the objective is 210,000 enlisted men with proportionate officers.

“As this personnel represents the minimum requirement for the immediate mobilization and utilization of the available combat force in time of crisis, the Regular Army and National Guard should at once be given these increments 50% increase in number of officers attending service schools.

“(c) Organized reserves. 14 days annual training for every combat reserve officer desiring it with a minimum training of 30,000 officers annually. In addition to the above 1000 air reserve officers should be placed on extended active duty with the regular Army by the next Army Bill, and 1000 young reserve officers should be trained annually and ten per cent of this amount commissioned in the Regular Army annually. 300 Reserve officers should attend the General and Special Service Schools.

“(d) R.O.T.C. To establish and maintain the 120,000 R.O. personnel 9000 graduate Reserve officers should be provided for annually. It is calculated that 18,000 enrollments in the advance course are necessary to obtain these 9000 Reserve officers. R.O.T.C. units should be established at all qualified institutions requesting such units and the government should make every effort to stimulate their output and retain the services of these graduates, such as a uniform allowance of $100.00 to a Reserve officer at the time of his first tour of duty after receiving his commission.

“(e) A Citizens Military Training Camp with 50,000 youths training annually.

“(f) We recommend a study of the creation of an enlisted reserve of specialists in the Organized Reserve Corps in accordance with the provisions of the National Defense Act.

“(g) Continuance of National Matches.

“II. Armament:

“(a) Coast Defense: Necessary improvement in our Coast Defense to insure protection of our coast and foreign possessions against attack with special attention to our coast cities.

“(b) Sufficient appropriations for continued modernization of arms and equipment with special attention to aircraft, antitank and antiaircraft, to the increase and further development of mechanized and motorized equipment, not as a substitute for horse cavalry, but in addition thereto.

“(c) Combat munitions: Gradual accumulation in essential calibres to meet the needs of a balanced force of approximately 1,000,000 men in active operation until production can supply reasonable needs.

“III. Higher Tactical Training: The present system should be continued.

“IV. Pay: Readjustment should be made in pay and allowances of Army personnel to remove inequalities in comparison with other Services and improve the situation of certain classes of Army personnel now inadequately provided for. We recommend that members of the National Guard and Reserve components shall be entitled to the same benefits for sickness and injuries sustained in line of duty while on active duty as are extended to the members of the regular establishment; and that for the purpose of said legislation members of the National Guard and Reserve components shall be considered to be on active duty in the service of the United States while attending drill and encampment under Federal pay and while going to or returning therefrom.

“V. Construction: (a) Consummation of the War Department Program of construction, barracks, quarters, air fields, storage and technical facilities, is recommended.

“(b) Concentration and Training Areas. As the Protective Mobilization Plan calls for the immediate mobilization of Regular Army and...
National, to meet the requirements of the Fleet shipyards be rehabilitated, particularly on the
venient to areas of probable Fleet operations.

adequate naval supply and repair bases con-
some Pacific Island to the south.

lishment of commercial air bases on Midway
line of defense and contemplating the estab-
sufficient to meet the needs of the Fleet.

supported by a Merchant Marine Auxiliary
uthority.

the treatment accorded him by higher au-
faction in the fairness and consideration of
man. This confidence is a direct function of
portance in military efficiency is morale. This

wise two million dollar appropriation from the
last Congress and further increase, as needed,
in this important element is recommended.

"VII. Industrial Mobilization: The mobiliz-
and direction of industry are as important as those of man power. The
War Department Industrial Mobilization Plan
revised in 1936 has the full support and high commendation of The American Legion.

The 'educational orders' provision for ar-
icles of war time emergency has received a
wise two million dollar appropriation from the
last Congress and further increase, as needed,
in this important element is recommended.

"VIII. The fundamental element of first im-
portance in military efficiency is morale. This
moral effect function of the confidence which higher authority creates in the service
man. This confidence is a direct function of
his armament, his instruction, and his satis-
faction in the fairness and consideration of
the treatment accorded him by higher au-

Navy

I. We recommend a Navy second to none,
supported by a Merchant Marine Auxiliary
sufficient to meet the needs of the Fleet.

II. We recommend the establishment of
air bases on the Panama-Hawaiian-Alaskan
line of defense and contemplating the estab-
lishment of commercial air bases on Midway
and Wake Island and possibly naval bases on
some Pacific Island to the south.

III. We recommend the establishment of
adequate naval supply and repair bases con-
venient to areas of probable Fleet operations
in the Western Pacific and Caribbean.

IV. We recommend that privately owned
shipyards be rehabilitated, particularly on the
Pacific, to meet the requirements of the Fleet
and Merchant Marine Naval Auxiliary in any
emergency. Further, the rehabilitation of
these yards can only be by construction of
new ships and we urge the Navy Department
and Maritime Commission to allocate new ton-
nage to all shipyards essential to successful
naval operations; that this construction to be
a continuous program over a period of years.

V. An adequate Naval and Marine Corps
Reserve. That appropriations be made to in-
sure two weeks active duty afloat and 48 paid
armory drills a year.

VI. New Naval Training Ships to replace
the obsolete ships now being used by the Na-
val Reserves on the Great Lakes. These ships
should be constructed at shipyards located on
the Lakes and should be fitted with the latest
type of fire control, electrical equipment and
mechanical equipment and preferably be elec-
trically driven, so that in the event of war,
these officers and men can quickly take their
place in the Fleet.

VII. That additional Naval Armories be
constructed in areas recommended by the
Commander of Naval Reserve Units approved
by the Navy Department.

VIII. We endorse and approve of the es-
ablishment and improvement of the Alaska-
Hawaii line of defense.

"VIIIIB. We endorse the completion of the
contemplated highway to Alaska.

"IX. That the National Defense Committee
of The American Legion now composed of
ing three subdivisions, Army, Navy and Aviation,
be augmented to include a fourth section to
be known as Merchant Marine, which subdi-
vision shall devote its energies to correcting
the weakness in this branch of our National
Defense.

Training of Merchant Marine Personnel

"X. We observe with appreciation and sym-
pathetic interest, inauguration by the United
States Maritime Commission of a definite pro-
gram for the training of American Merchant
Marine officers and seamen, and endorse the
purposes and necessities thereof. We further
recommend that a continuous broad training
policy and program along these lines be in-
stituted, and offer the United States Maritime
Commission our full cooperation and assist-
ance in achieving this objective, which will
assure our merchant marine being manned
with trained and efficient licensed and un-
licensed citizen personnel.

"We recommend that essential Legislation
be enacted to restore, preserve and maintain
discipline in the American Merchant Marine.
That seamen and officers shall be members of
the U. S. Merchant Marine Naval Reserve.
That if discipline cannot be enforced aboard
ship, we go one step further and suggest that
not less than fifty per cent of the personnel
be made a part of the Naval Reserve. That
the action of the masters and ship officers in
the enforcement of discipline shall be upheld
by all departments of Government charged
with law enforcement.

"XI. We further recommend that a Mediation
Board be established.
"That Congress establish by law a national maritime Mediation Board with the same jurisdiction and powers over the maritime industry as the national mediation board has now in the field of railway labor relations.

This National Maritime Mediation Board should have full charge of labor disputes affecting the entire maritime industry, including operators, vessel personnel, longshoremen, tow boat, barge, lighter and dock employees.

"It is further recommended that the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, Section 1123 (b), relating to citizenship requirements of unlicensed personnel aboard ship, be enforced and further strengthened by providing that only native-born or completely naturalized citizens be permitted to represent such personnel in any and all negotiations or proceedings.

"XII. We recommend subsidizing intercoastal ships, provided ships so subsidized are approved by the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Navy and Maritime Commission.

"XIII. We recommend the enactment of such laws, or the modification of such extra laws as may be necessary to strengthen the American Merchant Marine on the Pacific and to insure to it experienced and well disciplined crews.

"XIV. We recommend sufficient appropriations for the adequate defense of Alaska.

"XV. We recommend that new Naval ROTC Units be established in Colleges requesting them.

"XVI. In the event it becomes apparent that the other naval powers are so speeding up their construction programs as to place this nation at a serious disadvantage, and upon the recommendation of the Navy Department, such additional appropriations be granted for construction purposes as are reasonably required to complete new ships now building, or authorized, at the earliest possible moment.

"XVII. We recommend that the existing Maritime Act of 1936 should be further strengthened by provisions as follows: That title to the U. S. Maritime Commission Section 201A be amended, which now provides for the appointment of commissioners at the present time due to political party affiliation, that it make a further provision that all future appointments be made on a geographic basis, and to construct one or more full sized rigid airships in order to determine the full usefulness of the airship in the defense of this country and to familiarize officers and men in this most effective equipment.

"XVIII. We recommend reestablishment of the payment of reenlistment allowances to the enlisted men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

"We recommend:

1. (a) Necessary appropriations be secured for the acquiring by the United States Army of 1500 planes annually over a period of five years, to the end that the ultimate objective of 8000 serviceable planes may be obtained.

(b) Simultaneously with this plane procurement and the delivery of new planes, there be provided corresponding funds for the balancing of increased requirements in personnel, technical facilities and housing.

(c) Upon meeting the above mentioned quota of planes, procedure thereafter be based upon tactical squadrons to insure complete operating tactical units with the delivery of the planes.

(d) Acquisition of at least one well-equipped flying field to be established in each strategic area.

"II. As it is obvious to any student of National Defense that Commercial Aviation is an essential Auxiliary to that defense, we urge that every reasonable assistance be given to Commercial Aviation.

"III. We recommend to Congress the appropriation of a ten million dollar special reserve fund for application in the acquisition by the Army and the Navy of outstanding inventions or designs of aircraft engines or accessories and the procurement of necessary prototypes and the tests thereof.

"IV. We urge the Civil Aviation Authority to recommend to the Congress the granting of federal aid for the construction, improvement, development, operation and the maintenance of municipal airports in such cases as it shall appear that the construction, improvement, development, operation and the maintenance of such municipal airports is necessary or advisable in the maintenance of adequate facilities for National Defense.

"V. We recommend that a standing committee on aeronautics be appointed in the House of Representatives and a similar committee be appointed in the United States Senate.

"VI. We urge the national government to adopt an airship building program under either naval or army supervision and to aid in the development of a commercial program, and to construct one or more full sized rigid airships in order to determine the full usefulness of the airship in the defense of this country and to familiarize officers and men in this most effective equipment.

"VII. We recommend that not one cubic foot of Helium gas be permitted to be exported to any country at any time for any use.

"VIII. Continuation of program for construction and maintenance of sufficient serviceable Navy planes with sufficient officers and men for the full manning of such equipment.
REPORT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Charles Hann, Chairman, of New York, reported as follows:

"To the Twentieth Annual National Convention. The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938.

"Thirty members of your Committee on Foreign Relations met at 3:00 p.m., September 19, 1938, in Committee Room Bowl in the Hotel Biltmore, and agreed upon the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

"In connection with Resolution No. 235:

"We hereby recommend that the 20th Annual National Convention of The American Legion reaffirm the position it has taken at previous conventions, insisting upon the payment of European war debts to the United States of America.

"We return herewith two telegrams from individuals and recommend that the Convention take no action on them.

"The Convention Committee on Foreign Relations believes that work along these lines should be continued by The American Legion and, we, therefore, recommend that the Standing Committee on World Peace and Foreign Relations be continued with an adequate budget for the accomplishment of a peace program in harmony with the principles and purposes of The American Legion.

"We further recommend that in aid of this program the Standing Committee on World Peace and Foreign Relations be authorized and directed to contact appropriately the various Departments and also to arrange the publication of suitable articles in The Legion Monthly and The National Legionnaire.

"The Committee recommends that the 1938 convention reaffirm the position of the 1935 and the 1936 conventions with respect to Resolution No. 72 on the policy of non-intervention and adherence to the Monroe Doctrine.

"Since the subject matter of part one of Resolution No. 627, which was referred to this committee, is either covered by Resolution No. 72 or the Johnson Act, which is now a law, your Committee recommends that no action be taken on Resolution No. 627.

"We recommend that the National Executive Committee organize officially pilgrimages annually to visit the graves abroad, and overseas memorials of American Soldiers of the World War. The same to be without expense to The American Legion. This is known as Resolution No. 657.

"With respect to Resolution No. 418, on the subject of the "University of the Americas," the Committee recommends that this matter be referred to the National Executive Committee for such action as it may deem advisable, and for report to the next National Convention.

"Resolution No. 201 and Resolution No. 222 were tabled by the Committee."

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF EDUCATION OF WAR ORPHANS COMMITTEE

Charles Edson, Chairman, of Illinois, reported as follows:

"To the Twentieth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938:

"Twenty-four members of your Committee on Education of War Orphans met at 9:00 a.m., September 21st, 1938, in Committee Room in the Biltmore Bowl, and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

"The National Director of the Education of War Orphans Committee, James V. Demarest, of New York, discussed the program of this activity at length. Charles Edson of Illinois was elected Chairman of the Convention Committee and Miss Florence E. Wagner of Pennsylvania was elected Secretary.

"Your committee reports a year of constant endeavor on the part of the National Committee toward bringing about educational advantages for those within the border of this Committee's jurisdiction. All war orphans legitimately qualified have received advantages, all post-war orphans when qualified have been assisted. An effort to publicize the advantages offered our war and post-war orphans has been diligently pursued to the end that every orphan be cognizant of the Committee's facilities.

"Realizing a profound responsibility in the education of the children of our departed comrades and thoroughly appreciative of the younger element who seek higher education—this Committee is of a general opinion that the allowance of $15.00 per month paid the orphan is not adequate for the purpose involved. We of this committee, therefore, present the following resolution:

Resolution No. 55

"Be It Resolved, that The American Legion go on record as requesting increased pension benefits for a dependent child or children of a deceased World War veteran where benefits are payable under present pension laws and the dependent child is receiving an education in a college or university, the amount for dependent child over 18 years of age receiving an education to be not less than an amount of $25.00 per month until such child reaches the age of 21.

"Furthermore, the advantages offered war orphans are in a great many states denied to post-war orphans. This Committee recognizes a similar responsibility for the children of those of our comrades who have passed on because of service connected disability. The post-war orphan—technically designated as the orphan whose parent passed away because
of service connected disability' is definitely in the same distressed circumstances as the war orphan and deserves the same consideration. Therefore, your committee presents the following Resolution:

**Resolution No. 653**

"Whereas, The original War Orphans Education Program extended only to orphans whose fathers were killed in action or died of wounds or other causes during the period of the World War, and

"Whereas, all such war orphans have now nearly completed their education and,

"Whereas, post-war orphans are defined as 'children of a parent who has died since the end of the World War by reason of war service, that is, by reason of service connected disability', and

"Whereas, such post-war orphans are as much entitled to educational aid as are war orphans, and

"Whereas, the World War Veterans Act of Congress, as amended, includes benefits for both war orphans and post-war orphans, as above defined, for educational and vocational aid, and five states have extended the benefit of their war orphan education Acts to include post-war orphans.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved: By The American Legion in National Convention assembled at Los Angeles, California, September 21st, 1938, that it endorse the extension of the Education of War Orphans program to include post-war orphans, as herein defined.

"In conclusion your Committee, truly in sympathy with the resolutions of the Education of War Orphans Committee as presented at the 1937 annual convention of The American Legion in New York City does hereby reiterate these resolutions as outlined in the 1937 summary of proceedings on pages 52 and 53."

The report was adopted.

Fred A. Bottger, Department Commander of Missouri, extended an invitation from the Governor of the State of Missouri, the Mayor of Kansas City, and The American Legion, Department of Missouri, inviting the national convention to return to Kansas City in 1941.

Henry O. Regner, Department Commander of Wisconsin, presented a formal invitation to the convention to hold its 1941 session in Milwaukee.

The convention recessed at 1:15 o'clock.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1938**

The third and final session of the convention met in the Philharmonic Auditorium at 9:30 a.m. National Commander Doherty presiding.

The colors were advanced, following which the Rev. Frank J. Lawler, National Chaplain, pronounced the invocation.

**REPORT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE**

*(Final Reading)*

Henry Benoit, Chairman, of Idaho, reported as follows:

"To the Twentieth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938.

"Twenty-eight members of your Committee on Constitutional Amendments met at 3:00 p.m., September 19, 1938, in Committee Room No. 5 in the Biltmore Hotel and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

"Your committee recommends the adoption of the following Constitutional Amendment:

"That Section 1 of Article VII be amended by striking the word representative immediately following the words and one in line five and placing in lieu thereof the words National Executive Committeeman and by placing a comma after the word determine and add thereto the phrase the Alternate to act only in the absence of the Committeeman so that said Section 1 shall read as follows:

"Between National Conventions the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander, the National Vice Commanders, and the National Chaplain in office, and one National Executive Committeeman and one Alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine, the Alternate to act only in the absence of the Committeeman.

"Your committee recommends the rejection of the following proposed Amendments to the Constitution:

I. "Amending the Constitution for the purpose of recognizing the organization of "The Sons of The American Legion" for the reason only that the same is not properly worded.

II. "Two Amendments extending eligibility to Allied Veterans who have since become citizens. One submitted by the Department of South Dakota and the other by the Department of Oklahoma.

III. "Two amendments prohibiting The American Legion, or any subdivision thereof, from participating in Industrial controversies, and prohibiting the use of the name, emblem or paraphernalia of The American Legion in connection with such disputes. One of these proposed amendments was submitted by the Department of Illinois and the other by the Department of Oregon, representing the Department of California.

IV. "Two amendments to exclude from Legion membership all associated with Communism,
The American Legion. Any member so de
 payment of dues shall forfeit membership in
 member who is in arrears one year in the
 shall be suspended from all privileges. Any
 member who is in arrears March 1st shall be
classed as delinquent and remaining in arrears
 shall be classed as delinquent, and six months' arrearages shall automatically
 impose suspension from all privileges, and
 one year's arrearages shall automatically for
 feit membership in The American Legion, and
 placing in lieu thereof National Executive Com
 mitteemen, so that said section shall read as follows:

The National Executive Committee shall meet within twenty-four hours after the adjournment of the National Convention and shall also meet in November and May and immediately preceding the holding of the succeeding National Convention. Special meetings may be held upon reasonable notice at the call of the National Commander. The National Commander shall call a meeting of the National Executive Committee upon the written request of National Executive Com
 mitteemen from fifteen or more Departments.

No. 2

"That Article III be amended by adding thereto Section 6, to read as follows:

"Section 6. The National Executive Committee shall provide a uniform code defining the procedure to be followed in the revocation, cancellation or suspension of Post charters and providing for a method of appeal and further providing a Code of Procedure for the revocation or cancellation of Department charters with continuing power to revise said code, providing, however, that the procedure now in effect shall continue until such code is so adopted.

No. 3

"That Section 4 of Article IV be amended by deleting the following:

"Members in arrears four months in payment of dues shall be classed as delinquent, and six months' arrearages shall automatically impose suspension from all privileges, and one year's arrearages shall automatically forfeit membership in The American Legion, and placing in lieu thereof the following: Members whose dues are in arrears February 1st shall be classed as delinquent and remaining in arrears March 1st shall be suspended from all privileges. Any member who is in arrears one year in the payment of dues shall forfeit membership in The American Legion, so that said Section shall read as follows:

"Section 4. Members whose dues are in arrears February 1st shall be classed as delinquent and remaining in arrears March 1st shall be suspended from all privileges. Any member who is in arrears one year in the payment of dues shall forfeit membership in The American Legion. Any member so delinquent or suspended who is not in arrears for as much as one year may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post upon payment of all amounts due by such member to the Post for arrears. In addition to the dues for the current year in which the reinstatement occurs, and any member whose membership has been forfeited for non-payment of dues for one year may be reinstated by vote of the Post upon payment of such member of one year's arrears in dues in addition to the dues for the current year in which such reinstatement occurs.

Resolution No. 3 was rejected.

No. 4

"That Article VIII which reads:

"Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by any National Convention of The American Legion by the vote of the majority of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been read at said Convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote thereon, be amended to read:

"Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any National Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the several Departments and members of the National Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; and, provided further, it may be amended by unanimous vote at any Convention without notice."

"Your committee recommends that the following proposed Amendments to the By-Laws be referred to the Special Committee on Constitution and By-Laws:

I.

"Amendment proposed by the Department of New York pertaining to regulations on the wearing of the Legion uniform.

II.

"Amendment proposed by the Department of Massachusetts providing that no member shall bring suit against The American Legion without hearing first having been had within the organization."

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF INTERNAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Robert Sullivan, Chairman, of Arizona, reported as follows:

"To the Twentieth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938.

Thirty-nine members of your Committee on Internal Organization met at 3 p.m., September 19, 1938, in Committee Room, Biltmore Hotel in the City of Los Angeles and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Robert B. Sullivan of Arizona was elected permanent Chairman and Homa L. Morris, Department of France, permanent Secretary. Twenty-six resolutions were submitted to the committee, of which the following have been approved.
"RESOLVED, That all committees of the National Organization of The American Legion which are charged with the advancement of the program of the American Legion pursuant to the mandates of our National Convention and the directions of the National Executive Committee, coordinate their action through National Headquarters so that said program may be uniform throughout our entire organization; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Departments and inter-departmental organizations also coordinate their efforts in the promotion of said program to insure the uniformity and maximum results: and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That any department or inter-departmental organization which is in disagreement with any portion of the program of The American Legion so adopted transmit its objections without publicity through channels to the National Organization for consideration."

Establishment of a Department of Greece

"BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion posts of Greece, located at Athens, Tripolis, and Patras, at a joint convention held at Tripolis, Greece, on May 30, 1938, that the following resolutions which have been submitted to American Legion National Conventions of 1936 and 1937, be re-submitted to the National Convention which shall be held at Los Angeles this year."

Resolution No. 4

"That the National Convention be asked again this year to recognize the Department of Greece considering the fact that the steady membership during the past five years in Greece exceed 600 members and that important Legion work promotive of the interests of the Veterans and of the friendly relations between the two countries has been done during the same period."

"D. K. CALTCHAS, Demetrios K. Calchas, District Commander."

The above resolution was rejected.

Department Commanders' and Adjutants' Conference

"WHEREAS, It has been customary for a great many years to hold an Annual Conference of Department Commanders and Department Adjutants at the National Headquarters, during the fall months; and

"WHEREAS, These meetings have been found to be greatly worth while in the exchange of ideas and information, and in formulating and coordinating the national and department programs; and

"WHEREAS, The National Finance Committee has appropriated, and the National Executive Committee has approved, the necessary funds, for such a Conference to be held in the fall of 1938; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That the Twentieth Annual National Convention of The American Legion, assembled in the City of Los Angeles, California, September 19-22, 1938, does hereby approve the repetition of such an Annual Conference during the fall of 1939; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That said Conference be held, as customarily at the call of the National Adjutant."

National Quotas Assigned to Departments

"Resolution No. 275, National quotas assigned to Departments submitted by the Department of Florida was amended by your committee and the following Resolution is offered:

"WHEREAS membership in The American Legion in all Departments is most necessary for the National Organization to carry on the programs of The American Legion.

"WHEREAS it has become the custom to assign each Department a National Quota each year in order to assist and maintain a stable membership in all Departments

"BE IT RESOLVED that the annual membership quotas for each Department be determined for each future year by taking the average of the membership for the four previous years, as of December 31st of each year, not counting the current year, and that this quota assignment be retroactive for the 1939 quotas."

Legion Insignia

"In line with the action taken by the National Convention assembled in New York Sept. 20-23 inclusive 1937 convention instructions regarding the use of Legion Insignia and realizing that continued violations of this resolution have been permitted, we therefore, offer the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, That this convention disapprove of the sale of caps similar to the American Legion Cap by Convention Corporations in Convention Cities and, furthermore, that the National Executive Committee be requested to further safeguard the use of the American Legion emblem in connection with commercial enterprises during the American Legion Conventions."

The following numbered resolutions were passed by your Committee moved to refer to Publishing Committee for further action without comment:

"No. 327. Subject: National Legionnaire to publish more on Communism, Fascism, etc.

"No. 461. Subject: American Legion Magazine devote more space to exposing subversive elements.

"No. 520. Subject: National Legionnaire to contain Legislative summary each month.

"No. 433. Subject: Official citation to each Post Service Officer.

Referred to National Trophy and Award Committee without comment.
REPORT OF AMERICANISM COMMITTEE
Warren H. Atherton, Chairman, of California, reported as follows:

“Resolutions No. 263, 410, and 516 dealing with Junior Baseball Rules, were referred to the November meeting of the National Americanism Commission with the recommendations as made by the convention committee, attached.

“The following resolutions were submitted and after proper deliberation rejected by your committee:

Resolutions No. 5, 81, 82, 104, 112, 121, 123, 135, 155, 163, 183, 222, 358, 363, 378, 382, 393, 404, 414, 415, 417, 432, 442, 463, 464, 472, 473, 489, 497, 499, 500, 517, 540, 543, 544, 545, 547, 548, 549, 551, 552, 553, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 578, 589, 591, 605, 606, 607, 609, 610, 629, 636, 638, 646, 647 were rejected by the convention committee.

Resolutions No. 9, 10, 104, 112, 121, 123, 135, 155, 163, 183, 222, 358, 363, 378, 382, 393, 404, 414, 415, 417, 432, 442, 463, 464, 472, 473, 489, 497, 499, 500, 517, 540, 543, 544, 545, 547, 548, 549, 551, 552, 553, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 578, 589, 591, 605, 606, 607, 609, 610, 629, 636, 638, 646, 647 were consolidated with Resolutions of like subject matter.”

Resolution No. 490.

Junior Baseball

WHEREAS, The physical development of the youth of America is part of our National program; and,

WHEREAS, Certain rules respecting age limits are obstructive to continual development; Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED That Section 2 of the rules relating to age limit of boys in the Junior Baseball Program be amended to read as follows, to-wit: (2) The competition will be open only to boys who are amateurs, and who will not have attained their seventeenth (17th) birthday before January 1st of the year during which they are competing.” Approved.

Resolution No. 637.

Conservation of Natural Resources

WHEREAS, unsurpassed natural resources have been basic to the social development and material power of the American people, and

WHEREAS, the continued benefits of natural resources demand their protection and future wise use to make them permanent, and

WHEREAS, progressive depletion of our natural resources now confronts the nation with necessity for remedial action, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion, in National Convention Assembled, at Los Angeles, California, September 19-22, 1938, that we pledge ourselves to support the Federal
and State Governments in constructive programs to reduce fire losses and restore and protect forests on such lands as are primarily suited therefor; to reduce our losses of agricultural soil by erosion; to control destructive floods; and to conserve our resources of water in accordance with their most beneficial uses.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we believe that the rebuilding of our natural resources and their conservation by such future wise use as will make their benefits permanent, are not only required by every consideration of the general welfare, but are a necessary part of any sound policy of national Defense.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Executive Committee formulate a program to carry the Legion’s policy into effect.” Approved. * * * * * 

Resolution No. 304.

Reaffirm Faith in U. S. Constitution

"RESOLVED, that we do re-affirm our faith in the wise safeguards provided in the Constitution of the United States, and do call upon our fellow citizens to resist all attempts to work between the various law-abiding components of our population, to the end and purpose that we shall continue to live together in peace and harmony.” Approved. * * * * *

Resolution No. 549.

Spreading of True Americanism

"BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention Assembled, that we pledge ourselves anew to the spreading of true Americanism, first by being true Americans ourselves, and then by carrying the principles of true Americanism into the homes, schools, churches, patriotic and civic societies throughout the United States.” Approved. * * * * *

Resolution No. 302-C.

Cooperate with National Boys and Girls Week

"BE IT RESOLVED at The American Legion National Convention, Assembled at Los Angeles, that we urge participation of American Legion Posts and Squadrons of the Sons of the American Legion in the National Boys and Girls Week program.” Approved. * * * * *

Resolution No. 127.

Program Regarding Marihuana

"WHEREAS, the widespread illicit use of Marihuana, the killer drug, particularly by our youth, in practically every State in the land, is justly causing alarm, and

"WHEREAS a program to combat this danger has already been successfully undertaken in the Department of Minnesota and elsewhere, as well as by the Interstate Commission on Crime, such program consisting first of the amendment of the Uniform State Narcotic Act to cover Marihuana more fully, in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Act, and, second, to undertake a public educational program on the evils of Marihuana, with careful regard to the protection of our youth from its use.

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Minnesota and those others which have undertaken such action be commended for their program to curb the illicit and dangerous use of Marihuana and that such program, to amend the Uniform State Narcotic Act to accord with the Federal Act in regard to Marihuana, as well as to the public as to the danger to our youth from such drug, be actively supported by the other Posts and Departments of The American Legion.” Approved. * * * * *

Resolution No. 128.

Enactment of Four Model Crime Control Acts

"WHEREAS, in accordance with the mandate of its Cleveland and New York City National Conventions, The American Legion has successfully aided in obtaining the enactment by more than half the States of the Union of the 4 model crime control acts drafted by the Interstate Commission on Crime.

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this successful action of the Posts and the Departments of the Legion be highly commended and that such Posts and Departments of the Legion be urged to redouble their efforts to complete the enactment in every state of such 4 model crime control acts drafted by the Interstate Commission on Crime, consisting of the Fresh Pursuit Act, the Extradition Act, the Interstate Witnesses Act, and the Act for Interstate Parole and Probation Supervision.” Approved. * * * * *

Resolution No. 125.

Firearms Control

"WHEREAS, such a heavy proportion of crimes of violence are committed in America with the aid of firearms as to make the gunman typify crime in America to the rest of the world; and

"WHEREAS, the National Law and Order Committee of The American Legion has for several years, in conjunction with the Interstate Commission on Crime, been studying the best way to ‘separate the crook from his gun’ as already approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, but with due regard to the needs of national defense and of the sportsman; and

"WHEREAS, as a result of this study both such National Law and Order Committee and the Interstate Commission on Crime has jointly recommended for this purpose a revision of the present Uniform State Firearms Act, but without changing its essential principles, in order to modernize such act to accord with present crime control conditions;

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that such action of the National Law and Order Committee of The American Legion and of the Interstate Commission on Crime, in modernizing the Uniform State Firearms Act to accord with present day conditions, be com-
mended, and that the principles embodied in such act as revised be approved:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal and State Governments be urged to cooperate to the full in the control of firearms throughout the United States." Approved.  * * * *

Resolution No. 302.

Oratorical Contests

"WHEREAS, it has been the practice of the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion to hold an Annual Oratorical Contest; and

"WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this committee that such National Oratorical Contests should be continued and sponsored by the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion;

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the finals of such National Oratorical Contest be held as early as possible in the school year but in no event later than March 1st,

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sufficient funds should be allocated by the National Finance Committee to properly sponsor such National Oratorical Contest." Approved.  * * * *

Resolution No. 302-B.

Command City Wide School Program During National Convention

"BE IT RESOLVED that The American Legion in National Convention Assembled at Los Angeles, commend the Los Angeles Schoolmasters Post No. 448, Board of Education Post No. 413 of Los Angeles and the National Americanism Commission for the special education program through which outstanding Legionnaires were able to simultaneously speak to the student bodies of the Junior High Schools, High Schools and Junior Colleges in the County of Los Angeles on the opening day of the National Convention, and for arranging a thirty minute radio broadcast on a chain hook-up at the same hour,

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Americanism Commission do everything possible to work out a like program at all succeeding National Conventions." Approved.  * * * *

Resolution No. 579.

National Headquarters to Obtain Film Depicting Proper Flag Etiquette

"WHEREAS, we believe that one of the outstanding activities of our Americanization program should deal with American youth, and with an educational program carrying a primary object of patriotism involving proper respect for our National Emblem; and

"WHEREAS, we feel that there is much need for work of this kind among our citizens, especially among our school children; and

"WHEREAS, the desire to foster this program, by means of a motion picture sound film depicting proper Flag etiquette, appears to be a most practical measure; and

"WHEREAS, inquiry at National Headquarters reveals no such picture exists in The American Legion's film library; now

"THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the American Legion National Convention, Assembled, that we call upon the National Headquarters to take such steps as it seems expedient and proper to bring about the addition of such a film, with necessary duplications for the film library of National Headquarters of The American Legion, to be used for the purpose of furthering the Americanization work of our Organization." Approved.  * * * *

Resolution No. 404-A.

Cooperation With the National Education Association

"WHEREAS, the National Education Association of the United States, at its annual convention in New York City, June 26-30, 1938, passed the following resolution: "That a Committee of not more than five be appointed to confer with the American Legion and other service organizations having constructive education programs with the view of enlisting their support toward the enactment of laws providing for Federal aid to public education," be it

"RESOLVED, that the American Legion formally express to the National Education Association for its confidence in the sincerity of purpose of our great organization; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Commander consider the advisability of a Committee of five members from the National Americanism Commission to confer and cooperate with the Committee of the National Education Association, so that we shall have "Better Americans Through Better Schools;" and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Committee be directed to report and present recommendations at the next annual convention of The American Legion." Approved.  * * * *

Resolution No. 126.

Juvenile Delinquency

"BE IT RESOLVED, That the practical nationwide program for The American Legion to prevent juvenile delinquency be commended, as embodied in the booklet "Our Children's Future" as recently issued jointly by the National Americanism Commission, National Child Welfare Committee, and National Law and Order Committee; and that the Posts and Departments of the Legion be urged to make the effectuation of this program in their own communities a major activity during the coming year, in order to curb the alarming situation as to Juvenile Delinquency now existing in this country." Approved.  * * * *

Resolution No. 494-A.

Finger Printing and Registration

"BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-eighth National Convention of The American Legion, Assembled in Los Angeles, California, that we hereby reaffirm the stand taken at our prev-
ious National Convention wherein it was urged that immigration laws be passed and machinery established for fingerprinting and registering all persons in the United States." Approved.

Resolution No. 574.

Consulate Registrations of German Citizens in U. S.

"WHEREAS, the Newspapers of Washington, D. C. and elsewhere throughout the Nation published the following article, "Germany Registers its Citizens in U. S.—Washington, April 2, 1938 (A.P.) German Embassy Officials said today that Germany's new 'Matriculation' law requiring all German citizens abroad to register at consulates would become effective this month. No special date for registration was set but Embassy Officials said German consuls in this country already were busy, accepting the registration forms from Germans and Austrians residing here. The registration requirement was described as a return to German policy of closely tabulating its citizens in foreign countries. Since the War, officials said the requirement stipulating that Germans must register or lose their citizenship was allowed to lapse.\" Now,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by The American Legion, in Twentieth Annual National Convention assembled, that the Congress be petitioned to take appropriate action to procure for the records of the United States Government copies of all such Consulate registrations of all aliens now in this country; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress be petitioned to take appropriate action to have the names, addresses, fingerprint records and occupations of all such aliens registered, placed in the public registry in their respective communities.\" Approved.

Resolution No. 301.

Deportation of Aliens

"RESOLVED, that steps be taken to the end that the Immigration Laws be so revised as to require that any alien who at any time shall be convicted of a felony in any Court in the United States shall be immediately deported.\" Approved.

Resolution No. 550.

Immediate Trial and Deportation of Harry Bridges

"BE IT RESOLVED by the National Convention of The American Legion in Convention Assembled, that we demand the immediate trial and deportation of Harry Bridges and like undesirable aliens.\" Approved.

Resolution No. 542.

Investigation of Failure to Comply With Existing Immigration Laws

"WHEREAS, certain officials of the Department of Labor have failed miserably in enforcement of the laws relative to immigration and deportation; and

"WHEREAS, said officials of the Department of Labor have consistently blocked the passage of new and much needed laws to regulate immigration and deportation, now

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by The American Legion in National Convention at Los Angeles demands that the Congress of the United States investigate the failure of these officials to comply with the existing immigration laws and take such steps as may be necessary to correct this unwarranted failure of duty.\" Approved.

Resolution No. 541.

Refusables of Undesirables When Deported

"BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention Assembled, that the Immigration Laws of the United States be amended to provide that admission to the United States be denied the nationals of any country which refuses to accept the undesirables of that nation, when deported from the United States.\" Approved.

Resolution No. 546.

Totally Restrict Immigration for Period of Years

"BE IT RESOLVED, that The American Legion in National Convention Assembled, instruct the National Legislative Committee of The American Legion to urge upon the Congress of the United States, the passage of a law which would totally restrict Immigration to the United States be denied the nationals of any country which refuses to accept the undesirables of that nation, when deported from the United States.\" Approved.

Resolution No. 261.

Naturalization of Aliens

"WHEREAS, under the laws of the United States relating to aliens and the acquisition by them of the rights of citizenship, it is possible for them to remain in the United States throughout their lives without assuming the obligations and duties of citizenship, and it is known that many of them do so, and

"WHEREAS, the failure of the statutes to require aliens to apply for citizenship or to make a declaration of their intention to become citizens within any definite specified time, and the further fact that many aliens do not apply for citizenship or make known their declaration of intention to become citizens result in an indifference and disrespect for the principles of the government of the United States, which hinders and retards the naturalization efforts of The American Legion and other patriotic organizations,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it be demanded of the Congress of the United States that statutes be enacted providing that all aliens, upon their entry into the United States must be issued forms of declaration of intention to become citizens, and that they be then furnished instructions, in writing, in the language of their native country, specifically
advising them as to the laws covering citizen-ship to be acquired by aliens, which declara- tion of intention shall remain valid and permit such aliens to remain in the United States only for a period of five years from the date of its issuance, and for an additional period of time, following the expiration of the five-year period of sufficient length that they may be permitted to take examinations required for admission to citizenship, not exceeding a period of six months. At the expiration of said periods, if no application has been made for citizenship, such declarations shall auto- matically become null and void and shall not again be reissued; and, in the event any alien shall fail, within said period of five years, to file an application for citizenship, such alien shall forthwith be declared to be an undesirable and shall be deported to his native land.” Approved.

Resolution No. 361-A.

Time Limit in Applying for Citizenship

“RESOLVED, that all aliens who have legally entered the United States and who have been residents therein for a period of five years, must apply for their first citizen-ship papers within one year, otherwise their right to apply for the same shall terminate and they shall be subject to immediate de- portation, and

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this recommendation be referred to the Congress of the United States.” Approved.

Resolution No. 301-A

Opposing Lowering of Qualifications for Naturalization

“WHEREAS, House Bill 6785, known as the Lanzetta Bill, providing for the admission to citizenship of aliens who came to the United States prior to February 5, 1917 is a further encroachment on our naturalization laws in that the bill

1. Permits the use of a declaration of in-tention without regard to the present seven year limitation;

2. Does not require the alien to sign his name or be able to speak the English language as is now required by law; and

3. Eliminates the necessity for any educa- tional requirements.

“IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that The American Legion in Convention Assembled at Los Angeles, California, go on record as un-alterably opposed to the Lanzetta Bill or any similar bill which may be introduced in future sessions of Congress; and

“IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that The American Legion legislative representative at Washington be on the alert for any such bill and place The American Legion squarely on record in opposition to any such legislation.” Approved.

Resolution No. 302-C.

Urge Uniform Naturalization Policy

“WHEREAS there has been a tendency in recent legislation to ignore that provision of the Constitution of the United States which provides that there shall be a uniform law of naturalization and to enact laws for special groups; and

“WHEREAS, recent amendments to the naturalization laws has exempted the necessity for a declaration of intention in the majority of cases of those applying for citizenship.

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that The American Legion in Convention (1938) approve of the report of the Americanism Commission to the National Executive Committee at the May, 1938 meeting, adopt it as the naturalization policy of The American Legion.” Approved.

Resolution No. 330.

Commend Congress for Work of Dies Investigation Committee

“BE IT RESOLVED by the National Con- vention of The American Legion in Convention at Los Angeles, California, that we commend the Congress of the United States for its ac- tion in making possible the investigation now taking place to disclose the extent of the ac- tivities of Communism, Fascism and Nazism within the United States.

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the completion of the job so well carried out to date and that Congress be urged to provide such additional funds as may be es- sential for the completion of the work, and

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention commend all public Officials of our government, both of State and Federal, who have condemned subversive influences and who have recommended legal action to defend our form of government against such influences.” Approved.

Resolution No. 348.

Combat More Firebly All Un-American Propaganda

“BE IT RESOLVED; That The American Legion in National Convention in the City of Los Angeles, firmly condemn all doctrines and influences prejudicial to our present Demo- cratic Form of Government, and pledges us to combat more forcibly all Un-American propaganda, activities and influences; and

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the creditable work of the National Americanism Commission and the Department Americanism Committees be augmented in order that the American Public as well as the Legion be more fully aware by reports, education and otherwise of the increasing dangers to our form of government.” Approved.

Resolution No. 332-A

Opposition to Communism, Fascism and Nazism

“BE IT RESOLVED by The American Legion in this its National Convention in Los
Angeles, California (1938) that we reaffirm our bitter opposition to Communism, Fascism, Nazism and any or all like forces and organizations that seek to destroy our form of government, and:

"BE IT RESOLVED that we condemn all organizations and demand the expulsion from our country of all aliens who promote loyalty to some other government; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge national legislation that will punish American citizens who advocate the overthrow of our government by force, fraud or violence or seek to promote race or religious prejudice, and deport all aliens who do likewise." Approved.

Resolution No. 502.

Free Speech

"BE IT RESOLVED by The American Legion, National Convention Assembled at Los Angeles that:

1. The right of free speech is essential to keep a people free. A people cannot long remain free if they cannot fairly object to the conduct of those they have themselves placed in authority. This guarantees freedom not only to the one who agrees with us, but to the one who disagrees with us. Such is the proud constitutional heritage of America.

2. But, like all other rights, the right of free speech must be exercised in a civilized community with due regard to the rights of the rest of the community. A right granted by the people for their own protection creates no right to destroy the people. Hence free speech must not incite to violence and crime, or to corrupt the public morale. Reasonable limitations to this end are lawful as protection to freedom of speech.

3. The American remedy to end violations of the right of free speech is, not the use of lawful force, but the use of lawful methods. Complaint should be made to the duly constituted authorities; and if one is lawfully deputized, such authorities may be directly aided.

4. The American remedy to overcome the preaching of unwise doctrine, though in a lawful manner, is not unlawful suppression of the preaching, but education in wise doctrine. Wisdom in the end will always overcome folly, and meanwhile an orderly society will be preserved." Approved.

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Joseph Edgar, Chairman, of New Jersey, reported as follows:

"To the Twentieth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938. The members of your Committee on Resolutions met Monday, September 19th, and Wednesday, September 21st, 1938, in Committee Room in the Biltmore Hotel and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

"Eighty-two Resolutions were considered by your committee, of these nine Resolutions were approved by your committee.

The following are those resolutions that were approved by your committee, and which are now submitted for the approval of this convention:

Resolution of Appreciation

"The American Legion, in Twentieth Annual National Convention assembled, in the City of Los Angeles, California, desires to take this opportunity to express to the State of California and to its Governor, His Excellency Frank F. Merriam; to the City of Los Angeles and to the Mayor, His Honor Frank L. Shaw; to the members of the 1938 American Legion Convention Corporation of Los Angeles, through its President John R. Quinn; to the members of the Press, and the Broadcasting Companies for their generous co-operation; to the American Legion Posts of Los Angeles County; to the Legionnaires and citizens of Los Angeles and the State of California; and to all others who so wholeheartedly gave of their time and ability, our sincere thanks and appreciation for the generous manner in which they, and each of them, have co-operated and contributed toward making this, our Twentieth Annual National Convention, such an unparalleled success.

"It is our desire that this resolution be made a part of the permanent record of the Convention, as an indication of our appreciation, and we further direct that a copy of this resolution be sent to each of the appropriate organizations and persons for their efforts on behalf of the Convention."

Employment Service

"WHEREAS, employment is one of the major activities of The American Legion and is also one of the most serious problems confronting the Federal Government, and

"WHEREAS, Public Employment Offices have been established in the larger cities of the United States and are called upon to serve employer and employee, veteran and civilian,

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention Assembled, that we favor the retention of the United States Employment Service and the Veterans' Placement Service, as now constituted; that we oppose the transfer of these services to any other governmental agency; and further that we urge Congress to provide sufficient funds for the continuance and the proper operation of same."

Preference to Citizens in Employment

"WHEREAS, early application for naturalization is the most practical evidence of an alien's fitness to remain in the United States; and

"WHEREAS, great numbers of aliens, because of their unwillingness, indifference, or ignorance, remain in this country for long terms of years with no apparent intention of becoming citizens; thus casting doubt on the desirability of their continued residence; and

"WHEREAS, these alien residents in many cases profit from remunerative employment
while many worthy citizens, both native and naturalized, suffer from their inability to find such employment, and

"WHEREAS, preference in employment is the most practical recognition that can be given to native citizens, naturalized citizens, and such aliens as manifest their eagerness to assume the duties and obligations of citizenship by applying for naturalization;

"BE IT RESOLVED: That all employers of whatever character, including Federal, State, and local governments be urged to recognize the aforesaid principle of preference to citizens."

Employment Program

"RESOLVED, that we approve the following as a proposed National Employment Program of the American Legion for 1938-1939.

1. That employment and Veterans preference should be a part of the major legislative program of The American Legion.

2. Continue and increase our efforts and our National campaign for the re-employment of men over forty.

3. Urge a rigid enforcement and extension of Civil Service to all positions of the Federal, State, and Municipal Services with adequate preference for Veterans.

4. Continue the use of the National Field Service in aid of our employment program.

5. Conduct an appropriate National program looking to the employment of Veterans over forty."

Congratulations to General Pershing

"RESOLVED, that the Twentieth National Convention of The American Legion extends to our Honorary National Commander, the distinguished leader of the American Expeditionary Forces, General John J. Pershing, our most sincere and warmest greetings.

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Commander cable General Pershing in Paris the foregoing expressions, with the best wishes of the convention for his health and happiness."

Compensated Veterans and Relief

Employment

"WHEREAS, many of our comrades are drawing disability compensation in amounts less than the prevailing security wages paid by the W.P.A., and other governmental relief agencies, and

"WHEREAS, such Veterans are oftines denied the benefits of such public employment or relief, because of the receipt of such disability compensation,

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Executive Committee be urged to consider at its November meeting such plan of action that will guarantee to disabled Veterans the same amount of assistance either through public employment or by relief as is given to other needy citizens who are not Veterans."

Commemorative Stamp

"RESOLVED, that the American Legion in Convention assembled recommend to the Post-Master General of the United States the issuance of a commemorative stamp upon

the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice."

Assignment of Resolutions

"WHEREAS, all National Convention Mandates are expressed by convention approval after proper presentation to, and deliberation by the delegates to such National Convention, and

"WHEREAS, the National Resolutions Assignment Committee is charged with the duty of referring to convention committees the hundreds of resolutions that have received the approval of the various department conventions, and

"WHEREAS, a survey and study of the resolutions so assigned in the past several years discloses that many resolutions involving matters of general public or Legion policy have been referred to convention committees whose function is primarily to formulate an appropriate program of action in a particular phase of Legion activity, and

"WHEREAS, many such resolutions of policy have been contained in the several reports of these types of convention committees,

"BE IT RESOLVED, that hereafter all such resolutions involving general public or Legion policy be referred by the Resolutions Assignment Committee to the National Convention Committee on Resolutions, to the end that the delegates may have the advantage of the deliberations of such resolutions separate from the consideration of technical and special phases of Legion activity."

Death of General Westover

"WHEREAS, God, the Almighty Commander has summoned Major General Oscar Westover to His immortal realms, and

"WHEREAS, the pain and grief occasioned by his untimely death are softened by our faith in the unlimited wisdom of Almighty God, and

"WHEREAS, General Westover was in the best sense a fine soldier and gentleman, contributing greatly to the cause of military aviation.

"THEREFORE, be it resolved, that The American Legion, in National Convention assembled do on this the 21st day of September 1938 go on record as expressing its profound sorrow for his loss, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the members of his family."

Hurricane

"WHEREAS, during the past few days a hurricane struck the northeastern seaport of our country, killing scores and injuring hundreds of others and causing millions of dollars of damage.

"BE IT RESOLVED, that this Twentieth Annual National Convention of The American Legion instruct the incoming National Commander to extend every possible facility of The American Legion to the stricken area."

Salvation Army—"Ma" Sheppard

"WHEREAS the Salvation Army with the able leadership of all of its officers and

"WHEREAS the Salvation Army with the able leadership of all of its officers and
members, and particularly with the able leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Mary J. Sheppard, rendered to our comrades unselfish and untiring aid, 

"AND WHEREAS Lieutenant Colonel Mary J. Sheppard, known to us as 'Ma' Sheppard at the age of 72 has been retired, and with the able services to us by 'Ma' Sheppard has not lessened with time and The American Legion in National Convention assembled extend to 'Ma' Sheppard and her Salvation Army undiminished love."

**Death of Addison L. Spenny**

WHEREAS, it has pleased God, the Father Almighty, Creator and Ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, to summon His servant and our Comrade, Addison L. Spenny, whom He has called out of this world, now, therefore, be it 

"RESOLVED, That while cherishing the memory of his service among men, we commend his spirit unto God in the hope that eternal rest may be granted him, and be it further" 

"RESOLVED, That as a mark of our common sorrow, a copy of this resolution be presented to his family."

The report was adopted. 

The pen with which President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Act of Congress making Armistice Day a national holiday was presented to The American Legion by Congressman B. W. Gearhart of California. National Commander Doherty accepted the pen on behalf of the national organization of The American Legion.

**REPORT OF LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

Frank L. Pinola, Chairman, of Pennsylvania, reported as follows: 

"To the Twentieth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1938. 

Thirty-two members of your Committee on National Legislation met at 3 p.m. and 9:30 a.m., September 20th and 21st, 1938, in Committee Room Bowl in the Biltmore Hotel and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:"

"(1) A RESOLUTION providing for the payment of adjusted compensation to the Provisional Officers who served during the World War."

"(2) A RESOLUTION providing that Provisional Officers shall be eligible to the right and benefits of the Disabled Emergency Officers Act."

"(3) A RESOLUTION providing restoration to the Disabled Emergency Officers Retired List of those officers disabled in line of duty, regardless of the 'causative factor'."

"(4) A RESOLUTION providing for increase of the quota of World War Veterans in the Civilian Conservation Corps from 25,000 to 50,000."

"(5) Three RESOLUTIONS, Nos. 73, 99 and 488, dealing with the question of employment, were referred to the National Executive Committee for the reason that they do not require National Legislative action.

"(6) A number of RESOLUTIONS dealing with the subject of Civil Service preference for Veterans, were consolidated into the following RESOLUTION:"

"BE IT RESOLVED: By The American Legion in National Convention assembled, at Los Angeles, California, 

"THAT in view of the continued acuteness of the employment situation so far as Veterans are concerned, and in view of the progress made toward favorable action by Congress, on the subject of Veterans' preference in Federal employment, the American Legion reaffirms, and continues its present policy on this subject, and will continue to strive for the attainment of Veterans' preference by legislation."

"(7) A number of Resolutions were before your Committee relative to the so-called Ludlow Amendment, before Congress during the past session, which provides for a vote by the electorate on the question of a Declaration of War, and these were consolidated into the following RESOLUTION:"

"BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled, at Los Angeles, California, 

"THAT we oppose any change in the present method as provided in the Constitution of the United States relative to the question of a Declaration of War." * * * * * * 

**Universal Service**

"Resolution on Universal Service:

"Whereas, the existing international situation is again threatening the peace of the world to such a extent that it behooves this representative gathering of American citizens to take cognizance thereof; and 

"WHEREAS, The American Legion has continuously, since its organization, advocated a Universal Service Act, providing for the draft of capital, industry and man power, as well as men to fight in the event of a national emergency or actual war; and 

"WHEREAS, The American Legion feels that the enactment of this principle into law will be a most effective contribution to the promotion and preservation of peace:"

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the 20th National convention of The American Legion demands that the principle of Universal Service be again presented to the forthcoming session of the Congress as a major point in the legislative program of this organization to the end that immediate action may be had thereon, so that the principle of 'equal service for all, special profits and privileges for none' may be enacted by the Congress and approved by the President in advance of any national emergency or war.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we re-iterate our approval of the Sheppard-May Bill now before the Congress."
Adjusted Compensation Act to Include Provisional Officers

"WHEREAS, tens of thousands of former Junior Officers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps have received the benefits of the World War Adjusted Compensation Act by reason of their service as Reserve, Emergency, or National Guard Officers during the World War; and

"WHEREAS, comparatively few Junior Officers have been deprived of the benefits of this Act by reason of their service as commissioned officers of the Regular Army, Navy or Marine Corps during the World War; and

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled, that the National Legislative Committee be instructed to have introduced in Congress an amendment to the Adjusted Compensation Act that will provide that all Provisional Officers who served as such during the World War be eligible to receive the same benefits under this Act as other Officers holding temporary commissions during the emergency, irrespective of the date of separation from service."

Provisional Officers Be Eligible to Benefits of the Disabled Emergency Officers Act

"WHEREAS, tens of thousands of former Junior Officers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps have received the benefits of the World War Adjusted Compensation Act by reason of their service as Reserve, Emergency, or National Guard Officers during the World War, and

"WHEREAS, comparatively few Junior Officers have been deprived of the benefits of this Act by reason of their service as commissioned officers of the regular Army, Navy or Marine Corps during the World War; and

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The American Legion favors granting to provisional officers of the World War all of the rights and benefits that disabled Emergency Officers of the World War are entitled to receive."

Causative Factor in Retirement of Disabled Emergency Officers

"WHEREAS, the Tyson-Fitzgerald Act was passed in 1928 granting certain retirement privileges to emergency officers on the same basis as the retirement privileges of the officers of the regular Army, and

"WHEREAS, by the Economy Act passed in 1933 the benefits awarded to emergency officers were limited and restricted by the strict interpretation of Section 10 of said Act by the Veterans Administration, and

"WHEREAS; the interpretation by the Veterans Administration of the 'causative factor' has stricken from the rolls many emergency officers entitled to the benefits of the Tyson-Fitzgerald Act; that the interpretation of 'causative factor' is unjust and unreasonable in that no human being can determine the actual moment a disease germ entered one's system, whether it originated while the officer was on the drill field, in the trenches or in his quarters, and

"WHEREAS, in the recent session of Congress a Bill was passed and approved by both Houses of Congress as an interpretative amendment, liberalizing the interpretation of the Veterans Administration as to those who are suffering from disease incurred in line of duty during war service, and whose permanent disabilities average more than sixty percent as rated by the Veterans Administration; and said interpretative Bill as vetoed by the President,

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The American Legion heartily endorses and approves legislation tending to restore to the retirement lists those emergency officers who were disabled in line of duty regardless of 'causative factor' "

Increase of Veterans in Civilian Conservations Corps to 50,000

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twentieth Annual Convention of The American Legion in Los Angeles, California, September 19, 20, 21, 22, 1938, does hereby respectfully request that the quota for World War Veterans in the Civilian Conservation Corps be increased from 25,000 to 50,000."

Honorable Discharge in Lieu of Birth Certificate for Employment on WPA Projects

"WHEREAS, under the present regulations a veteran is required to present a copy of his birth certificate before he can be employed on WPA projects; and

"WHEREAS, many veterans are unable to obtain such copies for various reasons, either because no records were kept, or they have been destroyed by fire; therefore

"BE IT RESOLVED that The American Legion, Department of New Hampshire, in Convention assembled, go on record as favoring a change in the regulations so that an honorable discharge from the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps for service during the period of any war in which this country has participated, be accepted in lieu of a birth certificate; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the National Convention with a recommendation that it be passed by that body."

WPA Project Discrimination Against Veterans Receiving Disability Compensation

"WHEREAS, The Veterans who receive compensation for partial disability have been refused certification to give them a right to work on WPA projects; and

"WHEREAS, Such veterans are discriminated against because they are not permitted certification on WPA Projects;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That The American Legion in 20th annual National Convention assembled in Los Angeles, September 19, 20, 21 and 22, take proper steps to see that the WPA terminate immediately such discrimination against the veterans receiving compensation for partial disability."
Veterans Eligible for Post Office Inspector, Regardless of Age

"WHEREAS, A recent announcement by the Post Master General of qualifications for the appointment to position of Post Office Inspector, restricted applicants to the age limits of 25 to 35 years of age; and

"WHEREAS, It has been the policy of the Post Office Department as expressed in various executive orders now included in the Postal Laws and Regulations, to waive age limits in the case of veterans applying for positions in the postal establishment; and

"WHEREAS, The application of the 25 to 35 year restriction in the case of veterans applying for examination for Post Office Inspector, would preclude the possibility of any veteran of the late war receiving any consideration;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

"RESOLVED: that we recommend Legislation, or if legislation be not necessary, then an order issued by the proper officials of the United States Government, making veterans of the World War eligible to make application (provided they are otherwise qualified) for the position of Post Office Inspector, regardless of age."

Civil Service Preference for Veterans

"BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled at Los Angeles, California, that in view of the continued acuteness of the employment situation so far as Veterans are concerned, and in view of the progress made toward favorable action by Congress on the subject of Veterans’ preference in Federal employment, The American Legion reaffirms, and continues its present policy on this subject, and will continue to strive for the attainment of veterans’ preference by legislation."

Ludlow Amendment

"BE IT RESOLVED by The American Legion in National Convention assembled at Los Angeles, California, that we oppose any change in the present method as provided in the Constitution of the United States relative to the Declaration of War."

Alaskan Fisheries

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Twentieth Annual Convention of The American Legion held at Los Angeles, California, September 18, 20, 21, 22, 1938, instruct its Legislative Committee to immediately contact the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and insist that said Committee introduce and press for passage at the next session of Congress suitable Federal laws that will preserve our Alaskan Fisheries for the citizens of the United States."

The report was adopted.

TROPHY AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

National Adjutant Frank Samuel reported as follows:

The Hanford MacNider Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department that has the highest percentage of members for the period October 20 to December 31 of each year, as compared with the total number of members in said Department on December 31 of the year just then closing.
Winner: Department of Wisconsin—percentage 95.59.

The Alvin M. Owsley Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department having the highest percentage of membership on January 31, as compared with the average membership for the four preceding years.
Winner: Department of Wisconsin—percentage 105.68.

The John G. Emery Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department having the highest percentage of membership on January 1 of each year to March 1, as compared with the total number of members in said Department on December 31 of the preceding year.
Winner: Department of Wisconsin—percentage 107.02.

The Henry D. Lindsley Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department having the highest percentage of membership for the period January 1 of each year to March 1, as compared with the total number of members in said Department on December 31 of the preceding year.
Winner: Department of Wisconsin—percentage 100.13.

The General Henri Gouraud Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department first exceeding its membership quota as assigned by National Headquarters of The American Legion.
Winner: Department of Wisconsin—December 2, 1937.

The North Carolina Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department first exceeding its membership quota as assigned by National Headquarters of The American Legion.
Winner: Department of Puerto Rico—percentage 109.41.

The O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department within the continental limits of the
United States designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.

Winner: Department of Mississippi—percentage 141.17.

The John R. Quinn Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department having the highest percentage of membership on June 15, as compared with the average membership for the four preceding years.

Winner: Department of Mississippi—percentage 141.16.

The Henry L. Stevens, Jr. Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department within the continental limits of the United States attaining the highest percentage of its membership quota at the time of the Annual National Telegraphic Roll Call, as finally confirmed.

Winner: Department of Wisconsin—percentage 100.36—December 20, 1937.

100% Membership Honor Plates
Awarded annually to each Department of The American Legion attaining 100% or over of its preceding year’s membership, same to be calculated thirty days prior to the National Convention.

1. Puerto Rico ........................................... 141.67
2. Mexico .................................................. 139.05
3. France .................................................. 130.43
4. Mississippi ............................................ 118.30
5. Hawaii ................................................... 116.28
6. Texas .................................................... 114.85
7. New Hampshire ........................................ 113.55
8. Florida .................................................. 111.34
9. Louisiana ............................................... 110.27
10. Arizona ............................................... 109.92
11. New Mexico ......................................... 109.53
12. Oklahoma ............................................. 109.07
13. District of Columbia ................................ 107.41
14. Maryland .............................................. 105.83
15. California ............................................ 105.58
16. Wisconsin ............................................ 103.96
17. Italy ................................................... 103.25
18. Nevada ................................................ 103.24
19. Panama ............................................... 102.09
20. New York ............................................. 101.47
21. Colorado ............................................. 101.48
22. Montana .............................................. 101.11
23. Georgia ............................................... 100.70
24. Arkansas ............................................. 100.42
25. Washington ........................................... 100.09
26. Wyoming ............................................. 100.09

The Howard P. Savage Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the Junior Baseball Team which becomes the Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion “Little World Series.”

Winner: Department of California (San Diego Post No. 6, San Diego, California).

The Franklin D’Olier Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department attaining the highest percentage of eligible ex-service men in said Department for the period January 1st of each year to that day that is thirty days prior to the National Convention.

Winner: Department of Arizona—percentage 42.80.

The Dan Sowers Junior Baseball Trophy
Awarded annually to that department which has the greatest percentage of increase of Junior Baseball Teams, as compared with the number of Junior Baseball Teams in the same department one year previous.

Winner: Department of New Mexico.

The Ralph T. O’Neil Education Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department, within the continental limits of the United States, showing greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards.

Winner: Department of Pennsylvania.

The Paul V. McNutt National Postal Rifle Match Trophy
Awarded annually to that team winning the annual National Postal Rifle Match.

Winner: Akron Post No. 209, Akron, Ohio.

The Milton J. Foreman Rifle Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department winning the Annual Inter-Department Rifle Match at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Winner: Department of California.

Sons of American Legion Rifle Team Match
Awarded annually to that team winning the National Sons of American Legion Team Match.

Winner: Hill Emery Squadron No. 37, Quincy, Illinois, S.A.L.

The Frederick W. Galbraith Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department having present and participating in the convention parade, members of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary from said Department making the greatest aggregate travel or mileage to the convention city.

Winner: Department of Massachusetts (5,700,000 miles).

The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy
Awarded annually to that Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the period August 1 to August 1 to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Winner: Department of California.
The John R. McQuigg Trophy  
Awarded annually to that team winning the Fidac Post Team Match.  
Winner: Akron Post No. 209, Akron, Ohio.

The Glen R. Hills Trophy  
Awarded annually to that Color Guard winning first place in competition with all other Color Guards during the Annual National Convention of The American Legion.  
Winner: East Orange Post No. 73, Irvington, New Jersey.

The Cleveland National Convention Trophy  
Awarded annually to that Sons of American Legion Drum, Fife and Bugle Corps winning first place in competition with all other Sons of American Legion Drum Corps during the Annual National Convention of The American Legion.  
Winner: Baldwin Patterson Squadron No. 274, Des Moines, Iowa.

The James A. Drain Trophy  
Awarded annually to that department of The American Legion showing the most consistent service to the community, state and national, throughout the year, providing the membership of that department shall be no less than eighty per cent of the membership of the preceding year.  
Winner: Department of Iowa.

The National Service Trophy  
Awarded annually to that Department of The American Legion excelling in Welfare Work for World War Veterans, providing the membership of that Department shall be no less than 80% of the membership of the preceding year.  
Winner: Department of Illinois.

The Lemuel Bolles Trophy  
Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the Annual National Convention of The American Legion.  
Winner: Zane-Irwin Post No. 93, San Francisco, California.

The Russell G. Creviston Trophy  
Awarded annually to that Drum Corps winning first prize in competition with all other Drum Corps during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.  

The Miami Trophy  
Awarded annually to that Drum Corps winning first prize in competition with all other Drum Corps during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.  

Milton J. Foreman Trophy  
(Boys and Girls Work)  
Awarded annually to that department of The American Legion which shall have done the most for the boys and girls of America.  
Winner: Department of California.

Post History Contest for 1938  
First Place: Binghampton Post No. 80, Binghampton, New York, Edward J. Moran, Historian.  
Second Place: Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post No. 1, Denver, Colorado, Mrs. Fiesta B. Markham, Historian.  
Third Place: Hanson Post No. 54, Amarillo, Texas, Caroline A. Wilcox, Historian.  
Honorable Mention:  
Fairfield Post No. 137, Fairfield, Alabama, Mrs. Russell F. Whiting, Historian.  
Ashing Post No. 213, Wellsburg, Iowa, C. W. Ross, Historian.  
The report was adopted.

CHADWICK ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION  
Harry Lawton, Commander of Washington, nominated Stephen F. Chadwick for National Commander. The convention adopted a motion to close the nominations; suspended the rules of the convention; and elected Stephen F. Chadwick, of Seattle, Washington, National Commander by acclamation.

ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE  
Immediately following his election National Commander Stephen F. Chadwick addressed the delegates and visitors to the convention.  
His remarks were as follows:  
"Comrade National Commander, and my Comrades of The American Legion:  
"I assure you that I am sensible of the high responsibility which you have given me as your leader for the ensuing year.  
"I appreciate the personal compliment which has been paid me by those fine men who came to this convention with the endorsement of their departments for the office of National Commander. Their course in withdrawing from the race was not only gratifying to me personally, but was a compliment to all of our western departments.  
"For God and Country we are associated, and for them we will carry on.  
"The mandates of this convention are my orders for the ensuing year. With your help the things which you desire will be accomplished if it is within the power of a million men organized to accomplish them.  
"Our disabled comrades of the World War will continue to be our first concern.  
"Our interest in the welfare of the children of America will be unabating.  
"It is my hope that with our membership for the ensuing year established by Armistice Day, we may be in a position to devote our energies to the Legion's constructive program.
"The time has come when we as Americans should abandon the thought of a defensive course with reference to the "isms" which beset our land, and step out with an offensive which will make the privilege of being an American citizen the most highly respected privilege which can be obtained by a free man.

"The world has had its eyes on this convention of ours; not alone the people of our great, free republic, but the suppressed, the regimented, the driven peoples of other lands want to know the thought of the Legion upon the problem which exists in the peace of the world.

"From its inception The American Legion has pledged itself to promote peace and good will on earth. As we look upon a world of strife about us, we renew that pledge.

"We believe that a strong man, well armed, keepeth the peace, and for that reason we pledge anew the strength of the Legion to maintain the national defense of our country.

"We believe that our country can be kept from involvement in other peoples' strife and we propose out of our experience to counsel and advise the citizenry of America to the end that America will keep the peace, and by example afford to the other nations of the earth the hope that through democracy and democratic institutions the world may some day reach the goal of peace.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the Legion, I am at your service."

**ADDRESS OF MRS. JAMES MORRIS**

Mrs. James Morris, of North Dakota, the new elected President of The American Legion Auxiliary, was introduced to the convention and addressed it briefly as follows:

"Mr. National Commander, my National President, and Gentlemen of The American Legion: Your American Legion Auxiliary comes to renew its allegiance to you, whom we believe to be the greatest patriotic organization in the world today, which includes those of all races, classes and creeds, with only those who have proven loyalty to their country, who have proven comradeship to each other, and who place the creed of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man supreme; whose ritual of organization was written upon the battlefields of the World War, but whose contribution is a preface to American citizenship and covers everything that this nation has been and hopes to be and which ever reflects the one word, 'For God and country.'

"Proud to share in your name and your sacred cause, we come to pledge to you our continued joyous cooperation in those obligations which you will here reassume as you begin a new era of American Legion history, seeking today's continuance to tomorrow's expansion of our vast program of service, and inspired by those great and noble ideals which are the greatest stabilizing influence in the harassed and troubled thought in America today. I know it shall continue for all time, your glorious task, with the anticipated majesty of her future.

"Proving our great heritage, believing the righteousness of your cause, and confident in your strength, we shall go forward determined to exemplify those ideals of service which you desire to be consummated by your American Legion Auxiliary.

"My personal gratitude to you for your graciousness to me, and my assurance of the pride and joy which is mine to serve with you and for you this year as your National President.

"And may I pledge to your new Commander my sincerest cooperation in all the fine service which will be our immediate heritage as we begin a new year of service following in the footsteps of your fine National Commander Doherty."

**ELECTION OF VICE COMMANDERS**

The following were elected as National Vice Commanders for 1938-39:

- Edward J. Quinn of Portland, Maine.
- Earl T. Ross of Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Charles W. Crush of Christiansburg, Virginia.
- James T. Crawley of Kosciusko, Mississippi.

**NATIONAL CHAPLAIN**

Rev. Dr. Jerome L. Fritsche of Kearney, Nebraska, was elected National Chaplain.

The convention adjourned at 1:30 p. m.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
of the
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
for the
Period Ending July 31, 1938

THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

ANALYSIS OF SURPLUS
Year Ended July 31, 1938

Balance, August 1, 1937 ............................... $378,156.12

Additions:
Excess of income over expense, year ended July 31, 1938—exhibit A ......................... $175,839.90
Contingent reserve for Indiana gross income tax on interstate sales set up during 1937 .... 3,676.72 179,516.62

Deductions:
Transfer to restricted fund by action of National Finance Committee ....................... 147,335.94

Balance, July 31, 1938—exhibit B ..................... $410,336.80

Exhibit C
### The American Legion, National Headquarters

#### Statement of Financial Condition

**at July 31, 1938**

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash on Deposit and on Hand:</strong></td>
<td>$482,952.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at American National Bank at Indianapolis</td>
<td>$109,008.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Indiana National Bank, Indianapolis</td>
<td>$108,759.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Riggs National Bank, Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of deposit</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash funds and deposits</td>
<td>$12,685.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes and Accounts Receivable:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes receivable</td>
<td>$4,035.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>$22,402.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks returned by banks</td>
<td>$44.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inventories:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper and manuscript inventories</td>
<td>$62,901.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emblem merchandise</td>
<td>$34,116.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emblem merchandise—consigned</td>
<td>$1,101.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investments:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve fund investments at amortized cost—schedule B-1 (market $1,158,856.53)</td>
<td>$1,186,649.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted fund investments at amortized cost—schedule B-2 (market $323,733.42)</td>
<td>$327,716.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilfred Rae—Child Welfare fund</td>
<td>$610.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Cash on deposit in general fund</td>
<td>$70.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Irrevocable Trust:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments in U.S. government obligations at amortized cost</td>
<td>$192,020.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in special deposit</td>
<td>$7,523.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total fund (contra):</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fund</td>
<td>$199,544.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Improved Real Estate:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office building—Rehabilitation division—at cost</td>
<td>$132,764.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduct: Reserve for depreciation</td>
<td>$7,166.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equipment—schedule B-3:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and fixtures</td>
<td>$151,234.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduct: Reserve for depreciation</td>
<td>$119,155.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred Charges—schedule B-4:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,701,233.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Certificate

We have made an examination of the statement of financial condition of The American Legion, National Headquarters, as at July 31, 1938, and of the statements of income and surplus for the year ended July 31, 1938. In connection therewith, we examined or tested accounting records of the organization and other supporting evidence, and obtained information and explanations from officers and employees of the organization; we also made a general review of the accounting methods and of the operating and income accounts for the year, but we did not make a detailed audit of the transactions.

Indianapolis, Ind.
August 12, 1938.
THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
at July 31, 1938

LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts Payable:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade accounts payable</td>
<td>28,681.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued social security tax</td>
<td>2,242.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$30,923.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Liabilities:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The American Legion 1938 Convention Corporation</td>
<td>21,996.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emblem merchandise undelivered</td>
<td>4,954.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department credits</td>
<td>654.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Other Liabilities</td>
<td>27,606.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restricted Funds:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior baseball</td>
<td>16,831.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency relief fund</td>
<td>10,103.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilfred Rae—Child Welfare fund</td>
<td>610.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. H. Sulzberger—Child Welfare fund</td>
<td>699.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds restricted for Rehabilitation and Child Welfare— schedule B-5</td>
<td>389.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Restricted Funds</td>
<td>28,633.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irrevocable Trust:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Graves Decoration Trust (contra)</td>
<td>199,544.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deferred Income:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allocated dues unearned:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The American Legion Magazine</td>
<td>246,544.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Legionnaire</td>
<td>39,041.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legion Heir</td>
<td>3,156.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consigned emblem sales</td>
<td>1,101.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deferred Income</td>
<td>289,843.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Worth:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted capital:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve fund—schedule B-1</td>
<td>$1,186,649.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted fund—schedule B-2</td>
<td>527,716.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Restricted Capital</td>
<td>1,714,366.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted capital:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted surplus—exhibit C</td>
<td>410,336.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Worth</td>
<td>2,124,702.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In our opinion, based upon such examination, the foregoing statement of financial condition and related statements of income and surplus fairly present, in accordance with accepted principles of accounting consistently maintained by The American Legion, National Headquarters, during the year under review, its position at July 31, 1938, and the results of its operations for the year ended at that date.

Geo. B. Oliver, Jr.
Certified Public Accountants.
# Statement of Income and Expense

**The American Legion, National Headquarters**

**Statement of Income and Expense**,

**Year Ended July 31, 1938**

## Income:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National dues</td>
<td>$241,439.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sons of The American Legion dues</td>
<td>7,897.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings—reserve fund investment</td>
<td>30,993.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings—general fund</td>
<td>6,899.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net earnings</strong></td>
<td><strong>$287,230.05</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications division—exhibit D</td>
<td>147,020.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emblem division—exhibit G</td>
<td>62,084.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$309,804.45</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expense—Schedule A-1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>113,179.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americanism</td>
<td>26,351.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative</td>
<td>20,050.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>20,384.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>24,126.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership cards</td>
<td>6,471.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>99,239.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>192,896.66</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Other Income:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash discounts on purchases</td>
<td>384.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-divisional interest—Emblem inventory</td>
<td>1,312.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from foreign pilgrimage</td>
<td>3,809.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>859.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,366.05</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Deductions From Income:

| Description                                                      | Amount          |
|                                                               |                 |
| Rehabilitation in excess of available funds                    | 15,102.21       |
| Water damage to stock in basement                              | 1,047.14        |
| Special Rehabilitation service—American Legion Welfare Bureau Inc., Rochester, Minn. | 600.00          |
| Prior years expense                                            | 203.79          |
| Adjustment of supply inventory                                 | 103.62          |
| **Total Deductions**                                          | **17,056.76**   |

## Excess of Income Over Expense—exhibit C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Income Over Expense</td>
<td>$175,839.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibit A
# INDEX

## ADDRESSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor Frank F. Merriam</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otto J. Emme</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Quinn</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph S. Long</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank N. Belgrano, Jr.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Malcolm Douglas</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred G. Fraser</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hon. David I. Walsh</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Rivollet</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. Frank Persons</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James A. Drain</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brigadier-General Frank T. Hines</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reuben T. Shaw</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owen A. Galvin</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen F. Chadwick</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. James Morris</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION

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## INVITATIONS

Page 14

## GREETINGS PRESENTED

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## REPORT OF DANIEL J. DOHERTY

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## PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE

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## GREETINGS FROM GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING

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## MEMORIAL SERVICE

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## ELECTION OF NATIONAL COMMANDER

Page 59

## ELECTION OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS

Page 60

## ELECTION OF NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Page 60

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Page 61

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Organization</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credentials Committee</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules Committee</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional Amendments Committee (First Reading)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americanism Committee</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Welfare Committee</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense Committee</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Relations Committee</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Organization Committee</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislation Committee</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation Committee</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolutions Committee</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention Liaison Committee</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education of War Orphans Committee</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional Amendments Committee (Final Reading)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trophy and Awards Committee</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>