Summary of

PROCEEDINGS

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL
NATIONAL CONVENTION

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
September 30, October 1, 2, 3, 4, 1946
FOREWORD

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 résumé, in as small space as possible, of what officially took place at the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention in San Francisco, California, September 30, October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946.

The financial statement of the National Organization for the period ending July 31, 1946, 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.

Donald G. Flanagan
National Adjutant.
The Twenty-eighth annual National Convention of The American Legion convened at 12:01 p. m. in Exposition Auditorium, San Francisco, California, September 30, 1946, National Commander John Stelle, presiding.

Commander Stelle called National Chaplain Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith to deliver the invocation then had the colors advanced, after which Morton Downey sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

On a motion from the floor, the reading of the minutes of the previous convention was suspended.

Before the meeting The American Legion Memorial Band, Harwood Post No. 8, Joliet, Illinois, played several selections.

ADJUTANT GLASCOFF: I would like to introduce to the delegates of this convention the man who has worked so hard and has done such a fine job in putting on this fine convention, Ed Sharkey of California.

WELCOME BY NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Edward J. Sharkey, Chairman

Commander Stelle, Distinguished Guests, Members of The American Legion. Members of the American Legion Auxiliary: It is my pleasure to present to you the sentiments of your local convention committee. I can assure you that your convention committee has worked long and hard hours.

We feel that we have arranged for you a program of entertainment that will keep you well occupied during your stay in San Francisco. We will continue to stand by to help you in every way we can. Thank you.

... Miscellaneous announcements ...

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: It is my privilege and pleasure to present at this time one who has earned his place in The American Legion on the World War I battlefields of France. As company commander in the 305th Infantry, 77th Division, and later chief of transportation for the Food Relief Administrator in London, he started a chain of services to God and country which stands unbroken today. A highly successful shipping executive, he is now the dynamic mayor of America's hospitality city. Without his cooperation, this convention could not have been held. I am privileged to present a fellow Legionnaire and a grand host, the Honorable Roger D. Lapham, mayor of San Francisco.

REMARKS OF MAYOR ROGER D. LAPHAM OF SAN FRANCISCO

During the 20's and 30's, when the mayor of the city fortunate enough to be chosen for the national convention of The American Legion greeted the delegates, joy, conviviality and the warm handshake of good fellowship reigned supreme.

Today as I greet you in the name of all the people of this city—though the warmth of our welcome is by no means lessened—yet the problems confronting us give pause for thought.

The last time you men gathered in this city—1923—you knew that a great victory had been achieved.

The peace terms of this country and the nations of the world had been almost completed.

Today—though the last shot in World War II was fired over a year ago—the war has not yet ended.

This world of ours is faced with problems unequalled, any time in our history.

Since 1918 new philosophies of government have been born and reared, and now of some of them, we fervently hope, are dead.

The commercial intercourse of the world has been upset and uprooted until today we face the problem of establishing new patterns.

Little better than a year ago there was born in this very city—yes, within a block of this building—the United Nations.

It came into being in the midst of the friendly relationships victory always brings.

Yet—though more than a year has passed, the implementing of the United Nations Charter seems farther away than it did on its birthday.

Suspicion, prejudice, misunderstanding, bluffing, jockeying for position, pulling and hauling—all these things apparently are going on in the council chambers from whence a year ago we expected a formula for peace.

So today, my comrades of the Legion, we look to a future that is as uncertain as it was in the midst of warfare.

Remember, however, that the sole hope for that future rests within the United Nations organization.

We here at home and particularly you men who have earned the right to demand a just and lasting peace must give voice to our feelings regarding that future.

After all, governmental authority comes from you, the people.

Governmental policy should be established as a result of your thinking through your representatives in government.

I have said before—and I say again—that the greatest responsibility of the individual in this country is to see to it that capable men are elected to the positions of trust in government.

Too many people take government for granted.

Too many people manifest a woeful lack of interest in government—and, after all, business and
NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: It is my privilege at this time to present to this opening session of The American Legion convention, one whose fame is far-reaching as leader of a vast expanse of our nation, a native Oaklander, across the Bay, an active Legionnaire. He arose from the District Attorneyship of Alameda County to his present position as Governor of this great key state. Always he has championed the veterans. In the California primaries last June he received the nomination of the political parties of all of us for re-election. There is a measure of a man. I am happy and honored to present at this time the Honorable Earl Warren, Legionnaire delegate of California.

GREETINGS FROM EARL WARREN
Governor of California

Comrade National Commander, Distinguished Guests, Officers and Delegates of the convention: My Comrades of The American Legion: I am happy to welcome all of you to all of California, and specifically to join with Mayor Lapham in welcoming you to the City of San Francisco which, for a hundred years, has been a cross-road for world travelers and which love, as much as any place on earth, to entertain and make visitors happy. I welcome you because you come not only for a good time which, in itself, is an important thing, but also for a very serious American purpose. As important as The American Legion has been in the life of our nation during the last quarter of a century, it is needed more than ever before in its history.

Its objectives to keep the United States of America, true to its democratic principles, enable national processes sound and healthy within and sufficiently strong in its relations with other nations to make "right master of might" in world affairs, as well as in our own domestic affairs, is the greatest need of this age in which we live. Totalitarianism did not die either on V-E Day or on V-J Day; its ghost still walks and takes various forms in different parts of the world. It is a bitter criticism we face the task of free government, and there are those, both at home and abroad, who, for this reason would gladly see us fall.

Our republic, therefore, and the democratic processes through which it functions are on trial, both at home and abroad. If we are to have the national strength that comes from a happy and united people we must satisfactorily solve, through these processes the problems inherent in the daily lives of our own people. If we are to maintain a true leadership in world affairs we must maintain ourselves sufficiently strong to insist that the principles upon which the world can remain at peace shall supersede the gratification of every selfish interest which eventually would lead to war.

My association with The American Legion for over a quarter of a century leads me to the conclusion that this is the ideal which brings you here; I also believe that you can be the greatest force in America to accomplish this purpose. The reasoned judgment of the veterans of World War I, combined with the youth and spirit and determination of the millions of veterans of World War II, can accomplish for this nation any good purpose they set their minds and hearts to.

I particularly welcome our veterans of the late war to this, their first Legion convention, because I am sure it is but the beginning of an association which will grow in their affections and enrich their personal lives, as well as to be of great benefit to our country. I wish that you could have avoided some of the congestion that we have in California at the moment. Since the beginning of the war our population has increased by more than two million people. During the war there was no home building and since the war there has been only very little more. In a state that badly needs 600,000 new homes less than 25,000 have been completed since the first of the year. Tens of thousands of our California veterans, at the conclusion of the war, left fox holes in various parts of the world with the happy vision of a home and a fire side, only to find that they could neither rent nor buy one here in America. It is one of the anomalies of our age here in California, and I am sure it is the same in other states of the union, that we have the money, the contractors, some of the material, the needs and the desire for homes but black markets either prevent the starting of construction or leave ugly skeletons standing for months on end.

It seems incredible that a nation which was able to produce everything needed for the waging of a successful global war for our allies and ourselves is incapable, a year after the war, of turning out the material needed for the houses that our veterans must have in order to lead a normal life. It is not only the greatest paradox of the day—it is the great problem of the day. We have up-warped our offices for veterans under veterans of World War II in California today, more than 300,000 of whom are
from other states. We are ashamed that we have not been able to house them properly, but we have done everything within the jurisdiction of state and local government to stimulate home building. I know that this convention is concerned with the problem; I believe it can do much to solve it. Our best wishes and our cooperation are with you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: It is my pleasure to introduce a gentleman who has led the California Department to its most successful year, a Californian by adoption. He served as a first sergeant and fought in World War I and then in 1941 he returned and fought in World War II in the Marine Corps. He has added many new chapters to the department in his 25-year-old record. I am happy to present my fellow commander of 1945 and 1946, Irvin “Bob” Snyder, past commander of California.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME
BY IRVIN R. SNYDER
Past Department Commander of California

Seated in this great auditorium today are men and women who represent The American Legion for the year 1946 and '47. That short year has seen membership in The American Legion mushroom to more than three million three hundred thousand members as of August 31st. Almost seven thousand of you seated here represent that huge army. A majority of that army—and that includes many of you delegates—have served your country in World War II. I do not think it is ridiculous to say that a poll of this packed audience would prove there is no accessible spot on God's Green Earth that some of this group would not fill. Over fifty per cent of The Legion's membership are younger veterans. Many of them were not even born when this organization was chartered by Act of Congress in 1919. Some of you delegates are in that category. And it is the heritage of all those younger veterans to take full command of The American Legion in the not too distant future. That is why I am taking a short time to outline to all younger veterans some of the Legion's accomplishments during the past year, and I ask you to pass this message along.

Here in California, we have seen and have been the benefactors of activities which were started by many posts throughout the country. The same must be true in almost every state, county, city and hamlet. Let's look at the record as it affects this one state:

More veterans' hospitals.
More beds for sick veterans in existing Army and Navy facilities.
Passage of the terminal leave pay bill.
Increased allowances for widows and orphans.
But let us also examine The American Legion's record on behalf of devoted service to community, state and nation.

There is no Legion post in the nation that has not fostered some program to make its community a better place to live in. Posts have joined wholeheartedly with any worthwhile organization for the welfare of their community. In most instances, it has been the local post that has originated community betterment programs and carried them through to completion.

Let us analyze the far-reaching import of youth activities in every direction from Sloughewan to San Diego—from Puget Sound to Palm Beach.

Boy Scout activities, Junior Baseball, Boys' Clubs, Oratorical Contests, Boys' State and other constructive programs to help raise our youth in the American way of living—all have been Legion-born and Legion-sponsored. These youngsters do not forget such teachings. They sense, if they do not know—that such help has been born of a flame of patriotism which burns always in the heart of men and women Legionnaires who have fought and won the two most terrible wars of history.

We Legionnaires know that the American way of life must be protected and preserved—even if we have to fight again, and I do not have to say "we hope not." In this hour of trial, I ask that God grant The American Legion here assembled to be fortified with two necessary attributes.

One is—courage and will to demand of our representatives in the nation's capital and throughout the world that they preach the gospel of free men and women of the United States—the creed of the greatest democracy the world has ever seen.

Two—that our representatives see to it that there shall be no compromise with Communism or any other form of totalitarian government—much less any form of dictatorship no matter what form of government a dictator here might head.

The Department of California is not only proud, but honored, to have the 28th Annual Convention of The American Legion in San Francisco, and we welcome every delegate and every visitor to the city by the Golden Gate.

We know you'll carry home superlative descriptions of the bridges, the harbor, the parks, and the city that will make Chamber of Commerce promotional copy sound modest. I make that statement knowing that I am leaving myself wide open for criticism by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce (of which I'm a member) when I don't invite you to stop over there to enjoy the oranges and the climate.

Now, before I close, we of California must express our deepest appreciation to our great national commander, John Stelle.

By his courage and devotion to the cause of the sick and disabled—widows and orphans, the education of men and women who returned home from every corner of the world... he has taken his place among the great commanders of this organization.

His simplicity in presentation of the cardinal principles of The American Legion did much to endear him to the hearts of every citizen of the United States. The earnestness with which he presented the problems of veterans convinced everyone of the righteousness and soundness of our program, our policies and our principles.

He never promoted a trick program or a screwy economic theory to young veterans. His advice is as sound as the Rock of Gibraltar. His advice has been the advice of a good American promoting
the American Way of Life, nothing more, nothing less.

To you young men and women of the Legion, may I say frankly that everything you have and everything you will have in the way of future veterans' benefits will come through the efforts of three great veterans' organizations, "The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and The American Legion."

My comrades, it is not fashionable to be a Communist any more. Watch out for the reds who will operate from underground. Maintain our American Way of Life. It is yours to foster and perpetuate. Guard well your heritage lest you perish.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: It is now my pleasure to present to you one of the great commanders of The American Legion, who did such a wonderful job last year, Ed Scheiberling, to respond to the greeting. Commander Ed Scheiberling of New York.

RESPONSE TO ADDRESS OF WELCOME
Past National Commander Edward Scheiberling

Commander Stelle, Most Distinguished Guests, members of the American Legion Auxiliary, my comrades and our friends: I am most grateful to National Commander Stelle for affording me the opportunity of expressing to our distinguished guests, who have welcomed us here this morning, our own appreciation for the cordiality and the warmth of their greetings in welcoming us to California and to San Francisco.

We are grateful to His Excellency, the Governor of this great state, Earl Warren, for his splendid and patriotic American message to this historic occasion. We likewise appreciate the cordial and friendly greeting of His Honor, Roger Lapham, the mayor of this great city of San Francisco. We are likewise appreciative to Chairman Shurkey, the head of the committee which has done so much for our comfort and convenience during our stay here in California, and also to Commander Snyder, who led the great Department of California to new heights of accomplishment last year in bringing this great Department to a membership of 189,000, the highest ever attained.

Not only in membership has California been great, but likewise in advancing every portion of The American Legion program.

We of The Legion are happy to be here in California for a number of reasons: First, we were told that California is the land of perpetual sunshine. Let nobody say when they leave here that they were deceived by the people of California in that statement, not even those from Florida!

We are happy to be here too because California has given great leadership to The American Legion in the persons of those distinguished Past National Commanders, John Quinlan, Frank Belgrano, Warren Atherton.

American Legion conventions are not strange to people of California. You have entertained us on other occasions. We recall our visit to the city of San Francisco 23 years ago when the Legion was a young organization, not thoroughly organized, with a membership at that time of approximately 643,000. Then we came back to California to enjoy the hospitality of the city of Los Angeles in 1938, and none of us who were there will ever forget that great convention, and now we are back in California in 1946 to again enjoy the hospitality of the city of San Francisco—this time with a membership of 3,300,000 loyal American Legionnaires, the greatest patriotic organization in the United States today.

GREETINGS FROM HARRY S. TRUMAN
President of The United States

Dear Commander Stelle and Comrades: I wish to express my good wishes on the occasion of our Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention. As the Legion grows in numbers and importance, it also increases in responsibility and obligation to the nation. The American people have a right to expect the same patriotic service from the Legion which you gave in both World Wars.

I have complete faith in our organization.

Sincerely,

HARRY TRUMAN.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: It has been my good fortune during the past year to work on numerous occasions with the lady I am privileged to introduce. The growth and effectiveness of the Auxiliary of The American Legion during 1945-46 is the reflection of her charm and ability. A great worker, an inspiring leader—always gracious—she has championed the Legion as well as the Auxiliary with signal enthusiasm. We of The American Legion, while hailing her achievements, are resentful of the parade of hours which is bringing to an end her term of office. As president of the North Carolina Department for two years, member for two years of the Auxiliary’s National Executive Committee, director of the organization’s work for the welfare of veterans’ children, and a long-time servant of the Red Cross, she has logged an enviable record of service to God and country. I am honored to present to you now the national president of the American Legion Auxiliary—Mrs. Walter G. Craven of Charlotte, North Carolina.

GREETINGS FROM MRS. WALTER G. CRAVEN
National President American Legion Auxiliary

From the eight hundred thousand women of the American Legion Auxiliary I bring to you renewed pledge of our devotion to the great work in which you are engaged. We are your wives, mothers, sisters and daughters—the women, mothers, sisters and daughters of your departed comrades—the women who served with you in your two great wars. We believe with all our hearts in what you are doing and we want to help.

We want to help you in your work for those comrades of yours who have come back disabled.
There are so many more of them now—the hundreds of thousands from the second World War added to those still suffering from the injuries and illnesses of the first conflict. We are joining our voice with yours in demanding for them the finest care possible, for medicine can give only a just measure of compensation. We are going into their hospitals and homes, bringing them comfort and cheer, and personal aid with their problems. Nothing is too much for us to do in behalf of those who gave health and strength in defense of the country.

We want very much to help you also as you watch over the welfare of the children from whom war has taken a father's support. They, too, are casualties of war, and their numbers will grow with each passing year. We are expanding our child welfare work, interesting and training more of our members so that we can be of increasing aid to you as you endeavor to bring rescue and relief to America's unfortunate children.

At this time I want to report the completion of an assignment you gave to us at the last national convention in Chicago—the rescue of the children of St. Die, France, from conditions of desperate need. You remember that St. Die is the little French city where America was named and where, years ago, The American Legion erected a plaque to commemorate this event. Last year you received a pitiful appeal for aid from that city. It had been completely destroyed by the Germans. Many of its children were wounded and destitute. You asked the American Legion Auxiliary to send them aid.

We took the list of names you gave us, more than fifteen hundred of them, and divided them among our departments. Eleven-pound packages were all we could send, but we packed each one of them full of warm clothing and concentrated foods. More than thirty-three thousand dollars worth of materials went into those packages, the best of everything we could buy. The letters of thanks we have received from those children and the knowledge that we have carried out an assignment of mercy from The American Legion are ample return for our effort.

All of the members of the Auxiliary are greatly concerned over and eager to help in your work for the security of America and America's free institutions. We believe we can rally the opinion of American women in support of the measures you advocate for the nation's defense. We know we can help train the youth of America in the principles of Americanism. Our Girls' States are doing for girls what your Boys' States are doing for boys. In all of your other activities to safeguard justice, freedom and democracy, we are seconding your voice and supporting your endeavors.

The American Legion Auxiliary has grown this year to eight hundred thousand members, by far the largest women's organization of its kind in the world. Next year we hope to make it a million. Our members, devoted women who are working for the purposes of The American Legion. We are proud to bear your name. We are happy when we can help. Call on us whenever we can be of service.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: I want the introduction of the next speaker to be made by our vice-commander from the great Department of Oklahoma, Fred LaBoon, one of those who was on the Bataan death march. Fred.

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER LA BOON: Thank you ever so much.

I have been privileged to introduce a very good friend of mine. I have attended several of his state conventions with him. The Society of the Forty and Eight added more than half a million new members to The American Legion during 1946. My friend is a native of Nashua, New Hampshire, an outstanding Legionnaire. He led the society to this banner record.

He has two sons here today, both just recently out of the service. One was in the Air Corps and one was a "G.I. Joe." I happened to be with him while attending the South Carolina Department convention, and about the first day of the convention he received word that one of his sons had returned to the States, and to show what kind of man we have as head of the Forty and Eight this year, and where his heart is, he returned home before the convention was over.

I am happy to present to you the Chef de Chemin de Fer of the Forty and Eight, Ottis E. Mercer.

GREETINGS FROM OTTIS E. MERCER

Chef de Chemin de Fer of The Forty and Eight

It is a distinct privilege and pleasure to appear before this 28th national convention, bringing greetings from the voyageurs of the Forty and Eight. It has been my good fortune this year to serve in the capacity of Chef de Chemin de Fer. I appreciate the cooperation and the helpful spirit that has been manifested by your national commander.

The Forty and Eight is known as the honor society and fun organization of The American Legion. This year we worked first and played afterwards. Our first thoughts were for the good of the Legion. We supported all Legion-sponsored programs.

Our membership is earned by service, to, with, and for the Legion. The Forty and Eight, during the past year, has made a tremendous gain in membership, as has your organization, ending the year at an all-time high. In our ranks we are seeing more and more young faces. After a year's service in the Legion many more young veterans will be invited to join. The Forty and Eight has, throughout the year, had many membership drives in various posts and departments, bringing into the Legion more than a half million members.

We continued our special wartime playing card program which was started in 1922, and since 1925 we have turned over to your American Legion $20,000 a year. This past year it has been increased to $30,000 for child welfare services.

We continued our special wartime playing card
program, sending decks of cards throughout the world to men in service. Money was raised, and approximately four million decks of cards were purchased—all sent out under the name of the Forty and Eight and The American Legion throughout the special services of both the Army and Navy.

Today The American Legion is the largest veterans' organization in the world. It must be big. It has a big job to do for the veteran and the nation. The younger generation of fighting men came into the Legion in a big, overwhelming way this year, with the result that the majority of Legionnaires are young men not long out of uniform, and many are completing their first year of service in the Legion. This 28th national convention is the first annual convention in which these young veterans are participating. These men, many from the fighting fronts around the world, will have a high sense of appreciation for this first peacetime convention in a number of years.

We in the Forty and Eight look ahead to greater service to a greater American Legion!

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: It is a distinct honor for me to present to you now the man who skippered America's mightiest naval forces to total victory in the Pacific. A year ago, at our national convention in Chicago, he was awarded the American Legion Distinguished Service Medal for a wartime performance unequalled in naval history. Under his inspiring leadership, naval and marine forces bridged uncharted expanses of the Pacific from Hawaii to Tokyo Bay. Today, as Chief of Naval Operations, he is directing the destiny of all United States naval forces with the same qualities of leadership.

Hulks of Japanese ships rusting on the ocean bottom testify to his prowess as a naval warrior. His signal intelligence, personal courage and foresight, evidenced time and again during forty-one years of active naval service, assure us that our Navy is in the very best hands today.

May I present a long-time friend of The American Legion, a fighter and a gentleman, the Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

ADDRESS OF FLEET ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ
Chief of Naval Operations—Radio

It is a pleasure for me to address another national convention of The American Legion. I am particularly pleased that I have the opportunity to do so in San Francisco, for this great city which contributed so heavily to the war effort, is regarded with affection and esteem by all Navy men. In fact, during the war, San Francisco came to occupy a place in the hearts of many fighting men second only to that of their own home town. I am sure you have all heard that popular cry of the Pacific theater—"The Golden Gate by '45." Needless to say, those words were ultimately re-placed by the more appropriate—"Back Alive in '45."

Since I last talked to you in Chicago, nearly a year ago, many changes have taken place within the armed forces. At that time I told you the Navy's demobilization program was well under way and that the difficult task of bringing home millions of soldiers, sailors and marines was being expedited in every way possible. You all know that this job was completed in record time. Today, the only forces overseas are those which have been regularly assigned to occupational duties.

It is no secret that rapid demobilization of all branches of the military service has seriously depleted our armed strength. The great Navy of just a year ago, which was the largest and most powerful in history, has now shrunk to about one-sixth its wartime size. More than three and a half million members of the Navy and Marine Corps have since returned to civilian life. Ships and installations, whose fighting ability made it possible to hold words have been laid up at various Navy Yards and are now manned only by caretaker crews. Present personnel figures are rapidly approaching the authorized peacetime complement of 50,000 officers and 500,000 men. The exception of some men in certain essential categories, our demobilization program has come to an end.

These essential categories include men of the Hospital Corps whose services are urgently needed to help care for the more than 28,000 sick and wounded patients in Naval hospitals. This may entail hardship in individual cases of men otherwise eligible for discharge, but it is believed that the needs of the sick deserve first consideration. Even so, it will not be too long before the few men now being held on duty will be replaced entirely by volunteers.

During the time it has been undergoing a reduction to peacetime strength, the Navy has also been doing all it can to aid the country to return to a peacetime economy. Our shipbuilding program has been curtailed and work on many shore-based projects has been postponed. In addition, we have helped to increase the supply of goods available to the civilian consumer by drastically reducing our procurement program.

These anti-inflationary measures have been taken at the expense of our current operating schedule. In addition, they necessitate continual readjustment of the Navy Department to peacetime basis. These obstructions constitute a grave threat to our security. Those who allow selfish desire to supplant common sense carry us further along the road to uncontrollable inflation. And, needless to say, the temporary gains made at the expense of the nation today, would be wiped out overnight should such a disaster overtake us.

The steps taken by the Navy to aid the fight for a stabilized economy have not taken away our position of naval leadership. Indefinite postponement of essential work ashore and afloat, or a
continued general acceptance of present standards as satisfactory would, however, affect adversely vital elements of our national security.

A strong Navy has always been a great safeguard against war. History shows that war has been forced upon this country only when its defenses were weakest. And until the day when it is proven that we have been permanently abolished, a strong Army and Navy remain our best guarantee for peace.

Those of us who are charged with the responsibility of maintaining our military efficiency are sometimes accused of desiring war. Nothing could be further from the truth. All of us who have seen first-hand the horrors of war, do not wish any part of it ever again.

There are some who argue that the building of effective peace-time military forces and the failure to reveal certain details of our weapons to others provide just reason for suspicion of our motives. That claim has been expressed in various forms for many years and is currently being heard again. No one who is at all acquainted with the long-expressed desire of the American people that freedom through timely provision for our own defense not take that cry seriously—least of all the people of those countries which have received so generously of our aid in time of need.

The American Legion has been instrumental for many years in countering the efforts of wishful thinkers and enemies of our form of government to reduce our military forces to a state of impotency. Once again your help is needed, for barely had the last shot been fired in World War II before the demand was raised by some to slash the Army and the Navy to token size. These views, which take advantage of the popular and understandable desire for economy, must not be allowed to prevail. We cannot afford to jeopardize our security by failing to provide our own safeguards.

The establishment of adequate defense measures does not imply that the people of the United States believe World War III inevitable. On the contrary, such measures signify a desire to insure the peace until such time as the nations of the world can determine the formula for lasting peace.

Each of us should work for the establishment of all civilized people, for the alternative is destruction on a scale never before encountered. As surely as man holds the power to create war, he also possesses the ability to prevent war. Admittedly, the establishment of lasting peace is far more difficult than the instigation of war, but it is certainly not impossible. It will be a long, hard, uphill pull, requiring every bit of effort we can muster, but the goal is attainable.

Progress toward this goal has already been made with the founding of the United Nations Organization, a project which has the backing of our President and our Congress. But here again we must ignore those who would hinder our purpose. Among them are the defeatists and pessimists who already call the U. N. O. a failure for not producing during its comparatively brief existence, the formula for lasting peace. To these people, I would recall that it took our own thirteen original colonies more than a decade to agree upon a program of national unity. And yet they had joined arms in a successful revolution against England, spoke the same language and shared a multitude of common interests. In the light of this example that we ourselves set, we can hardly expect the United Nations Organization to accomplish its purpose overnight. Not only is its work much more difficult, but a host of obstacles, including language barriers, differing political and economic systems, and diverse aspirations, impede every forward step.

It is far better that the diplomats of the world settle international issues across the conference table in debate than to seek solutions with planes, tanks and guns. I believe that the "plain talking" now taking place between the representatives of the Allied nations is a healthy and favorable sign of a mutual desire to avoid at all costs the misunderstandings which have led to such tragic consequences in the past. Meanwhile, it is the obligation of all of us to exercise both patience and confidence in these proceedings which are of such vital importance to the world.

I am confident that the members of The American Legion will continue to lend their support to those measures which will insure the future security and well being of our country. Your knowledge is the knowledge born of experience. You know that our foreign policy does not embrace world domination, but rather freedom and happiness for all the peoples of the world. And you know that our military might will never be used aggressively, but only as a means of insuring our security until such a time as war shall have been abolished from the earth.

The patriotism and vision of men like yourselves has been of invaluable service to our country in the past. Now, more than ever, there is need for such men if the United States is to remain always a great and free nation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:

It is my pleasure to present to you Past National Commander Louis Johnson of West Virginia, for presentation. Commander Johnson.

PRESENTATION OF CONVENTION MEDALLION TO CITY OF CHICAGO

Past National Commander Louis Johnson

Commander, Distinguished Guests, my Comrades: This program is already running late. It is not a good occasion to make a speech. We have a job to do and, with your help, we will do it in about one minute.

Here in the great city of San Francisco, of the Golden Gate, we still have happy memories of that most favored city of Legion conventions, the great city of Chicago. We have been there for more conventions than anywhere else. It gives me great pleasure, because your hearts and mine are in tune, we can shorten the expression of that pleasure, the pleasure on behalf of this great organization and this great convention, to present to the representative of the mayor of Chicago, the official Medallion of Appreciation of The American Legion, covering the twenty-seventh annual national convention of The American Legion held in Chicago last year.

We are grateful to the people of Illinois, the home state of our great national commander, to the people of Chicago, to the Department of Illinois, and the Legionnaires of Chicago.
them through the representative of the mayor, Larry Fenlon. I present this beautiful, appropriately inscribed medallion.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONVENTION MEDALLION FOR CITY OF CHICAGO**

Larry Fenlon, Illinois

Mr. Past National Commander, Louis Johnson, National Commander Stelle, Distinguished members of the Legion, Ladies of the Auxiliary: I am very happy on behalf of the city of Chicago, its citizens and the mayor, Honorable Edward J. Kelly, to accept this medallion.

The people of Chicago enjoyed having the Legion with them, not only in 1945, but 1944, 1939, and 1933. Because in each of those years we were the host of the convention, Chicago derived an inspiration from the deliberations of this great organization.

All I can say in conclusion is that we enjoyed having you with us during those years. We only hope that you will come back again just as soon as you desire. You will find a welcome mat at the door, and an extra plate at the table. Come early and stay late. Thank you.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:**

The aisles will please be cleared and all delegates please take their seats. I turn over the gavel to our National Chaplain for memorial services. Our National Chaplain, the Right Reverend Msgr. Edward J. Smith.

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**

Lt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith, National Chaplain

Ladies and Gentlemen of The American Legion:

It is fitting and proper that we always preface our convention with a memorial service, and pay tender tribute to our hero dead of all wars, to show humble reverence for the sacrifices they have made, to give more survey the things for which they have died.

Their memories will always be held sacred, and they shall inspire us and our children, and our children's children to emulate their love of country and their deeds of valor.

It is well that to our deliberations, we keep before our minds' eye their sacrifices, for we have serious, deadly serious, work to do. More than ever before the nation looks to us for leadership and guidance. Never before has the destiny of the nation been so closely wrapped with the destiny of the Legion. And conversely, never before has the destiny of the Legion been so closely wrapped with the destiny of the nation.

It is mainly in this day of too few thinking and indecisions that the nation depends on us, The American Legion, for the preservation of our liberties and our Constitution. This will be brief, will you please keep quiet, and will the gentlemen remove their hat dress. Let there be no smoking. Let us have absolute silence. Will you please rise and face the east, and follow me in your minds while we pay a tribute to the unknown soldier, representative of all soldiers of the thousands of Legionnaires of all wars?

... The audience arose and faced the east ...

Once more we bid you farewell. You fought the good fight, and your race is won. Your country called you to sacrifice, and you laid on the altar of devotion all that is given to mortal man to offer. You offered your heart's blood for her cause, and your offering was accepted.

Your sacrifice was the measure of your love for our common friend, and greater love than this no man has than that he lay down his life for his friend. Your friend is our friend, and what you have done for our friend, our common mother, you have done for us. You have laid down your lives for me and my friends, relatives, countrymen, to preserve, to use those sacred liberties for which our forefathers so valiantly fought and died.

It wasn't our privilege to know you in life, but we love you. We love you for the sacrifices you have made. We love you for those qualities of unselfish courage and bravery it prompted you to make. And we come here today to do honor to you, and to pay the tribute which your devotion to your country calls for.

God bless you. God bless the mothers who gave you birth, and the fathers who sustained you. To them our hearts once again go out to offer what sympathy we can. Serenely conscious of the justice of the noble cause for giving your life, it was easy for you to die. Your death was a privilege. God was good in that he permitted you to die for a cause no more noble than for which life was ever given to man to die.

Now friends, countrymen, Americans, let us seize this solemn hour to bring home to ourselves the realization of what can and may be appended to us by duty to our country, and let us clear away all selfish, personal motives, and ask ourselves, can we measure our devotion to our country by the example given to us by those brave men? What sacrifice will we make? And then let us resolutely, in our hearts, say that we will at all costs, and at the cost of our lives, defend the nation against all enemies from within or from without. We will see to it that the widows and the orphans of our comrades shall have the care and shelter to which they are entitled from a grateful nation.

We will guide and counsel and direct the youth of the nation in an endeavor to keep their hearts and minds good and pure, and to instill in them the ideals of our democracy.

We will see to it that our comrades who are wounded or disabled in mind or body, shall have the best care and shelter that this great nation can provide.

Now will you remain standing for just one moment in silent prayer?

... The audience remained standing, facing the east, while "Taps" were played ...

Now Morton Downey, a long-time friend of The American Legion, will sing for us ...

... Mr. Morton Downey sang "Oh, How I Miss You, Dear Old Pal of Mine." ...
MEMORIAL PRESENTATION TO
MRS. HOMER L. CHAILLAUX

By The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith

Mrs. Chaillaux, because of the death of your great husband who resided in California, we are symbolizing by your presence this morning, for all the kin of all our comrades. Mrs. Chaillaux, there is nothing we men of The American Legion can say to assuage your grief or lessen your sorrow at the loss of your great Legionnaire husband. However, we wish you to have and preserve this memorial resolution of the National Department so that you may know that those of us who knew him, and who knew how he lent his brilliant mind and stout heart to the service of God and country, will always keep enshrined in our hearts as one of the great and ideal Americans of our day. May God love you always. May God sustain you and keep you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:
I am happy to present to the convention, on behalf of the National Vice-Commander, Sam L. Latimer of South Carolina.

MR. SAM L. LATIMER, JR. (South Carolina): Thank you, Mr. Commander. The next distinguished speaker began his military career in World War I. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross as a platoon leader in the 38th Infantry of the Third Division, on the Marne.

In the Second World War he served successively as Assistant Chief of Staff under General Marshall as Commanding General of the 84th Division (the Rail-splitters), which he organized, and from 1945 to 1948 as Director of Civil Affairs.

In the latter assignment, he organized and directed military government in all theatres of operation. He retired from the Army as a Major General in April of this year and was immediately appointed Assistant Secretary of State by President Truman. It is my pleasure to present to this Victory Convention of The American Legion, Major General John H. Hilldring, Assistant Secretary of State of the United States. General Hilldring.

ADDRESS OF MAJOR GENERAL
JOHN H. HILLDRING
Assistant Secretary of State

I am sure that no informed person would dispute the tremendous effectiveness of The American Legion in the domestic welfare of this nation. The Legion has developed into such a force through intelligent leadership and the generous application of traditional American initiative. Increasingly it has become recognized as a vigorous advocate of those American democratic practices that have made this nation stand out as a dominant beacon of freedom in a troubled world. And I am sure that The American Legion can be counted on in the future to continue as a vital force in every movement devoted to making America a better place in which to live. There is no doubt in my mind as to what that point. And I have some suggestions to make as to how the Legion might improve its approach to purely domestic problems.

But in the field of international affairs I do have some doubts, and I do have a few suggestions to make.

Today we are faced with the necessity of making peace, making peace is a complicated business, far more complicated than waging war. I have no doubt that we will win the peace, a good peace and a lasting peace, provided the people of the United States understand the part they must play in solving this problem. It is on this issue that I wish to speak to you today.

We fought World War I to preserve democracy, and we won most of the battles in that war. More importantly we won the final battles that brought about an armistice and a set of peace treaties dictated by the Allied powers. But did we really win World War I? In 1918, in 1928—even in 1938, most Americans would have answered that question in the affirmative.

It isn’t necessary for me to recite all the events between the wars that clearly indicate that thinking Americans honestly believed that by winning the battles of World War I the Allied nations had protected and made secure their democratic institutions.

I will merely mention a few of the milestones that served as gauges of the American attitude of those days. For one thing, we declined to participate in the League of Nations. But very regretfully I am forced to ex-
peace, these are the objectives for which we fought, and this is the part of the conflict which must be won, if it is won at all, by the people themselves under intelligent and forceful civilian leadership. It is the battle for peace. So far as the U. S. is concerned the soldiery will do its part if the civilian strength of this battle is all the men and all the women of America. You will be, or at least you should, be the leaders of our people in this great struggle.

"What exactly," you ask, "Should we do?"

Let me start by telling you what shouldn't be done. We will never accomplish our purpose by negative measures. This isn't something that can be done without positive effort and without some sacrifices, individually and collectively. Several weeks ago a distinguished American informed me that in any other country in the world the men of the soldiery for this battle is all the civilians. He personally couldn't accept the position. Unfortunately, he was heavily committed at home. Ten days ago a very close friend of mine, a lawyer of considerable influence, told me that he agreed with me that the United States should be represented in Berlin by the best mind he could find. He informed me that he thought the United States should be represented in Berlin by at least one of the best minds in the country, and that he would be very sorry if that position were not filled by a distinguished American.

I think the time has come when the country must seriously consider the question of how to represent the United States in Berlin. The American people are not going to send a substandard man to Berlin. They want the best possible man. But I think they are going to do it. They are going to demand it of me, and I think they are going to get it.

It is the battle for peace. So far as the U. S. is concerned the soldiery will do its part if the civilian strength of this battle is all the men and all the women of America. You will be, or at least you should, be the leaders of our people in this great struggle.

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No matter how difficult the task may be, we have undertaken the job of shaping the destinies of millions of persons along lines that we believe will be compatible with the future peace and prosperity of the world. The best thought, the ablest personnel, and the understanding and resources of this country are required to meet these responsibilities.

I have said that this country has undertaken the task of heading millions of people in Europe and in Asia. We share that responsibility with the Russians, the British and the French and, as is only natural, their views and ours sometimes differ as to the methods that are to be followed in obtaining ultimate objectives. We had similar differences with our allies in planning strategy and tactics during the war. We worked out those differences then. I believe that with patience, reason and persistence we can go a long way toward ironing out differences now.

There is no place in the world where the interests of the great powers are more sharply outlined than in Germany, Austria, Japan and Korea. We share that responsibility with the Russians, the British and the French and, as is only natural, their views and ours sometimes differ as to the methods that are to be followed in obtaining ultimate objectives. We had similar differences with our allies in planning strategy and tactics during the war. We worked out those differences then. I believe that with patience, reason and persistence we can go a long way toward ironing out differences now.

In Germany we are working to create a country that will no longer be a threat to peace; that will be able to contribute to the economic recovery of Europe; and that will develop conditions favorable to the growth of democratic institutions. In fact, as in pre-war years, Germany re-
mains the cross-roads of Europe. Its transporta-
tion, its communications system, and its economy are considered to be prospects of the Continent of
Europe. In order that Germany may effectively
contribute to European economic recovery, it is
our belief that Germany must be treated as one
country, not as four countries. To that end,
we have recently proceeded with the merger of the
American and British zones of occupation. We
hope to demonstrate the advantages to be derived
from breaking down the artificial zonal barriers
that have hitherto existed. It is our hope that
the Russians and the French will soon merge their
zones with the American-British zone.

The Secretary of State, in his recent speech at
Stuttgart, forcefully stated the direction toward
which our policy will be aimed when the foreign
ministers of the United States, Great Britain,
Russia and France meet later this year to con-
sider the German question.

In the meantime, your government is proceeding
with the revision of the basic directive—J. C.
C. Document 1067—to the American commander in
Germany. This directive guides the commander of
the U. S. forces of the European theater and lays
down the policy which he will follow. The Ameri-
can position will be made clear not only in the
council of foreign ministers, but also in the Allied
control council in Berlin.

To turn now to the other major defeated coun-
try, Japan, we find that our objectives are gener-
ally the same as in Germany. We have been work-
ing to demilitarize Japan industrially as well
as militarily. As in Germany, we are now em-
barking on a program to make Japan as self-suf-
ficient as possible. The sooner Japan and Ger-
many are able to pay their own way economically,
the earlier the American government can cease
the appropriation of funds for use in those coun-
tries.

In Japan, our problems are somewhat simpler
than they are in Germany, for we already have
economic and internal political unity. There is an
indigenous government in Japan, with juris-
diction over the whole country, with the result that
the problem of exercising control over the Jap-
nese is greatly simplified.

I do not wish to leave the impression that we
have no problems in Japan. The task of elimi-
nating certain industries and rehabilitating and
stimulating others in the interest of creating a
peaceful Japanese economy is a gigantic one.

With regard to Austria and Korea, our policy
has called for a different approach from that with
respect to Germany and Japan. We have treated
Austria and Korea not as enemy countries but as
liberated countries. With our allies, we agreed
that Austria should be a free democratic and in-
dependent country.

If the commitments of this country are to have
any real meaning, we must make every effort to
see that Austria is maintained as an independent
and a united country in the heart of Europe.
This government has a program of reconstruction
for Austria that will provide financial and other
assistance in order to aid the Austrians to de-
velop their economy and to maintain their politi-
cal freedom.

As a result of the war, Korea has been liber-
ated from Japanese rule. American policy calls
for the establishment of a united, democratic and
independent Korea. As you may know, under the
terms of the military occupation, Northern Korea
is held by the Soviet Army, while we administer
the southern half of the country. We early sought
to unite the two zones of Korea under a joint
U. S.-Soviet commission. Unfortunately, that has
been delayed owing to a difference of views
between ourselves and our Russian colleagues.

I have cited only a few problems in only a few
places, in an effort to indicate that high obstacles
lie in the path to peace. These obstacles must be
cleared or we must detour around them if we are
to achieve peace. Peace will not fall in our lap.
It must be worked for.

Success to no small extent depends upon the
people of the United States.

It is a challenge to American leadership that
includes all Americans.

The achievement of peace is not impossible. But
it will take a lot of work, sacrifice, patience and
intelligence.

As I said before it is the battle for peace. It
is a cause in which the veteran has unique qualifi-
cations for leadership. It is the final battle of
World War II.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

R. C. Patterson, chairman, of Nebraska, report-
ed as follows:

To the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention,
The American Legion, San Francisco, Calif.,
September 30, October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946:

Twenty-six members of your Committee on Cre-
dentials met at 12:00 Noon, September 29, 1946,
in Committee Room 223 in the War Memorial
Building and agreed on the following report, which
is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried
that the outlying posts not affiliated with a de-
partment organization be allowed one delegate
and one alternate in the convention, provided said
degate and alternate were present and fully
qualified to represent said outlying post.

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 at the
meeting of the Committee on Credentials.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried
that the adopted voting strength of this conven-
tion be as follows:

Membership in hands of National Treasurer at
10:00 a. m., August 21, 1946 (thirty days prior
to national convention), for computing number of
degrees. Total number of degrees for each
department is based on five delegates at large,
one delegate for each thousand members, or major
tion thereof, and the members of the Na-
tional Executive Committee, which committee
includes the National Commander, who exercises his
vote only in his capacity as chairman of the na-
tional commission (Art. VII, Sec. 3), the five Vice-
Commanders, and the National Chaplain. All liv-
ing Past National Commanders are members of
the National Executive Committee, without vote,
and life delegates to the national convention, with
vote, which is exercised with their respective de-
partments.
### Summary of Proceedings of the

#### Department Membership August 31, 1946 Total Number Delegates

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### Total

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The report was adopted.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

Jack Williams, chairman, of North Dakota, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention,
The American Legion, San Francisco, Calif., September 30, October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946:

The members of your Committee on Permanent Organization met at 12:15 p.m., September 29, 1946, in Committee Room, Civic Auditorium, in the War Memorial Building 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 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. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 1, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention, October 2, 1946.

**Child Welfare**

2. To receive report of the National Committee on Child Welfare; to receive all resolutions on juvenile delinquency; to recommend to the convention the program of our National Child Welfare Committee for the ensuing year. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before October 1, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention, October 2, 1946.
Constitutional Amendments
3. To receive and consider all suggested amendments to the National Constitution and By-Laws. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 1, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention, October 4, 1946.

Education of Orphans of Veterans
4. To receive and study the annual report of the director of the standing national committee on Education of Orphans of Veterans. 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. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 1, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention, October 2, 1946.

Employment
5. To receive report of the National Employment Committee; to consider all resolutions on employment of veterans of World Wars I and II, their widows, and the wives of disabled veterans; their preference rights in all government employment, Civil Service. To recommend to the convention the program of the National Employment Committee for the ensuing year. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 2, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention, October 3, 1946.

Finance
6. 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 1946; to consider any plans relating to finance or financial policy that may come before the convention. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 1, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention October 2, 1946. Members of the National Finance Committee are requested to sit in with this committee.

Foreign Relations
7. To receive the report of the Foreign Relations Committee and to consider and study all questions pertaining to the relations between the United States and foreign countries. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 1, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention October 2, 1946.

Internal Organization
8. 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. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 1, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention October 4, 1946. The work of the committee shall be divided as follows:

National
(a) To consider all questions affecting the National Organization, including particularly internal organization questions pertaining to membership, expansion and stabilization.

Departments
(b) To consider all questions affecting operation of the several departments, including particularly internal organization questions pertaining to membership expansion and stabilization as they relate to the National Organization.

Legislation
9. To receive report of the National Legislative Committee; to consider legislation now pending before Congress directly affecting servicemen and women and their dependents, and to recommend legislation not specifically falling within the jurisdiction of other convention committees. Subcommittee of three is authorized to meet with similar subcommittees from other convention committees receiving resolutions recommending legislative action by the Congress. The recommendations of these joint subcommittees for Congressional action will be made to the Convention Committee which was originally in receipt of the resolutions in question. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 2, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention October 3, 1946.

National Defense
10. To receive the report of the 1946 Standing Committee on National Defense. To subdivide itself into five sections, specializing on the subjects of Military Affairs, Naval Affairs, Aeronautics, Merchant Marine and Civil Defense. To finally coordinate these five subcommittees' reports and present them in composite form as a definite recommendation for action of the national convention. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 2, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention October 3, 1946.

Publications
11. To consider all matters pertaining to all member publications published by the National Organization. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 1, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention October 2, 1946.

Rehabilitation
12. To consider all questions pertaining to disabled war 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. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 2, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention October 3, 1946. Each department is authorized to assign two delegates to the Rehabilitation Committee, one for claims and rating duties and one for hospitalization duties.

Resolutions

13. To consider all questions referred to it by the convention, including resolutions involving general public or American Legion policy; 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. To prepare and file in the office of the National Adjutant, Civic Auditorium, on or before 4:00 p.m., October 3, 1946, report of committee action on resolutions and other matters, properly coming before the committee. To present report to the convention October 4, 1946.

National Convention Bureau

14. 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 Bureau; provided, that any resolution affecting housing at national conventions shall automatically be referred to the Convention Committee on Internal Organization.

The office of the National Adjutant will prepare digests of all resolutions embodied in each convention committee's report and have copies of such digests, together with the recommendations to be made by the Convention Committee, available to the secretary of each department delegation, for use of department delegates in caucus, not later than 10:00 p.m. on the night preceding the scheduled date of each committee's report to the convention. Such digests and recommendations to be for confidential use of delegates only and not to be released to general public or press until the complete reports are presented to convention.

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES

Matt Monaghan, chairman, of Louisiana, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, Calif., September 30, October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946:

Twenty-eight members of your Committee on Rules met at 1:00 p.m., September 29, 1946, in Committee Room 223 in the Veterans' Memorial Building 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, and may be extended by the presiding officer.

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. Where disagreement exists within a delegation, one delegate only of that delegation shall be permitted to speak on each side of the 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 connection with the reports of their committees, and that in event of controversy the presiding officer shall not entertain any motion which will curtail further debate without affording the chairman or committee representative an opportunity for rebuttal.

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 Committees.

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 delegating 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 thePast 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. Delegates 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 when 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 20 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 depart-
ment 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 disturbances which interfere with the orderly procedure of the convention of The American Legion.

20. None of the above rules shall be construed as preventing an alternate delegate from serving on a convention committee.

21. That the consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the convention present is necessary for suspension of the rules of this convention.

The report was adopted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: During the St. Mihiel Offensive of 1918 our next speaker — then a major — shot down two enemy planes in armed combat. That engagement, for which he received the Distinguished Service Cross, was the shadow of things to come, for a quarter of a century later it was the bombing force of this former Major — risen to a General—that pounded the factories, the airfields and the cities of Germany. He is a dyed-in-the-wool airman, who won his wings in 1916, and it was America's good fortune that he was on hand after Pearl Harbor to put his shoulder to the task of assembling and leading the nation's first great aerial bombing force. A native Pennsylvanian with ideas on the future of air power and the pluck and persistence to see those ideas through, he is today Commanding General of the Army Air Forces.

To me he is a great soldier and needs your entire support. It is now my privilege to present to you General Carl A. Spaatz.

ADDRESS OF GENERAL CARL SPAATZ

Commanding General of the Army Air Forces

During hostilities the soldier, sailor or airman fights to restore peace. After hostilities he labors to preserve peace. The veteran is the true soldier of peace. He knows that peace belongs only to the strong. The valor of the veteran is required in peace no less than his arm was in war.

As soldiers, sailors and airmen of two World Wars we share memories. These cannot be put into speech. We share also the task of preserving peace through strength. That we can talk about. I am glad to be with you, more than I can say.

Our concern is security. In this last war the three services were eventually coordinated in an over-all plan. Each contributed its share to the victory in its own medium.

Air Power, in exercise of its strategic concept, proved to be a new and decisive element. It was able to reach over the traditional line of war between surface hostilities and to destroy the enemy's sources of war power. That had never been done before. It was an unseen campaign.

That capacity produces a new strategic situation. At the end of World War I the balance of power was based on the use of land power in Europe and the use of sea power between continents. There was, at that time, no possibility of reaching a strong enemy on another continent except by using sea power to project land power across the water.

At the end of World War II, Air Power is developing so rapidly that devastating attacks launched in one hemisphere against the other are a certainty in any future war.

Through the Arctic, every industrialized country is within reach of our strategic Air Power. America is similarly exposed. We are, in fact, wide open on the top. War becomes global, making all flat projection maps obsolete, along with the thinking based upon them.

This changed strategic situation is a result of the development of long-range airplanes. Any plan or build-up for National Defense which ignores the air approaches over the Polar Ice is sheer waste of American time and money.

The strategy of defense, thus made compulsory by global geography, must emphasize the quality of our air preparations. We must have the right equipment for whatever task is to be performed at the zero moment if it comes. The timing will be by moments, not by months and years as formerly. No longer can we envisage war as something happening first to other peoples, in other lands, overseas.

Consequently, expenditure for air development is the soundest insurance. If Britain had not invested in the Spitfire and radar in the 1930's, Britain would have been lost in 1940. And we would probably be at war with a Nazi Europe today. We would be alone. That we should never forget.

Guided missiles also are being developed for the Offensive-Defense purpose of security. But the airplane and the radio are much more than war equipment. They are instruments for initiating a new era of construction in the rebuilding of peace.

To apply the potentials of the airplane and radio to constructive ends, we must have a new idea.

A new idea should have three qualities:

First, it must have dynamic novelty to spark the imagination, something never tried before. It must overcome the entrenched opposition.

Second, it must be feasible of fulfillment, by new means either available or potential.

Third, it must promise a new constructive capacity, on a new frontier of effort, to provide new outlets for human energies, and new solutions for old problems.

One analogy is Christopher Columbus. He had a new idea: sail west to the Orient. He had new means: the compass and the quadrant. He initiated an increase in the power of move-
ment. He extended the second dimension to the sea. Before his voyages Europe was largely shorebound. Afterward it was dominated by the influence of the sea. That drew the line between the Middle Ages and Modern History.

The achievement was to give Europe a new frontier in the rich vacancy of the New World, into which energies could flow as European civilization extended itself overseas.

The end product of the Columbus idea is America as we know it. For nearly three hundred years we had an internal frontier, which gave us a peculiar stamp of character and a racy speech. As a nation we are unhampered by tradition. Thanks to our space, natural abundance and mixed blood, we developed a genius for invention and mass production. The combination permitted the attainment of technical supremacy of the world.

That Air Force must operate the nation's most urgent needs. It is the arbiter of political democracy to scientific and economic development. We want our country to make the transition by evolution, not as a forced result of a third World War.

Finally, to veterans, this word: You were and are concerned with our security. In these confused days between war and the true peace, you know that we must look forward, not back. We must live and study in the future tense. We must evolve sound concepts. We must plan correctly to prepare for contingencies. The arsenal might become the front line. We know what we want. We want to adapt political democracy to scientific and economic development. We want our country to make the transition by evolution, not as a forced result of a third World War.

For that we need time; time to bring order and purpose out of the current confusion in thinking; time to reset the high standard of voluntary self-discipline which united us in war.

George Washington wanted time. When our country was weak and remote he sought time through neutrality, 1793. In his Farewell Address, he said:

"With me the predominant motive has been to . . . gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions, and to progress without interruption to . . . the command of its own fortune."

Air Power in Being gives us time, not through weakness, but through strength. With Air Power we can control our own time table of evolution.

We must set our sights high. We must keep country above self. It is not enough to carry the flag. We must also bear the torch on the new frontier of effort.

Our goal is strength through constructive use of Air Power to build a new capacity for peace.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: A European assignment prevented acceptance by General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower of the invitation to address this convention. It is our good fortune, however, to have with us a distinguished representative of General "Ike" who will deliver a greeting from his superior.

He served as a tank company commander under General Eisenhower, then a lieutenant colonel commanding the Tank Corps training camp at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1918.

He got his Regular Army commission in 1920 and has been in the Regular Army
ever since. In this war he served as Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Army Ground Forces; Assistant Division Commander, 89th Infantry Division, and Chief of Staff, First Allied Airborne Army, in England and France. He was selected by General Eisenhower to go to Berlin on June 22, 1945, and make arrangements for the entry into Berlin of the first American troops and to command that force. In this capacity he sat as the United States member of the Allied Commission which governed the city of Berlin. He was also designated to make the arrangements for the United States' contingent at the Big Three Conference at Potsdam. When General Eisenhower returned from the European Theater, he was ordered back to this country to be Chief of the Public Relations Division of the War Department. I am happy to present him to you now — Major General Floyd L. Parks.

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL EISENHOWER
Delivered by Maj. Gen. Floyd L. Parks
Chief, U. S. Army Public Relations Division

Only a duty as imperative as my current journey to Europe could prevent my appearance at this convention. I feel a lasting attachment to the men who served in the armed forces during the war, and nothing would have given me more pleasure than to meet with you personally today.

But I am compelled to return to Europe to renew first-hand appraisal of Army affairs there. This duty has long been on my schedule, but circumstances have compelled successive postponements until now; further delay is not possible.

I cross the Atlantic again more profoundly convinced than ever of the necessity of maintaining our forces overseas in adequate strength to carry out the solemn commitments made by our government in conjunction with the other allied nations. I am impressed with the tremendous job we still have to do, both in Japan and in the occupied areas of Europe, if we are to meet our obligations assumed by our national leaders.

In contrast with the First World War, this time we carried the struggle to its logical conclusion by utterly crushing Germany and compelling the abject surrender of Japan. But even overwhelming military victory did not complete our task.

As Secretary Byrnes has indicated, we remain under the compulsion to give the Japs and the Germans a convincing demonstration of our way of life, and attempt to lead them in the paths of democracy. He has pointed out that we can accomplish this purpose only if we stay on the scene to exercise necessary police supervision, and he stated recently that we are not going to walk out on our international obligations.

In accomplishing this mission, assigned to the armed forces by our government, we need—we must have—the understanding and unqualified support of the American people.

To keep adequate forces overseas, there must be supply, maintenance and training organizations at home, while at the same time we must build up sufficient strength to contribute our share to the United Nations, and we must maintain a reserve strong enough to guarantee the national security.

We must do all this in the face of vitally necessary economy. The Army will support every move to cut expenses as drastically as possible, but there is an irreducible minimum below which we cannot go without jeopardizing the protection of our country and all it stands for.

I know you realize that I have an abiding interest in your welfare and your right to an honorable position in the community—your right to make a decent living, to raise a family under peaceful conditions and with a sense of security. The Veterans Administration, of course, is directly charged with promoting the welfare of our former servicemen. But the Army feels a close and lasting kinship to every man who has served faithfully in its ranks—we will never lose our interest in your successful reintegration into civil life. You have an honorable and respected place in the hearts of your comrades and the affections of your country; you deserve the same in the economic and social fabric of the nation you fought to save.

I also believe that there is, in the relationship between the veteran and the Army, a two-way responsibility. For the veteran also must have a continuing interest in the Army. He understands the Army's problems and owes to himself and his country the duty of putting those clearly before his fellow-citizens. The veteran, representing as he does virtually every community in America, can exert a powerful influence in molding public opinion based upon public knowledge and understanding, without which no program of national security can be fully effective.

Unless we are constantly prepared to defend the ideals of democracy, the last war was fought in vain. We must maintain unceasing vigil if we are to guarantee our people—including yourselves—the right to live in peace and according to democratic principles.

I salute you, veterans of The American Legion, and I urge your continued interest in the problems of national security. Let us keep ourselves strong, that we may keep the peace. Let us work for the success of the United Nations and the day when we can be certain of the endurance of peace on the basis of equal rights; when law and order will replace force and chaos, and all nations can live together harmoniously.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:
I want to present at this time Commander Chamberlain, of the Department of California, for a presentation. Commander Chamberlain.

COMMANDER CHAMBERLAIN:
Every year the Department of California presents to its most distinguished citizen this
trophy which I hold in my hand. Among the past recipients are General Doolittle, Governor Earl Warren and others. This year nothing could be more appropriate at this particular moment, after the remarks of General Spatz, and on behalf of General Eisenhower, than to say that California is proud to present to the builder of the world's greatest Air Force, and the man who guided it to total victory, this trophy to its distinguished citizen of California, General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold.

GENERAL HENRY H. ARNOLD ACCEPTS CALIFORNIA TROPHY

It is a distinct honor and a privilege for me to receive this award, but I find it somewhat hard to change from the role of farmer to command of the Air Forces for a moment. We came out to California to seek rest and reposé, and sometimes I think I have had more to do—more jobs to carry on with out here—than I had when I was in Washington. They certainly are greatly different kinds of jobs.

A short time ago I was addressing the California convention of The American Legion, and I gave them the same message which I am going to give to this meeting here. Having returned from the uniform to civilian clothes, and having talked to people all across the United States, I find, nearly everywhere, a feeling that the people expect the veterans to carry on to a far greater extent locally, state-wide and nationally, in solving some of the many problems that confront us today. And I assure you—and you know better than I do—that there are many, many problems to be solved.

I always feel as if there is a lesson to be learned from the way that we in the upper level handled our problems with the other nations during the war, so as to make the winning of the war possible. That might be applied, probably, in solving some of the problems in winning the peace. I thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: It is my pleasure to present the leader of our great organization from Miami to St. Louis in 1934 and 1935, one who has given his time and energy all during the years of our organization. He is a great Legionnaire, another Californian, Frank N. Belgrano.

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL TO J. EDGAR HOOVER

Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation

MR. FRANK BELGRANO, JR.: Mr. Commander, Distinguished Guests, and Delegates of this Convention: Thank you, Mr. Commander, for your complimentary and generous introduction, and thank you for having given me this most pleasant assignment to represent The American Legion in paying its highest compliment to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover. Nothing could please me more, for Mr. Hoover has always had my full admira-

tion, my profound gratitude and my sincere affection. I feel certain that every member of our organization shares these same sentiments.

We remember Mr. Hoover first in 1917 as a young law clerk, with the Department of Justice, and then in 1921 as a special assistant to the Attorney General in charge of the deportation of the anarchists of that day, anarchists Emma Goldman. Ludwig Martin, Alexander Berkman, Gregory Weinsteins and others who were calling for the overthrow of our government by fire and violence.

From these experiences he became vitally interested in intelligence work, and from that day on has conducted his investigation of communists and other subversive group activities throughout our nation. We enthusiastically watched his progress, his assignment to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, his appointment as its director in 1924. We remember the effective measures he took in eliminating the racketeers and smashing the roving gangs of kidnappers and bandits throughout the land.

We came to appreciate more and more his technique in recommending that his associates guard the constitutional rights of persons arrested, and that his agents work hard to establish a man's innocence than his guilt. As a result of such demands, over 97 per cent of those arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation were ultimately found guilty.

We appreciate his opposition to the formation of a national police force, of which he was slated to be the head, because he was against any force of that character which could easily drift into a gestapo organization. He has always contended that the FBI should be designed so as to assist local law enforcement officers, and to furnish them with special services, such as fingerprint files, the FBI National Academy, the Technical Laboratory, and other such features.

When we found ourselves involved in this last world-wide catastrophe, we were especially grateful to Mr. Hoover for the preparatory work he had done, as a result of which history now records that not one single act of enemy saboteurs and espionage agents was successful. On the first day of World War II, 62 dangerous enemy agents were arrested.

Within the first 24 hours of World War II, 1,700 key figures of the enemy fifth column were taken into custody, and this figure rose to more than 16,000 before the war was over. He laid his plans well, for members of his staff had been assigned to, and had actually graduated from the German espionage schools. The German general staff plan to use the Nazi fifth column as an active arm of its military force and activate the now infamous Brandenburg Regiment was checked in its inception.

With a high record of accomplishment in every field of activity under the jurisdiction of his bureau, Mr. Hoover has never lost sight of the fact that the FBI is maintained for and by taxpayers of America. In the past ten years, the taxpayers have invested two hundred million dollars, doubling the cost of maintaining and operating the FBI.

During that same period fines imposed in cases investigated by the FBI, and recoveries of stolen goods, and other savings accruing to the government, have amounted to two hundred ninetysix million dollars. In other words, we, the taxpay-
ers, have received his excellent services, and have been paid a dividend of ninety-four million dollars on our investment.

It is appropriate that in these days we especially honor those who were in charge of activities that had to do with winning World War II. We honor our servicemen who were in the air, on the seas, under the seas and on land in all the theaters of war scattered over the entire globe.

We honor the commanding officers of our great fleets, of our air forces, our marines, and our great armies. At this moment, we also honor the commander-in-chief of another great army of our government, the agents of the FBI, the army which made it possible for us to live without bloodshed at home and fulfill our part as the arsenal of all the United Nations in this conflict.

We express our gratitude, our admiration, our affection, for Mr. Hoover in presenting him with our most valued award, the Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion. Mr. Hoover should know that this medal is worn by fewer persons than any other decoration, not even excepting the Congressional Medal of Honor. This is not because many would not prize it, but rather because we reserve it for those few persons whose performance has unmistakably placed them above and beyond the customary attributes of a distinguished citizen.

Mr. Hoover has more than met, and continues to meet, the highest standards we have fixed for those who may wear it. He is a great American. The truth of his deeds seem stranger than fiction, yet he has accepted fame and acclaim with the modesty that always proclaims real genius.

He is known and honored by all good Americans, his only enemies are our enemies. In the fulfillment of the duties of his high office, he daily exemplifies the principles of our organization. Of the 26 persons who have now been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion, none is more worthy than J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Hoover, on behalf of our entire membership, you are hereby awarded this Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion for the service you have rendered to the United States of America, in time of peace and in time of war, in combating subversive activities and in the maintenance of law and order.

REMARKS OF J. EDGAR HOOVER

Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation

I accept the Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion on behalf of my associates in the Federal Bureau of Investigation who have made its achievements possible. Bulwarking the men and women of the FBI are the high hopes and expectations of the loyal Americans whom we serve. The American Legion is a great force for good in this nation. It exemplifies the traditions of our country and is living testimony to the spirit of America. I am happy to be here today to thank you of The American Legion for the great aid and assistance you have rendered the FBI over the years.

The record of your achievements is now history. Today, there is a greater need than ever before for The American Legion and its stabilizing force. We of the FBI need your help now even more than during the war years if the battle for a safe and secure America is to be won. We are massing their forces on two main fronts. One is the criminal front. Crime is increasing daily; juvenile delinquency is shocking; lawlessness is rampant. We are nearer to the days of gang control than we were a year after World War I. Add to the forces that account for a serious crime every 20 seconds, day and night, the other encroaching enemy of America and we have a formidable foe. I refer to the growing menace of Communism in the United States.

During the past five years American Communists have made their deepest inroads upon our national life. In our vaunted tolerance for all people the Communist has found our " Achilles heel." The American Legion represents a force which holds within its power the ability to expose the hypocrisy and ruthlessness of this foreign "ism" which has crept into our national life—an "ism" built and supported by dishonor, deceit, tyranny and a deliberate policy of falsehood.

It is a matter of self-preservation. The veteran who fought for America will be among the first to suffer if the Communists succeed in carrying out their diabolical plans to wreck the American way of life. The "divide and conquer" tactics did not die with Hitler—they are being employed with greater skill today by American Communists with their "boring from within" strategy. Their propaganda, skillfully designed and admirably executed, has been projected into practically every phase of our national life. The fact that the Communist Party in the United States claims some 100,000 members has lulled many Americans into a feeling of false complacency. I would not be concerned if we were dealing with only 100,000 Communists. The Communists themselves boast that for every party member there are ten others ready to do the party's work. These include their satellites, their fellow-travelers and their so-called progressive and phony liberal allies. They have maneuvered themselves into positions where a few Communists control the destinies of hundreds who are either willing to be led or have been duped into obeying the dictates of others.

The average American working man is loyal, patriotic and law-abiding. He wants security for his family and himself. But in some unions the rank and file find themselves between a Communist plunger, manipulated by a few leaders who have hoodwinked and browbeaten them into a state of false complacency. I would not be concerned if we were dealing with only 100,000 Communists. Communist labor leaders have sparred for time in their labor deliberations to refer matters of policy to Communist Party headquarters for clearance. In fact, resolutions have been delayed pending such approval and contemplated strikes have been postponed until adequate Communist support and backing were available.

The Communist influence has projected itself into some newspapers, magazines, books, radio and the screen. Some churches, schools, colleges and even fraternal orders have been penetrated, not with the approval of the rank and file, but in spite of them. I have been pleased to observe that the Communist attempts to penetrate The American Legion have met with failure. Eternal vigilance will continue to keep your ranks free of shifty, double-crossing Communist destructionists.
We are rapidly reaching the time when loyal Americans must be willing to stand up and be counted. The American Communist Party, despite its claims, is not truly a political party. The Communist Party in this country is not working for the general welfare of all our people—it is working against our people. It is not interested in providing for the common defense. It has for its purpose the shackling of America and its conversion to the Godless, Communist way of life. If it were a political party its adherents could be appealed to by reason. Instead, it is a system of intrigue, actuated by fanaticism. It knows no rules of decency. Its unprincipled converts would sell America short if it would help their cause of furthering an alien way of life conceived in darkness and motivated by greed for power whose ultimate aim is the destruction of our cherished freedom. Let us no longer be misled by their sly propaganda and false preachments on civil liberty. They demand to do as they please with the if they get control, liberty for Americans will be but a haunted memory. For those who seek to provoke prejudice and stir up the public mind to angry resentment against our form of government are a menace to the very powers of law and order which guarantee and safeguard popular rights.

We, of this generation, have faced two great menaces in America—Fascism and Communism. Both are materialistic; both are anti-religious; both are degrading and inhuman. In fact, they differ little except in name. Communism has bred Fascism and Fascism spares Communism. Both are the antithesis of American belief in liberty and freedom. If the peoples of other countries want Communism, let them have it, but it has no place in America.

The Hitler, Tojo and Mussolini brands of Fascism were met an defeated on the battle field. All those who stand for the American way of life must arise and defeat Red Fascism in America by focusing upon it the spotlight of public opinion and by building up barriers of common decency through which it cannot penetrate.

Such a crusade cannot be spearheaded by any force more potent than The American Legion, composed as it is of America's heroes who have proved their mettle in battle. The men and women who defined the Red brand of Fascism with bullets can defeat the Red brand of Fascism by raising their voices in behalf of democracy and by exposure and denunciation of every force which weakens America.

The American Legion, ordained to bring together the veterans of World War I to perpetuate the associations made on foreign soil, is being expanded by the influx of veterans of World War II, who likewise fought that America might live. To allow American to be done as they please with the malignant growth of Communism or to be infested by crime is a breach of our trust to those who gave their lives for American principles.

Let us gird ourselves with the determination that those basic freedoms and spiritual ideals for which so many have sacrificed so much shall not be destroyed from within.

Let us be steadfast for America, work and live for America, and eternally be on guard to defend our country, our homes, and our way of life against the virulent poison of Communist ideology.
economize by cancelling our War Bonds. Such bonds are the written obligations of the Government of these United States to the holders thereof. They represent the investment of billions of dollars in a successful war. They bear interest. They can be traded for new automobiles or radios or washing machines—luxuries which the war had eliminated. They can be turned into new homes or factories or businesses.

No one likes to think of what these bonds might be worth if Hitler had won. But what of our obligation to the men and women who invested their lives—or precious years of their lives—in this same war?

The larger part of such a debt, it is true, can not be measured in dollars and cents. But the government promised in the G. I. Bill and in the Selective Service Act, just as surely as it promised to pay the bonds, that, at least, there should be a boost over the hump of that difficult period of readjustment when these veterans came home. That such a boost might involve financial expenditures certainly did not worry the boys on Capitol Hill when they made these promises.

Now, however, that the fighting is over, the word has gone down that government expenditures must be reduced in the cause of economy. Last month, a government agency, created solely to assist and aid the veterans, made the first move with the knife that prunes. Acting on the recommendation of the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs, Congress passed a bill putting a ceiling on veterans taking on-the-job training under the G. I. Bill, and limiting such training to two years.

This amendment, I say, makes on-the-job training a pauper act.

In making his recommendation to Congress, the Administrator broke faith, not only with the returning veterans, but with labor and management, who accepted the original G. I. Bill in good faith and spent their time and money setting up training facilities and machinery to carry out the provisions of the bill.

If on-the-job training is to be anything but an anachronism, and if the G. I. Bill is to continue to do its job in the training of returning veterans, then the ceiling that has been put on by this amendment must be repealed.

For his part in the action, I do not hold the General entirely responsible. The Veterans Administration is a government agency and secondly a veterans’ agency. The American Legion believes that this is only the first step in retrenchment. The next ceiling may be put on veterans, but with labor and management, who has returned to school, who wants to go into business, who wants a home. Yes, even on the veteran who is disabled.

Back of the scenes where the knife that prunes is manipulated are the entrenched forces of bureaucracy.

On all political horizons of the country is the demand of the voters for economy in government. Hearing it, the plush-bottomed generals of bureaucracy in a thousand and one offices, as usual, are attempting diversionary tactics. They fought a good war, did these bureaucrats, from their sound-proof, air-conditioned offices. They acquired additional armies of employees and fattened their political pay rolls. They have seen death and suffering and brutality on a scale that makes the exploits of Genghis Khan sound like a fairy tale.

They come home to a strange and unfamiliar America. As veterans they find it difficult to believe what they see and hear—that the majority of the folks at home think the war is over. Veterans know better. They know that tanks are moving and guns are flaming in China and India and Palestine. They watch the antics of the Soviet representatives at the Peace Conference in Paris or at the council tables of the United Nations in New York. They see the pictures in the paper and the movie of the atomic bomb tests at Bikini. And their thoughts are troubled and disturbed.

America, of course, is disarming. Our guns and ships are being scrapped. The casualties have nearly all been counted. Poppies are growing in the fields again.

But, as a writer who has been watching the
clash of power politics in the Near East recently wrote (and I quote):

"Perhaps the greatest lesson of the war, and one not thoroughly digested by those most concerned, is that Democracy is on trial for its life, and that the outcome is by no means certain." (End of quotes.)

There are many things on my mind and in my heart about which I would like to talk to you today. For example, this has been the year of the greatest growth of The American Legion. Our membership of three and a quarter million is more than double what it was a year ago. With that growth, our influence and responsibility as an American organization have proportionately increased. I would like to talk to you about some of that growth and influence and responsibility.

But I cannot—and this great convention must not—ignore this rising voice of our comrades in arms. Growth, our influence and responsibility as an American organization have proportionately increased. I would like to talk to you about some of that growth and influence and responsibility.

The danger is twofold because it comes from within as well as without our borders. They call it Communism, but whether they even recognize it as a threat to our liberties, there are thousands of Americans today whose thinking and actions represent real peril to our children.

Let us consider for a moment the present-day danger to our Democracy, and then, briefly, what The American Legion and the American people can do about it.

The danger is twofold because it comes from within as well as without our borders. They call it Communism, or whether they recognize it as a threat to our liberties, there are thousands of Americans today whose thinking and actions represent real peril to the American system.

Some of them are dyed-in-the-wool Communists. But many others, including labor leaders, teachers and professional men and women, have swallowed an ideological apple and have not looked in the mirror to see how red they have turned.

They advocate everything, from Communism to a program for a highly-developed welfare state, whose far-flung activities in providing security for the ordinary man would be financed by profits from nationalized "public service" industries.

Under Communism, the government rules the people. In a democracy, the people control the government. There can be no middle ground.

Under Communism there can be no such things as liberty—no freedom of speech, or press, or religion. The control of the state over these things is absolute. Blandly, the Communist admits this. But, he says, liberty is a small price to pay for security.

The American Legion says liberty is not for sale at any price.

The American Legion is militantly opposed to Communism within our borders. That is why, each year, from Boys' State and Boys' Nation, we send forth an army, fully equipped to do battle with the enemies of Democracy. It is a program which we must encourage and develop.

Coupled with the vigilance, the old-fashioned Americanism that lives and breathes in 15,000 local Posts, The American Legion offers to our country a first line of defense against Communism.

And around the face of the earth—wherever Americans may go—let us conduct a trial by fire, so that not only Democracy but Communism also shall be on trial for its life. It may well be that the world can endure with two political systems. It has come through the centuries with many more than that.

Our only goal, in victory, was a guarantee that the peoples of the various nations of the earth be free to select a government of their own choosing. That which has made America great in the minds of people all over the globe has not been of material things, not production lines, not even the atomic bomb. If we have the greatest production lines in the world, other nations also can build them. Germany did in less than ten years.

The very scientists who created it admit that the atomic bomb can be duplicated and even improved. No right-thinking citizen doubts that scientific research and development even now are taking place in other countries which, sooner or later, will give those countries the formula and the bomb.

No, it was not these things that made people the world over dream and yearn for America. Rather, it was that simple, intangible birthright to which all men are born, and which so few have adorned—liberty. In the defense of our liberty, it is well to remember that the best defense is a good offense; that in this global conflict, there is no more powerful weapon than truth. I believe that the time has come when The American Legion should use its great influence and strength, not only to hold the line at home, but, keeping pace with the trends and needs of the times, advance our lines to the four corners of the earth.

On nearly every continent and every island of the world our comrades have died that liberty might live. Where they are buried the earth has been consecrated to that cause.

As veterans of the same wars, we cannot withdraw from these conflicts.

I recommend most urgently to this, the greatest convention of The American Legion, that we assume this responsibility—that we do, as part of our program for the coming year, the active participation by The American Legion in world affairs.

There is no better-equipped organization in these United States with the legislative know-how, the fight, and the intestinal fortitude to carry through, whether it be in the halls of Congress or the chambers of the United Nations.

It is my simple hope that through such an American Legion program we may help somewhere along the line in the final achievement of that goal to which all good men are striving—that war shall not be again—that there shall be peace on earth.

In conclusion, may I make one practical suggestion concerning the third thought?

Your Organization—The American Legion

During my term of office, an experiment was attempted in the applying of the managerial principle to the operations of the national organization of The American Legion. An administrative committee, comprising six members of the National Executive Committee was created by Executive Committee action. Five times, at regularly spaced intervals during the past ten months, this administrative committee has met jointly with the National Finance Committee. To this joint group, I delegated some of the executive authorities which are constitutionally the National Commander's and to this committee operated in a managerial capacity. I believe this to be emin-
ently sound business operation. The national organization of The American Legion is a tremendous and complicated business. National Commanders come and go annually, and continuity of non-policy business management is a definite necessity. It is my recommendation to this National Convention that the managerial operation which was tried experimentally during my year of commandship be made a constitutional part of the organization.

The formal report of the National Commander, summarization of which occurred in his presentation to the convention, follows:

My Fellow Legionnaires:

I respectfully submit the following account of my stewardship as National Commander during 1945-1946.

At this convention we are bringing to a close the greatest year in the 26-year history of The American Legion. The credit for the tremendous accomplishments of The American Legion in this past year belongs to the rank and file Legionnaires and to the posts and departments. My fondest hope is that the past year will prove but a prelude to a greater year in 1946-47.

During 1946 The American Legion doubled its membership. Our current national enrollment is now in excess of 3,500,000. This is a 100 per cent gain in membership.

We have nearly 15,400 posts today, an increase of 3,000 new posts during the past 12 months. Any doubt that might have existed as to the preferred organization by World War II veterans has been swept away by the greatest membership landside ever seen in this country. More than 68 per cent of our record-breaking 1946 membership today is composed of the fighting men and women who won World War II.

This is progress that should make every Legionnaire proud. The two-war American Legion has become the mightiest organization of its kind in America. It enjoys greater public good will than any other organization in this nation. Never has its prestige or its effectiveness for good been stronger. It has become a partnership with millions of veterans of both world wars marching shoulder to shoulder toward the common objectives of making America more secure and a better place in which to live.

Unparalleled as our expansion has been, we should and must do better next year. We face great tasks in our national defense, Americanism, rehabilitation, employment, child welfare and community service programs. The hard part of making good is that you must do it over every day. We must never forget that we exist primarily as an organization that the bonds of comradeship can only be continued by service to God and Country and our disabled comrades and their dependents.

To all our tireless membership workers in our posts, our districts and our departments, I pay my sincerest thanks for a magnificent job.

Legislation

The nation's 17,000,000 veterans of the two world wars found in The American Legion their most potent champion during 1945-46. A program of benefits to veterans and their dependents amounting to many billions of dollars has been enacted into law largely through the efforts of The American Legion.

Any review of our achievements in the Halls of Congress and in state legislature chambers this past year can only lead to the conclusion that The American Legion, during 1945-46, recorded great legislative successes.

I want to extend my heartiest congratulations on behalf of the entire American Legion to our National Legislative Committee and staff which has operated so effectively under the leadership of National Legislative Chairman William H. Doyle and National Legislative Director John Thomas Taylor. I wish to express my thanks also to the American Legion Auxiliary, 800,000 strong, which gave its constant support to our legislative measures.

Five major legislative measures were pushed through Congress by The American Legion during 1945-46, in four of which World War II veterans were the exclusive beneficiaries. These included the bills providing for terminal leave pay for enlisted men and women, amendments liberalizing the "G. I. Bill of Rights," a 20 per cent cost-of-living increase in compensation and pension rates for disabled veterans, amendments liberalizing the surplus property act, amendments liberalizing National Service Life Insurance. The terminal leave pay bill, H. R. 4081, was mandated by national American Legion convention resolution. The American Legion forced it out of a House committee pigeon-hole by securing 218 signatures to a discharge petition. Ours was the only organization which conducted a continuous drive for this measure during all the time it was being considered by Congress. As a result, World War II enlisted veterans will receive more than $2,500,000,000 in benefits to which they were justifiably entitled.

In the fall of 1945 The American Legion initiated conferences with leading bankers, businessmen and financial experts to develop a program of amendments to the "G. I. Bill of Rights" to make its various provisions, particularly its lending features, more operative and more liberal. Out of these conferences came the draft of the bill, H. R. 3767, liberalizing this Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. It became Public Law 268 of the 79th Congress December 28, 1945. Under this amended measure the educational subsistence allowances were increased from $75 to $90 for single students, and from $75 to $90 for those with dependents. It also cut away much of the red tape that had impeded the smooth operation of the act's lending features.

The President, on August 8, 1946, signed H. R. 6811, thereby bringing to a successful conclusion The American Legion's legislative efforts to secure a 20 per cent cost-of-living increase in the compensation and pension payments for disabled veterans and their next-of-kin and to restore to disabled hospitalized veterans their fully-entitled compensations.

Another legislative accomplishment was the enactment of S. 1757, providing priority second only to that of the Federal Government for World War II veterans in the purchase of surplus property and setting aside a list of items for exclusive disposal to these veterans. This legislation enabled veterans to purchase surplus material for personal as well as for business use. The American Legion made the first representations to Congress for
changing the Surplus Property Act in order to assure World War II veterans a fair share of such goods. Prior to the enactment of S. 2787, we received thousands of complaints from veterans that resulted not merely in a "run around" in trying to purchase surplus goods. Today complaints on surplus property disposal have diminished markedly.

The American Legion also secured an amendment to the Lanham Act, providing for the use of surplus housing facilities at educational institutions to house veterans. This measure became Public Law 452 on June 26, 1946.

On August 1, 1946, the Chief Executive affixed his signature to H. R. 6671, to complete another legislative success on behalf of World War II veterans. This was The American Legion bill to liberalize National Service Life Insurance, putting most of which benefited World War II veterans.

The American Legion successfully put its strength behind at least 15 other important legislative bills, most of which benefited World War II veterans. These included H. R. 6601, which became Public Law 419 June 21, 1946, providing $441,150,000 in additional funds for the construction of Veterans Administration hospitals; S. 706, approved July 24, as Public Law 529, increasing the burial allowance for war veterans from $100 to $150; H. R. 6739, which became Public Law 549 July 26, providing a sum of $2,650,000 for 290 field offices and 100 clerks in the Veterans Placement Service; H. R. 4761, better known as the Patman Housing Bill, which became Public Law 588 May 22, providing for construction of veterans' homes; H. R. 6343, which became Public Law 411 June 11, only 34 days after its introduction, authorizing the War Department to lend Army equipment for use at the 28th National Convention of The American Legion and for department conventions; House Resolution 829, passage of which provided for the continuation of the House Committee on Un-American Activities by authorizing an additional $75,000 appropriation for this committee; S. 1746, which became Public Law 410 July 16, authorizing the Secretary of War to devise a system of distributing World War II trophies; and many others.

Rehabilitation

The past year has been a hectic one for our National Rehabilitation Committee and American Legion service officers throughout the nation. The change-over in the Veterans Administration, the decentralization to branch offices and general expansion, and the rapid mobilization of approximately 1,000,000 men and women a month during the period from August, 1945, to March, 1946, left their impact upon The American Legion's traditional program of service and rehabilitation.

Every state and department made provisions for revamping its service machinery and increasing its personnel. Likewise the national rehabilitation staff of The American Legion was expanded so that there would be representatives and permanent help at each of the 13 Veterans Administration branch offices. These representatives are just beginning to get started in their respective assignments, most of them having assumed their duties during the month of July, 1946.

The National Commander is indebted to The American Legion service officers, who work in close collaboration with the National Rehabilitation staff, for their prompt response and accurate portrayal of pending loads and bottlenecks which came so near bogging down the Veterans Administration in January, 1946. The surveys conducted by our National Rehabilitation Committee and his staff furnished the factual information upon which the National Commander and the National Executive Committee made their presentations to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

Probably the greatest contribution our service division has made to the over-all program of veterans' rehabilitation during the past year is its professional and factual analysis of the need for hospital beds; its assistance in procurement of Army and Navy beds; its collaboration in the recruitment of needed personnel and stimulation of a reawakened and improved medical and hospital service.

Our rehabilitation staff also has played an important part in the dissemination of information and rendering of assistance in the fields of veterans' insurance, appeals, claims, education and training, loan guaranties, boards of review and miscellaneous benefits. Rehabilitation bulletins have been issued from time to time on the current activities. A high level of teamwork was maintained between our rehabilitation staff, the field service and department and state service officers.

The National Rehabilitation Conference in Washington in February, 1946, proved to be the largest ever held by any veterans' organization concerned with that activity. The conference agreed upon 24 recommendations which were transmitted to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

Area Conferences were resumed during the past year and held jointly by our National Employment, Child Welfare and Rehabilitation Committees and those of our Auxiliary.

The need for complete understanding and clear thinking on the many intricate provisions of existing laws which fall within the jurisdiction of the National Rehabilitation Committee has justified the setting up, and the periodical meetings, of a number of advisory boards and special committees. Noteworthy among these are the Medical Advisory Board, the Vocational Training Advisory Board and the Special Committee on the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. These boards and committees bring to the National Rehabilitation Chairman, his committee and the staff, views and experiences which are most helpful in the conduct of the day by day rehabilitation work.

Veterans Administration

Placing the welfare of disabled World War II veterans ahead of all other considerations, The American Legion, on February 1, 1946, presented to Congress evidence of a tragic breakdown in the services of the Veterans Administration.

This action was forced upon The American Legion by pyramidng reports from the field showing tremendous bottlenecks in the processing of claims, record-breaking and constantly growing lists of disabled veterans waiting for admission to government hospitals, an unprecedented log jam in the administration of the provisions of the G. I. Bill of Rights, 18,347 undisposed-of death claims, an almost record-breaking number of broken guartee claims, and hundreds of thousands of veterans' letters unanswered and even unacknowledged.

As National Commander I became my duty to
ask Congress to investigate this collapse of the Veterans Administration and to authorize the National Rehabilitation and Legislative Committees recommended that course of action. The action was taken after repeated protests to the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs by The American Legion had been ignored.

Unfortunately a portion of the press presented The American Legion’s action as an ouster demand against General Omar N. Bradley, the administrator. This resulted in a great deal of criticism being heaped upon the National Commander.

For the record, I wish to emphasize that The American Legion has never asked for General Bradley’s ouster, removal or resignation. I made that clear when I said, “All America honors Omar Bradley as a great general. The American Legion is happy to pay him tribute, but if this tribute requires covering up the inefficiency of the Veterans Administration and turning a deaf ear to the thousands of complaints of the service men and women of the two Great Wars, it is too costly, too dear! As National Commander of The American Legion and as Individual Legionnaires, we must not permit sentiment to usurp the place of service.”

There was only one issue at stake in the demands of The American Legion for a cleanup of the Veterans Administration. That was the welfare of war-disabled veterans.

The National Executive Committee of The American Legion, at my call as chairman, met in special session in Indianapolis February 17, to review all the issues which led to the demand for a cleanup of the Veterans Administration. That committee approved all action taken, declared that the benefits to which veterans are entitled should be provided to them without delay or red tape, and authorized a subcommittee of six members to accompany me to Washington for a conference with General Bradley.

Our conference with General Bradley was held in a spirit of amity and cooperation. Since then there have been many other conferences between Veterans Administration officials and rehabilitation leaders of The American Legion. I am happy to report that this spirit of cooperation continues to exist.

American Legion criticism of the Veterans Administration did serve a very useful purpose. Our fight was not in vain. There have been improvements in the service of the Veterans Administration. We feel certain that these improvements were stimulated if not actually inspired by our criticism. The situation was very bad. Our action focused public attention on the situation. Disabled veterans were the beneficiaries of our fight.

A review of changes in the Veterans Administration between February 1 and July 31, 1946, indicates that progress and improvement were made as follows:

1—An order was issued requiring immediate hospitalization of emergency cases without regard to availability of beds or type of disability. This put an end to cases of seriously ill veterans dying while waiting for ambulances for days.

2—The policy regarding hospitalization of all types of cases was reviewed and clarified with the result that all hospitals are making a three-shift or 24-hour basis and others on a 16-hour

1—As of the date of September 3, taking over and staffing 20 Army and Navy hospitals with potential bed capacity of 14,789, with 11 more to be taken over providing an additional 6,450 emergency beds. Another 1,325 beds in three other surplus hospitals have been frozen pending survey determining their suitability for use.

5—Planning of general hospitals to provide care for all types of cases, including TB and neuro-psychiatric patients, rather than specialized types of hospitals.

6—Broadening of rules for hiring of physicians and other medical personnel so that individual ability is the test rather than the reputation of the school from which a man was graduated.

7—Issuance of authority to establish mental hygiene clinics, although the number of these still is inadequate.

8—Partial clarification and liberalization of present regulations on payment of ambulance operators for emergency hys.

9—Procurement of surplus property kits and equipment to expedite Veterans Administration activities.

10—Congressional appropriation of $441,250,000 for hospital construction so as to start work on program previously blocked by increased costs.

11—Granting of authority to hospital heads to make tentative determination or service connection of disability, thus giving the veteran speedy service until final determination can be made.

12—Single adjudication of death claims for pension and insurance by one unit instead of two or more.

13—Establishment of Insurance officers and premium collections at regional offices.

14—Shortening of period for issuance of certificate of eligibility for benefit under the educational title of the G. I. Bill.

15—Enlargement of advice and counseling service for student veterans.

16—Order discontinuing nine area offices and transferring their functions to the regional offices.

17—Cooperation with the Treasury Department on the use of symbols to show exactly what each check received by a veteran or his beneficiary is for.

18—Order placing The American Legion and its Auxiliary on a par with the American Red Cross in work at Veterans Administration installations.

19—Order placing some activities on a three-shift or 24-hour basis and others on a 16-hour
basis to clear backlogs when such action is necessary.

As to shortcomings that still prevail, I wish to report that the Special National Executive Committee Subcommittees and I conferred with the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs in Indianapolis, June 6, 1946, and brought out the following points:

1—A lack of coordination and gearing of operations between branch and regional offices.

2—Lack of initiative in utilizing the authority granted to branch and regional offices.

3—Holding hospital waiting lists down in certain localities by rejection of applications of veterans for hospitalization and care when there is actual evidence of need.

4—Evidence of dissatisfaction and uncertainty among many good medical men and nurses with long services who have been given no assurance of their status in the newly-created Department of Medicine and Surgery.

5—Presentation to the public of an inaccurate picture of the number of cases adjudicated because processing has been done when full records and all data were not available.

6—Lack of establishment of an adequate number of sorely-needed mental hygiene clinics, due to apparent reluctance or indifference of some managers or chief medical officers to act on an order of July 1, 1945.

These six points, The American Legion has been advised, were brought to the attention of the Veterans Administration Deputy Administrators at their conference in Washington during the first part of July.

The Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration has issued a directive to each hospital and regional office on Point 3, to portray the true picture of all waiting lists and to record on the waiting lists all cases requiring hospitalization, whether major or minor ailments are present.

In regard to Point 4, the Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration has issued a statement of policy designed to clarify the status of doctors and nurses and to dispel the dissatisfaction and uncertainty which has arisen on their part since the establishment of the Department of Medicine and Surgery.

As to Point 5, Paragraph 11 of Veterans Administration Circular 169, issued July 15, 1946, stimulates this whole program of establishing mental hygiene clinics. Our senior medical consultant is watching this development closely, to the end that The American Legion may assist in any way it can in getting such units to functioning.

There are other shortcomings as to which the National Rehabilitation Committee, Field Secretaries and Service Officers of The American Legion are diligently making suggestions for improvement. An important one is the impairment of ratings and adjudication because of the efforts to cut down the pending load by handling so many cases a day.

The American Legion favors proper adjudication of all cases based upon full and complete records from the Army and Navy and upon thorough clinical examinations made for rating purposes.

The American Legion will cooperate with the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to bring about needed changes and improvements. The American Legion knows the field of rehabilitation. It has dealt with veterans' problems for 28 years. It has more than 30,000 Service Officers throughout the nation on the job, constantly reporting on services to veterans. It welcomes the spirit of cooperation that is now manifested in its relations with General Bradley and his staff.

Summary of Proceedings of the National American Legion Convention

Employment

Jobs for veterans continued to be a major concern of The American Legion during 1945-46 under the direction of our capable National Employment Chairman and his Committee.

In pursuance to a mandate of the 1945 Chicago National American Legion Convention, our committee sponsored a National Employment Conference in Washington, D. C., February 20 and 21, 1946. The foremost authorities of all fields of employment representing industry, labor, government and all department employment chairman of The American Legion participated. Similar conferences later were held in most Departments.

As a result of these conferences, certain disturbing conditions were disclosed. It developed there was a distressing lag of personal interest in veterans in most communities; that industry in part was failing to employ disabled veterans; government agencies, due to lack of competent staffs and coordination, were not properly serving veterans; too many people were expecting the government to provide maximum employment and an immediate awakening of community responsibility was most essential.

To correct this condition our National Employment Committee devised a program which called for:

1—Organization of community veterans' employment committees.

2—An intensified educational campaign for employment of disabled veterans.

3—Adequate Congressional appropriations.

4—Emphasizing that maximum employment cannot be attained by governmental decree or by master-mind economists.

5—Action at “grass roots” by promotion of The American Legion's community plan for maximum employment.

6—Sponsorship by The American Legion of a “Jobs for All” essay contest to produce practical thinking and suggestions for coping with the unemployment problem.

The U. S. Supreme Court in the Fishgold Case, overruled the interpretation of the Selective Service System that a veteran was entitled to a year's actual re-employment regardless of his seniority.

The American Legion immediately presented legislation to Congress to correct this ruling and to extend the re-employment protection of the veteran to the actual time spent in service instead of merely to one year. This legislation will be reintroduced when the new Congress convenes in January, 1947.

Efforts of The American Legion to improve the Veterans' Employment Service have borne fruit. There has been a decided improvement. However, there is a danger that much of the ground gained may be lost unless The American Legion continues its vigilance. On November 15, 1946, the public employment offices (USES) are, by Act of Congress, to be returned to the respective states. It is essential that this service be operated in each state on a high plane free from political and other interferences, if veterans are to receive proper employment placement services.

While it is impossible to predict the future of the nation's employment problem, The American Legion will cooperate with the appropriate authorities to bring about needed changes and improvements.
Legion is hopeful for the best. Full production, of course, is the solution. We can achieve full production, if management, labor and government cooperate.

On behalf of The American Legion, I wish to commend our National Employment Chairman, Lawrence J. Fenlon, of Chicago, Illinois, and his committee and staff for an excellent and outstanding job.

Marksmanship

The close of the war brought changes in The American Legion's national Marksmanship Program, most of which had been anticipated. It ended the basic training schools which many American Legion posts had been conducting to give pre-induction special individual basic rifle instruction to young men about to enter the armed forces. Many American Legion posts had been active in this program for more than three years. That it was a valuable contribution is evidenced by numerous letters of appreciation from high army officials.

During 1946 the usual American Legion National Postal Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship events, as well as two for the Sons of The American Legion and two for our Auxiliary, were held. Many World War II Legionnaires are expected to enter into the Marksmanship program as soon as firearms and ammunition become more plentiful.

With a revival of target shooting by many thousands of enthusiasts in the junior age brackets, The American Legion can perform a valuable educational service to teach these youngsters how to handle firearms and prevent accidents. This will be a worthwhile new activity for our National Marksmanship Committee in 1947. Our able National Marksmanship Director, James W. Woolrey, of Canon City, Colorado, already is laying his plans along that line.

Foreign Relations

The American Legion believes the treatment of international problems calls for common sense, frankness and patience. Resolutions adopted by the 1945 National Convention of The American Legion, and supplemented by the Foreign Relations Committee's report in December, 1945, have borne out the far-sightedness of our organization on the present international situation.

The American Legion should keep abreast of the ever-changing conditions of the world. From time to time, it should recommend to the State Department and to the Congress of the United States a policy for our government which we believe will contribute toward preservation of world peace.

It is a great regret that ill health will prevent Harry A. Sullivan, chairman of our National Foreign Relations Committee, from attending the 1946 National Convention in San Francisco.

Law and Order

In the wake of all wars there comes an increase in lawlessness. World War II is no exception. There has been a rise of both adult and juvenile crime. Because of this increase in juvenile delinquency, our National Law and Order Committee has paid particular attention to methods for the control of this problem. Chairman Richard Hartshorne of this committee, represented The American Legion at the National Advisory Panel on juvenile problems called together by the Attorney General of the United States, February 11 and 12, in Washington, D. C. This panel recommended the holding of a more representative nationwide conference in Washington, September 4 to 7. Chairman Hartshorne again represented The American Legion at this conference at which a broad program for practical action, including youth participation in self-control, was adopted.

Chairman Hartshorne is making a report to the National Executive Committee at San Francisco, outlining how The American Legion can best cooperate to support the program for juvenile delinquency control adopted at the Washington conference.

Legion Publications Commission

War-induced paper shortages continued to plague our two big national publications during the past year—The American Legion Magazine and The Legionnaire.

Despite many vexing problems, I am happy to report, however, that outstanding progress has occurred in this American Legion publishing field. The net gain of the publications division—that is the difference between the subscription and advertising revenue and the total operation cost—for 1945 amounted to $736,683.78. This is the greatest gain reported in the history of The American Legion. This result was due to increased circulation and advertising revenue.

There has been some improvement in The American Legion Magazine revitalizing the publication to make it conform to the reading habits of the younger Legionnaires who now greatly outnumber our World War I members. This should be greatly advanced in the coming year.

Veterans' Preference

The first full year following the victorious termination of World War II, resulting in the return to normal civilian life of millions of our youth, has demonstrated varied reactions concerning the important subjects of employment preference for war veterans. The "liquida tion" of war industries with its consequent reduction in personnel and manufacturing volume affecting large numbers of World War I veterans and the cancellation of war service regulations to pave the way for equal job opportunities for veterans of all wars have added to the complexities of the transition period.

It is realized that the accelerated activities of the United States Civil Service Commission incident to the vast numbers of men and women who have been released from the armed forces, requires increased appropriations. The American Legion is unalterably opposed to any "economy" at this time at the expense of the Commission.

Reports have reached us indicating that some employers have seen fit to place "seniority" above service to country. However, on the other hand, most of the nation's largest employers have gone "all-out" for the returning veteran. The American Legion will continue its campaign for merited preference in employment for all men who were "preferred" for military duty.

Aeronautics

The accumulated problems affecting civil aeronautics and its postwar expansion, deferred during the war, have resulted in extended consideration and study. An important part of the time and
attention of the Commission has also been directed to the problems arising from the rapid transition of aeronautics, both military and civil, from war to peace.

Information relative to aeronautics in its many phases has also directed not only to members of the National Commission and to Department Chairmen, but to other Department officials as well. Cooperation from those in government whose sphere of operation includes that of aeronautics has been continually forthcoming. The American Legion, through its Aeronautics Commission, has been called into conference on many matters concerning the future of aviation by those who are policy forming groups in government. Presentation has been made to all of the Commission meetings by the Department of Commerce, the Civil Aeronautics Administration, Civil Aeronautics Board, Army Air Forces, United States Navy, Veterans Administration, and War Assets Administration.

The National Aerial Roundup, held on June 2, 1946, which is also an added activity of the National Aeronautics Commission, was a complete success and exceeded all expectations.

Labor Relations

During the past year our National Labor Relations Committee collaborated in the presentation to our 27th National Convention of a resolution directing our respective Departments to eliminate violations of American Legion policies by so-called union labor posts and national conferences of membership of such posts. The Committee was helpful to the National Commander in drafting his statement on industrial strife in which he urged Congress to enact legislation giving the courts the necessary authority to settle such disputes.

Arthur E. Canty, of Illinois, who served as Chairman of our Labor Relations Committee until June, 1946, resigned because of ill health. He died suddenly at his home in Chicago on August 8. His death came as a shock to his many Legionnaire friends. Following Canty's resignation, I appointed Past National Vice-Commander Herman H. Lark, of Missouri, as Chairman.

National Agriculture Committee

Recognizing that more than a million veterans of World War II who left farms to serve in the armed forces are faced with many problems in returning to their farming enterprises, The American Legion, by authority of its National Executive Committee, created a National Agriculture Committee of seven members in December, 1945.

The NEC at its meeting in Indianapolis, June 5 to 7, 1946, approved the following agricultural policy for The American Legion on recommendation of the new committee:

"The veterans are best served by the furtherance of a program benefiting the entire farm population. Therefore, the American Legion program for all farmers is supported, with veterans receiving preference in obtaining basic farm needs.

1.—Making available short and long-term credit at low interest rates for family-size farm housing facilities and for obtaining stock and equipment.

2.—Extension of government credit facilities for farm loans to disabled veterans.

3.—Making available rural medical care, power lines to rural areas, improving roads and marketing facilities and extending the rural school system."
made in this and subsequent conferences, and it is most encouraging to note that satisfactory action will be taken in the very near future.

The American Legion's participation in the Government's repatriation of our honored war dead now buried in overseas cemeteries has developed to a point where we will, by the time the first bodies are returned, be in a position to extend full military honors to our fallen heroes and also assist the next of kin and other bereaved relatives in advice and counsel as to their rights and benefits under the current laws. A very sincere and energetic program lies ahead of the Committee in seeing that every one of our 15,400 Posts are prepared to cooperate not only in seeing that full military honors are bestowed but that burial records are maintained for all time. Official steps have been taken and it is anticipated that some plan will be worked out with the War Department so that we may have advance notice of the arrival of the remains.

The Committee has had three bills passed by the 79th Congress; namely, the Repatriation Bill, the increase in burial and funeral allowances from $100 to $150, and the act to permit the return for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, the remains of an unknown American hero. Other Acts of Congress that were not passed at this session will be reintroduced and an effort made to secure passage at the next session.

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary's primary purpose of contributing to the accomplishments of The American Legion has been carried out faithfully and effectively during the year 1945-46. Wherever the work of women could be useful, the Auxiliary supported the Legion in its attack upon the problems of the first postwar year.

The Sons of The American Legion

In my travels throughout the various Departments, I find many of the newer members of the Legion whose training commenced in their Sons of The American Legion Squadrons, holding positions of trust and leadership. These young men are bringing to the Legion a more complete understanding of its youth problems and are giving to the Legion the memberships within the Posts which had been expected of them.

Americanism

During the past year our National Americanism Division has been reorganized and expanded to direct adequately the vastly increased activities of this program.

The first Boys' Forum of National Government was sponsored by The American Legion in Washington, D.C., August 5 to 9. Approximately 100 selected boys from 46 continental Departments were taken to the National Capital at the expense of The American Legion and given an intensive course in the functioning of our Federal Government. The boys held a mock National Political Convention, sat as a Boys' Senate, held a Supreme Court session, heard talks by Cabinet officers, high government officials, Supreme Court Justices, Army and Navy leaders, political party Chairmen and others. Highlight of the Forum was a visit to the White House, where President Truman addressed them. The project was tremendously successful and was favorably commented on by the press all over the country.

Our 1946 Junior Baseball program was the largest in history, with some 800,000 boys under 17 years of age participating. Organized baseball again contributed $30,000 toward the expenses of the Regional, Sectional and Junior World's Series competition. The Ford Motor Company, through its thousands of dealers, spent probably $500,000 in equipping Post-sponsored teams.

Our Boys' State program was expanded with 33 departments participating. Similar expansion was recorded in our school medal award program, in our flag-education activities, Boy Scout Interest, and other youth-training programs.

A total of 160,000 students entered our Ninth Annual National High School Oratorical Contest.

Our Americanism Commission has launched a militant campaign against all subversive activities, particularly against Communist elements in this country, and an Assistant Director has been assigned to the field of subversive activities. No greater service can be performed by The American Legion in this postwar era than by combatting these un-American influences.

Child Welfare

The emphasis in the Child Welfare program is to maintain the integrity of the American family home.

During the past administrative year $2,133,803.28 was spent to aid 325,730 children, 97 per cent of the children being aided in their family homes. The aid was made available from the financial resources of National Headquarters, the Posts, Units, Voitures and Salons.

In the interest of the educational and instructional phase of the Child Welfare program, the annual five Area Child Welfare School-Conferences were held with a total registered attendance of 1,291 persons. These Department leaders returned to their respective Departments to spread the information and instruction to the Posts and Units and communities. Also, Sound Slide Films, a Movie Short and radio transcriptions aided in this phase of the program.

The expanded program has necessitated growth of the National Child Welfare Division Staff from five workers a year ago to ten workers now. This staff must continue to depend upon the generous and helpful volunteer services of the child welfare workers in the Posts, Units and Departments to locate the children and administer to their needs with the help of the resources of National Headquarters.

Again most grateful appreciation is expressed to the American Legion Auxiliary for its generous annual contribution of $10,000; to the Forty and Eight for its annual much-needed contribution, which this year was increased to $30,000; to the Eight and Forty for its contribution of $1,000 for special children's needs and its donation of $500 to the Mothers' Fund.

To National Child Welfare Chairman David V. Addy, Detroit, Michigan, and his associates or the National Child Welfare Committee, to the staff members, and to all of the thousands of volunteer child welfare workers in the Departments, Posts, Units, Voitures and Salons, appreciation is expressed for their services in this unselshah humanitarian program that has as its goal: "A Square Deal for Every Child."
The services rendered by the National Field Service during the past year were dependable and efficient. I am proud to call your attention to the constructive accomplishments of this service as covered in detail in the published reports to the National Convention. In addition to working diligently through the year on our Rehabilitation Program in the interest of our disabled comrades and the dependents of those who have passed on, the Field Secretaries have also carried on aggressively in all phases of Legion activity and programs. This large and efficient staff is available to all divisions of the National Organization, and many outstanding services were rendered during the past year. The special assignments covered and services rendered are too numerous for inclusion in this brief report, but suffice to say that the National Service has been and will continue to be a most valuable and enthusiastic segment of our National Organization.

Special Activities

Expanded activities have brought about assignment of additional programs to various divisions at National Headquarters. This has been particularly true of the Special Activities Section. So that additional programs would have the advantage of additional direction from the national level the following have been assigned to this section: Aeronautics; Education of Orphans of Veterans; Law and Order; Foreign Relations; Graves Registration and Memorial; Labor Relations; Marksmanhip; National Cemeteries Survey; Postwar America, as well as such "part-time" programs as "Records for Our Fighting Men" and "Gifts for Yanks Who Give." It is the function of this section to act as the liaison between the national commissions or committees heading the several activities and the Departments and Posts of The American Legion. Information and data on the activities are continually directed to the "field" and a reactivated interest has resulted.

"Records for Our Fighting Men" has continued in the same manner as during the war, with the addition of Veterans' Hospitals and Facilities to the list of hospitals to which records are directed. More than one million new, double-faced phonograph records have been directed to service and Veterans' Hospitals under this program to date.

For the second year, "Gifts for Yanks Who Give" brought to sick, wounded and disabled service personnel and veterans, hospitalized at Christmas time, gift packages in excess of 1,300,000. The total for the two years has exceeded two million and a quarter million packages at an average value of $5.00 each.

The Special Activities Section is a part of the Administration Division.

National Defense and Security

The National Defense work of The American Legion has been carried on under the able leadership of the National Defense Committee, which is composed of the following subdivisions: Military Affairs; Naval Affairs; Civilian Defense; Merchant Marine.

Universal Military Training, as a permanent program, had not been put into effect during the war years, and The American Legion knew, and it still knows, that without such a system the security of the nation can never be complete. Therefore, one of the principal duties of the National Defense Committee has been to continue its educational and promotional campaigns on behalf of the need for such training to the full realization of our people. By continuing its studies of this need, plus the extent of such training the public would accept, the committee was able to present to the National Executive Committee, through the Special National Security Committee, a complete bill to be offered to Congress which would fulfill the requirements of such legislation as expressed by past National Convention mandates, and at the same time provide adequate training for every young American so as to defend his country, such plan also be acceptable to the American people. This legislation was approved by the National Executive Committee in June, 1946, and was presented to the 79th Congress as H. R. 6544 and S. 2303.

Much discussion has been carried on regarding the unification of the armed services and the use and control of atomic energy. Believing that The American Legion should take action, after intensive study, I appointed a subcommittee composed of certain members of the National Defense Committee, and others, to make this study. Every avenue of information was covered in that study. That subcommittee recommended programs on both these subjects to the National Executive Committee in June, 1946. Those programs were accepted and became policies of the Legion without a dissenting vote.

There are other problems under study right now, which are:

- The procurement and training of personnel, officers and men for the armed forces; the determination of size and organization of the regular forces subject to rapid expansion in time of emergency; of size, organization, military status and distribution of the reserve components of the Army and Navy, including the National Guard, the Organized Reserve, the Naval Militia, the Naval Reserve, the Marine Reserve, and the ROTC.

- Organization and training of the citizens for civilian defense and protection of life and property.

- The development and maintenance of an efficient Merchant Marine as an auxiliary to the Navy in time of war. Never again must we permit our Merchant Marine to be sold, sunk or to become useless.

- Scientific research and development to keep our arms and equipment the best in the world. Today we have the atomic bomb, tomorrow others may have it. We must continue to maintain superiority if we are to have peace.

- To solve the problems of supply by the continued development of existing facilities, equipment and stockpiles of vital materials, including planned mobilization of industry and production in case of emergency.

- The acquisition and maintenance of such air, sea and ground bases as are necessary for the protection and security of the nation. The development of larger and longer range bombers will change the need for certain bases, but there will always be a need for the proper bases at the proper time, a responsibility the American people must carry on.

- The continued maintenance and modernization of a Navy, with its component parts ready and equal to the task of needing and defeating any other Navy or combination of Navies. There is no

Summary of Proceedings of the
The maintenance and continual modernization of a strong Air Force in conjunction with efficient commercial aviation organization.

The development and maintenance of an efficient Military Intelligence System to keep the nation informed of all activities of other nations.

The re-writing and adoption of a new National Defense Act for the nation that will insure the adoption and continuation of the elements set forth in the foregoing principles.

In each instance The American Legion and the American people can anticipate a carefully-studied and well-prepared policy to come from the National Defense Committee of The American Legion.

Expansions and Stabilizations

The National Expansion and Stabilization Committee is an outgrowth of the World War II Liaison Committee. The name of the Committee was changed in accordance with action taken by the 27th Annual National Convention and subsequent action of the National Executive Committee.

The purpose of the Expansion and Stabilization Committee is the expansion and stabilization of American Legion membership. Its duty is the development of activities for membership expansion and stabilization, and the transmission to all Departments and Posts of booklets and other materials setting forth suggested activities for promotion at the community level to reach that objective.

This Committee has set forth a five-point program to aid in the stabilization and end of the program. It is as follows:

1. The organization of ritual teams.
2. The creation by Posts of athletic programs which will interest the younger members.
3. The encouragement of the organization of vocal and instrumental organizations in the various Posts.
4. That Departments and Posts be encouraged to take a more active interest and participation in community service work.
5. That the Legion be constantly reminded of the fact that it is and will remain to be the outstanding organization in each community, and that it be ever careful of its reputation and its responsibility.

So that Posts might have a guide to use in the important work of membership expansion and stabilization, the office of the Committee at National Headquarters prepared a booklet entitled "Get 'Em and Hold 'Em," which is being given a nation-wide distribution. This publication reviews many ways in which Posts can work in this field of expansion and stabilization.

The office has also, in cooperation with the National Public Relations Division, developed film trailers for use by Posts in their local motion picture theaters. The trailer provides an effective medium for reaching prospective members with the story of the work of the organization.

Radio transcriptions containing membership appeals have also been prepared and distributed to Posts having access to radio broadcasting facilities.

Newspaper advertising mats have been made available and are being used by Posts.

Billboard posters, window cards and stickers have been made available and are in constant use by local Posts all over the nation.

Thirty-seven college and university campus Posts of the organization have been created and are now successfully operating in educational institutions throughout the country.

The office of your Committee at Headquarters prepared a new piece of literature entitled "You Are The American Legion... And How" for distribution to new members of the organization as they are initiated into the Legion. The booklet provides these new members with an opportunity for a quick review of the internal operation of the Legion, and it is felt that the distribution of it will aid tremendously in the stabilization of new members.

The office has continued to distribute the Welcome Home cards and letters to veterans as they return to their respective communities, and the "It's a Fact," folder to give them a review of the work of the organization.

A new booklet was prepared for free distribution to returned service people by Legion Posts, entitled "Tomorrow's Horizons." This booklet reviews the various types of rights and benefits accruing to veterans of World War II.

Also developed this year was a "Special Invitation to Join The American Legion." This was a direct membership appeal and was done pictorially with a minimum amount of copy. This is furnished to Posts through Departments in quantity without charge.

Your Committee inaugurated a column entitled "Get 'Em and Hold 'Em," which is published in The National Legionnaire. The purpose of this column is to serve as an exchange of ideas on how the various Posts in the field are going about the job of expansion and stabilization.

At the January meeting of the National Management Committee, the office of Expansion and Stabilization Service was authorized to employ and train ten young members of The American Legion to work with Departments in the field of membership expansion and stabilization endeavor. These ten young men have been at work now for several months. They have assisted Departments in the organization of new Posts, in the stimulation of intensive membership effort and in preaching the doctrine of stabilization activities. It is felt that this is an extremely valuable addition to the services offered by the National Organization.

The operation of the first term of The American Legion College was made a part of the work of the office of the Expansion and Stabilization Service was authorized to employ and train ten young members of The American Legion to work with Departments in the field of membership expansion and stabilization endeavor. These ten young men have been at work now for several months. They have assisted Departments in the organization of new Posts, in the stimulation of intensive membership effort and in preaching the doctrine of stabilization activities. It is felt that this is an extremely valuable addition to the services offered by the National Organization.

The operation of the first term of The American Legion College was made a part of the work of the office of the Expansion and Stabilization Committee at National Headquarters. The first term was held July 8 to 20. Sixty-seven students representing thirty-four Departments attended the first term and received their Certificates of Graduation at a formal graduation service on the morning of July 20. Past National Commander Lynn U. Stambaugh delivered the Commencement Address. A second term of The American Legion College will be held at National Headquarters, December 9 to 19. V. M. "Army" Armstrong, Past National Vice-Commander of The American Legion and Past Department Commander of Indiana, served as President of the first term of the Legion College.

Every indication points to the fact that the first term of the College was successful, and this state-
ment is based upon the reaction received from the students, faculty members and observers.

It is believed that in The American Legion College we have a program through which an effective stabilization program can be put forward. With the large increase in membership this year, the American Legion faces a great responsibility. It is a responsibility to see to it that the new, young members are trained in the programs and services of the organization. That is what the Committee on Expansion and Stabilization has and will continue to attempt to do.

Emblem

From the standpoint of gross sales and net profit, the past year was the best in the history of the Emblem Division.

This unusual record is due to the greatly increased membership and the full cooperation of the Division's major contractors in expanding their facilities as rapidly as possible to take care of the increased demands.

The Division is also obtaining again numerous items which it was necessary to temporarily discontinue during the war period and in addition is securing many new items which will appeal to the younger Legionnaires and women members.

Education of Orphans of Veterans

Veterans feel that the Federal Congress is under the same obligation to provide educational opportunities for the sons and daughters of those who sacrificed their lives for their country as for surviving veterans themselves. This would necessitate a substantial increase in Government compensation for war orphan boys and girls of college age. This subject will be given careful consideration by the National Committee on Education of War Orphans and an appropriate resolution will be presented to the National Convention.

The number of states that furnish aid in the education of postwar orphans of World War I has increased from 26 to 30, and of war orphans of World War II from 23 to 25 during the past year.

Sons of deceased veterans of World War II are now eligible for appointment to the United States Military and Naval Academies under the act of June 8, 1926, as amended by act of November 24, 1945.

The number of National Commander scholarships was increased from 10 to 15 by resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee, November 24, 1945. Formal announcement of winners of this year's scholarships will be made at the National Convention.

National Public Relations

The story of The American Legion is being told as never before. Amazing strides have been made since the creation of the National Public Relations Division in September, 1945, and the appointment of Raymond H. Fields as Director. There is a strong representation of young Legionnaires on this staff; eight of the twelve executive assistants are World War II men.

Here are some of the major accomplishments of the National Public Relations Division in eleven months' time:

Radio

Produced a weekly radio program entitled "This Is Our Duty," which is broadcast over more stations than any other program in America. More than 600 stations air this program. To promote American Legion Junior Baseball, the Division prepared a series of 11 transcribed radio programs which featured the nation's leading sports announcers, umpires and baseball players. The baseball players were those who had graduated from Junior Baseball into the major leagues. More than 450 radio stations carried this series of programs. Together with the 20 network broadcasts which the Division arranged in the interest of promoting The American Legion, there is, on an average, not a quarter of an hour, day or night, when a Legion program is not being broadcast to some radio audience.

Press

The records indicate that there have been more than 80,000 stories or comments about The American Legion printed in the nation's publications during the past 11-month period. These stories were the result of actions taken at National Headquarters and published by the public relations staff. More than a half million words were written by the National Public Relations Division and placed in channels for public consumption during the course of the year. The Information service for the general press as well as for the Legion has been greatly expanded, excluding the preparation of more than 20 types of newspaper ads.

Movies

The Division has assisted in the production of two films of interest to the Legion, one a trailer aimed at increasing membership, and the other a high-grade story seeking to encourage the placement of disabled veterans in industry.

Miscellaneous

The Division has refrained from the manufacture of policy. It works closely with other Divisions at the national level on such matters as the Boys' Forum of National Government, recognition of August 14 as Victory Day, American Legion Junior Baseball, Child Welfare, Universal Military Training, improvements in the disposition of surplus property as affecting veterans, Americanism, rehabilitation and many others.

National Retirement

The National Retirement Plan for retirement of employees of the National Organization is now completely in operation. Six employees are receiving pensions, three for having reached the compulsory retirement age of 65, and three due to ill health, having had over 15 years' continuous service.

The National Executive Committee has amended the trust indenture to make the Plan available to the employees of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Forty and Eight, the Departments and Intra-Departmental groups of each said organization and the employees of such other subsidiary and subordinate groups thereof who may desire from time to time to participate in such Plan.

Inquiry directed to National Headquarters will provide information regarding the Plan to such groups.

Forty and Eight

The Forty and Eight has given active and able support to The American Legion in the work of entertaining young veterans in the Legion and of consolidating the Legion membership gains.
Initiation ceremonies conducted by Forty and Eight degree teams gave many thousands of new members an understanding start into their Legion activities.

The Forty and Eight has given the Legion full support in service work for the returned veteran and in efforts for the welfare of dependents of the dead and disabled. The Voyagers' contributions for child welfare purposes made possible a contribution of $30,000 to the Legion's national child welfare program.

Concluding this annual report, I respectfully submit the following recommendations for the good of The American Legion:

1. Modernization and streamlining of the operations of the National Organization is a definite necessity in order that it may keep pace with our growing membership. The National Executive Committee is being asked, at its meeting here, to authorize the appointment of a small committee, to be comprised of men who have had long and extensive knowledge of the operations of the National Organization, to survey our entire set-up and make proper recommendations to both the 1947 National Convention and the National Executive Committee for the betterment of the service which the Organization must provide to our membership. I recommend that this special committee give most earnest consideration and study to the following matters:

(a) Elimination or reducing of the too numerous programs of the Legion and restriction of our organizational efforts generally to those specifically provided for in the national by-laws, and which have always been the cornerstones of our existence, namely, Rehabilitation, Americanism, Child Welfare and Legislation.

(b) The growth of the Legion has created many complications in the holding of our annual national conventions, the legislative body of our organization. Intensive study must be made of such matters as ratio of delegate strength to membership, and the entire matter of national convention operation should be studied and a convention formula provided to meet rapidly changing conditions.

(c) It is my firm belief that the entire matter of the allocation of the national organization dues dollar should be thoroughly investigated, and especially in relation to the allocation of three-fourths of the nationally received dollar per member allotment to the publications of the national organization. The question of whether or not we are receiving maximum value and whether the best interests of the organization are being served by our present types of national publications should be thoroughly surveyed.

(d) The National Emblem Division is a merchandising and sales organization within the National Organization. The relationships of this Division with the Departments and Posts should be thoroughly explored, and if new procedures are indicated for the benefit of the individual Legionnaire, they should be adopted. It is my belief that the National Emblem Division should become more of the nature of a wholesaler and distributor and the retailing of merchandise as easily available as possible to our individual member customers.

(e) At present there is no standardization to the administrative years of the components of the Legion. The National Organization's administrative year runs from national convention to national convention. On the other hand, Departmental administrations change each year during the months of April, May, June, July, August and September. I believe that study should be given to the adoption of some constitutional regulation or device, if this be practical, which would more nearly put the administrative year for the National and Department organizations on an identical basis.

(f) I believe study should be given to the zoning of the nation for Vice-Commandership elections, and that each of our Vice-Commanders should be given constitutional duties and assignments in their respective areas—in order that they may be more specifically the representatives of the National Commander in those territories. Some of the tremendous burdens of the National Commandership can thus be transferred to what, in reality is and should be his cabinet—the five National Vice-Commanderships.

2. Experimentally, a Boys' Forum of Good Government was staged in Washington by the National Organization last month. To my mind this was a most worthwhile program and I believe it should be made a permanent program and a natural corollary to our Boys' State program.

May I again thank all my comrades for a year of the finest fellowship in a great organization.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:

In late 1940 when the legions of Hitler and Mussolini were advancing with dread monotony, the sudden route of numerically superior Italian forces by the United Kingdom's Army of the Nile raised the hopes of democratic peoples the world over. Our next speaker was field commander of that army. A lifelong soldier, who first tasted battle in the Boer War of 1899, he won the Distinguished Service Order for World War I service in France. Twenty-eight years later he succeeded General Eisenhower as Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean Theater, where the American Fifth and Seventh Armies were under his command. Promoted Field Marshal and appointed head of the British Joint Staff Mission in Washington in January, 1945, he figured prominently in the fusion of Anglo-American effort which wrote off Axis aggression within the year.

It is my pleasure to present to you one of the great tacticians of World War II, one who earned the respect and admiration of all the Allied fighting men—Field Marshal the Lord Wilson.
ADDRESS OF SIR HENRY MAITLAND WILSON
Senior British Representative on
Combined Chiefs of Staff

It is a great privilege to be invited to address the Annual Convention of The American Legion. As one who has commanded U. S. Army, Navy and Air Forces in this last war, I feel that I can claim to address you as brothers in arms.

In the struggle from which we have emerged recently the United States and British Commonwealth of Nations worked together as allies as has never before been recorded in history. That two nations could work together as one team is quite unprecedented. This spirit of cooperation has been expressed admirably by your famous commander General Eisenbexwar, in his report on operations in Northwest Europe. To quote his wording—"The United States of America and England and France are the combatants. Britain have worked not merely as allies but as one nation, pooling their resources in men and material alike in this struggle against the forces of evil engendered by Hitler's Germany." This statement is now written and relevant and cooperation should never be allowed to die down. It cannot be foreseen when it might be required in the future. It is up to the Legionnaires and veterans of both World Wars to keep it alive.

We emerged victorious from this struggle and now that over a year has passed since the cessation of hostilities it is well to take stock of what has been achieved by our efforts and sacrifices. To begin with one must never lose sight of one's objective. What was it we fought for? What carried us through the grim days when facing aggressors in the East and in the West whilst we were unprepared and short of equipment? It was something our enemies never possessed; a spiritual factor in our cause which was the attainment of freedom for mankind, as exemplified in the tradition of the English speaking nations.

We men of the services cannot get together without the thought of those who fell in both World Wars. Their achievements and sacrifices recall those lines on a War Memorial of the World War I which are as true, if not more so, today—

"From little towns in a far land we came,
To save our honor and a world aflame.
By little towns in a far land we sleep;
And trust that work we won for you to keep!"

Can we claim at this juncture that we have reached our objective? Our understanding of freedom is freedom of expression, freedom from political despotism combined with these two conditions of the Atlantic Charter—freedom from want and freedom from fear. To judge from the world situation today, to put it in operational terminology we are on our objective in parts but the rest of the situation is obscure. One might say very obscure. From past experience one knows what a hard struggle it is to clean up such a situation.

What is the world operational picture that faces us today? In what proportion of countries does freedom of expression go unfettered? The same question can be put regarding political despotism. The two freedoms of the Atlantic Charter fare not so well. Take the first—freedom from want—subsistence level is low in most countries and the spectre of famine stands in the background today in both wheat and rice eating areas. Nor as regards the second, can we claim that we have

rid the world of fear. Though attacks by lethal weapons have ceased to destroy lives and property we know that in many countries conditions exist where individuals live in fear of visits by state police and where farmers are subjected to the question, "What can we today say that we have achieved our aim? Can we afford to slap each other on the shoulders and boast about the fine deeds we accomplished, and leave it at that? There is a great deal more to be done to achieve what we set out for. V-E and V-J days registered the end of a phase of a struggle when our opponents became incapable of further armed resistance. The great upheaval caused by seven years of world war could not be settled by an armistice between belligerents. It is bound to take time and one hopes that it can be accomplished by political evolution without recourse to further war. No country can expect to go back to the conditions of 1939. This last upheaval has lifted the political and economic world on to a new plane.

So today we look to the future and, to a large extent, that future is unknown. We must keep our objectives before us and consider what is likely to stand in the way of its achievement. Nor can we afford to ignore the lessons of the past. Do people realize how nearly unpreparedness lost us this last war? Through centuries it has always been the practice of democratic governments after a victory to neglect the services so that they are cut down below the safety level. Mr. Winston Churchill quotes in his book on Marlborough, the following lines, written by a veteran of the wars in the Netherlands 250 years ago, are as appropriate in our times as in those—

"God and the soldier we adore
In time of danger, and not before.
Danger fear and all things hatred,
God is forgotten and the soldier slighted."

Another lesson is that aggressors and totalitarian rulers are likely to threaten our ideals of freedom as their very existence is incompatible with them. By the study of history aggressors are always ready to destroy those who defy them but never embark on a war unless the odds are on their chance of winning. For any nation to stand up and shout defiance without the necessary military backing is to court disaster. The politicians of the world excite the small nation can put up a heroic resistance, as in the case of Greece when attacked by Italy, but under modern conditions of war one cannot expect to bring off a David and Goliath act. For a great nation to hope to do so would be suicidal. One must face the fact that a great power is always ready to destroy those who defy them and armament allows it strength to fall below the level consistent with its security plays the aggressors' game in giving him the odds favorable to victory and not in his arms.

The two world wars of this century have been marked by the initial success of the aggressor while the countries attacked had to play for time to defy, defeat and build up their forces and armaments. In each war the allies ran the risk of defeat before they could develop their strength which in this last war especially, caused grave anxiety for nearly two years. The tempo of modern war has so intensified such a risk that in the future any question of gambling on a mar-
gin of time in which to get ready becomes quite inadmissible. Time and timing are the secret weapons of the aggressor. Preparedness must therefore be our watchword, or in boxing parlance, "one cant afford to drop one's guard."

The cost of keeping up that guard will be infinitesimal compared with the cost of lives and devastation in any future war; and it is thus that the odds on success can be prevented from turning in favour of any aggressor. We owe this to future generations and cannot stand by without putting our shoulders to the wheel to achieve this end. What better encouragement can we have than the words of Rudyard Kipling's written in the last century:

"Go to your work and be strong, halting not in your ways,

Baulking the end half-won for an instant dole

Stand to your work and be wise—certain of sword and pen,

Who are neither children nor gods, but men

in a world of men."

It is thus that it can be ensured that we did not fight in vain.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:

Our next speaker won his first fame in public life when as United States prosecuting attorney he cracked the whip on powerful and notorious criminals in the Midwest. A superb attorney, he was elected Governor of Illinois in 1940. Himself a veteran of World War I service in the Army Air Force, he rallied his state to an inspiring performance in World War II. He is a Legionnaire and a good one. Serving God and country has become a habit with him. I am happy to present the Honorable Dwight H. Green, Governor of Illinois.

ADDRESS OF DWIGHT H. GREEN

Governor of Illinois

The thrill which I always feel in attending these National Conventions of The American Legion is heightened for me today by the fact that this is the first full-scale meeting of our organization in five years, and also because of the honor and privilege of appearing on this platform. Then too, in addition to the pageantry, the color and the comradeship which go with these gatherings is the realization on the part of all of us who are members of the Legion that we are a part of a great movement and a great cause devoted to the welfare and the future of America.

Not only as the Governor of Illinois, but as a Legionnaire, I have eagerly looked forward to the proceedings of this convention. There will be considered here in the next few days the most critical issues confronting the people of this country—such issues as our foreign policy, our national defense and its relationship to our foreign policy, the adequate care of the veterans, housing, employment, and the other tangled economic problems of our readjustment to peace.

What this convention has to say on these and other subjects will represent the authentic voice not only of the veterans of the recent war, but the voice of the veterans of both World Wars. It will be an expression which all America may heed with confidence and profit.

For, as we all know, the American Legion is much more than an organization of veterans working exclusively for veterans. The tremendous influence of this organization always has been directed toward accomplishment of those things which were best for America as a whole. Indeed, the men of the Legion are Americans of the highest type, whose patriotism and devotion to country have been tested under fire. The recognition of this by a great majority of the people accounts in a large measure for the huge prestige and influence which the Legion always has enjoyed.

I appear on this program today as a representative of the Governors who are Legionnaires. In that capacity I wish to speak briefly about what I consider to be the obligation of the states toward their service men and women.

While the primary responsibility toward the veteran unquestionably belongs to the federal government, there are a number of avenues through which the states can and should help discharge that responsibility. I refer to the activities of the states in the field of veterans' hospitalization, rehabilitation, education, and financial assistance either in the form of a bonus or in some other form.

In the matter of education, many states are taking unusual steps to provide the opportunities for college and university training provided in the GI Bill of Rights. All of us applauded the enactment of the GI Bill and agreed that it was quite proper for the federal government to pay the veteran subsistence while he was attending school and to pay the colleges the cost of his tuition and training. I do not think it is generally realized that the States are assuming a substantial additional burden to handle those students.

In Illinois for example, we are opening two branches of the University of Illinois, one at Chicago and another downtown at Galesburg, and have established Junior College branches of the university in thirty-five high schools at strategic locations throughout the state. Through these steps we expect to accommodate perhaps double the normal enrollment of approximately twelve thousand in the state university. The president of the University of Illinois has informed me that the cost to the state of opening these emergency branches will be four or five times the amount which the federal government will pay the state for the education of the veterans.

We in Illinois are glad that we can assume this burden. For in that, as in the other branches of service to the veterans which I have mentioned, the most we can do for them is the least we can do to show our appreciation for what they have done for us.

Likewise Illinois is proud to be among those states which have taken the lead in providing state bonuses for their veterans, improved hospital facilities for those veterans who become charges of the state, and greatly expanded facilities for the care and rehabilitation of mentally ill service men and women.

The bonus law which has been enacted in Illinois is designed to smooth the veteran's transition from service to civilian life. It provides $10.00
for each month of service in the United States and $15.00 for each month of service overseas. For the more than 900,000 sons and daughters of Illinois who wore their country's uniform in World War II, this will entail an estimated expenditure of 885 million dollars. This entire program, including the method by which the bonus payments would be financed primarily through amusement and luxury taxes, will be submitted to the voters in a special referendum at the general election next month on November 5.

In summing up my conception of what America owes to the veterans, let me put it this way. We owe the veteran every opportunity to pursue the sort of life he had planned before he was called upon to fight a war that never would have been of his choosing, and to achieve a prosperity and happiness in his own community beyond that which we have enjoyed. I look upon it as the duty of the states to do everything within their power to help achieve that end.

How shall we achieve that goal? First, we must work to establish real peace in the world and thereby as we call it— the occurrence of another war which certainly would be more terrible than any we have known, and which might indeed threaten the destruction of our civilization.

That means, of course, a genuine effort to cooperate with every nation which will join us in working for peace. That cooperation must be sound and practical, dealing with things as they are, and not based on visionary hopes of a dream world. It must be based on a policy that will protect fully the resources of our own country, and it must be backed up by a strong America guarded fully at every essential base at home or abroad.

We must abandon, and make it clear to the world that we have abandoned, the futile ways of appeasement. The vacillating policies of our international diplomacy which within the last year have gravely periled our quest for peace must be replaced by a firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right. We shall achieve neither a peaceful nor a happy world if we commit ourselves even to silent partnership in the rape of small nations and the enslavement of millions of human beings. Our contribution to world peace and progress depends not merely upon our membership in the United Nations, but upon what we stand for and those councils.

Of almost equal importance is the necessity that we provide the veteran with healthy economic opportunities at home. When we look about at the meatless stores, at thousands of families without homes, at the shortages that exist and the confusion which prevails, we must realize that in the first year of peace we haven't met that obligation. For ten long years he was the dean of the cabinet, his was the stabilizing influence, the fundamental Americanism that frequently challenged and advised against false panaceas.

For ten long years he was the dean of the cabinet. He saw the cabinet members come and go; he saw crises and turn in governmental policies; he saw with alarm the infiltration into our national life many un-American ideals and false theories of government. He lived and served through
all of the meanderings of those administrations, but he remained fundamentally honest and basically sound.

He was never a party in the various cajoles, groups and cabals that sought new and revolutionary short cuts to the solutions of basic governmental problems. He, with great calmness and serenity maintained his poise and equilibrium. He never affiliated with, or was influenced by the sycophants that flattered and singed themselves around the candle flame of an experimental ideology that brought the nation to the brink of moral and economic bankruptcy. He remained a great statesman. He was ever the master of his own conscience.

He entered that administration a great American; he gave to the limit of his splendid ability; he retired in no way entangled or in no way besmirched by any of his associations. Truly he preserved his integrity of thought and purpose; he played his part; he stood on his own two feet; he was ever the Secretary of State, preserving and jealously guarding the prerogatives of that office. With cool and calculating determination, so typical of the Tennessee mountain folk from which he sprang, he courageously met and resolutely repelled any infringements upon his rights and his responsibilities of his job.

Of him certainly it can be said, as of probably no other member of the Roosevelt cabinet, he discharged the responsibilities of his office so devotedly, with such great firmness and ability that he grew in stature during the years of service, and in retiring left his cabinet obligations a more greatly beloved, admired and honored American citizen.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, Mr. Commander, and with deep appreciation upon my part for having been chosen the one so to do, to present in absentia this, the Legion's highest award, to him, who, in my opinion, is the greatest living American, the Honorable Cordell Hull.

ACCEPTANCE OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL FOR CORDELL HULL

John H. Hilldring, Asst. Secretary of State

I have already delivered to this audience today one message from the State Department, and I will not extend those remarks, but I have a message from Secretary Cordell Hull that I would like to deliver to you.

As you might expect, the old gentleman hasn't any idea whatsoever as to why you have conferred this honor upon him. You might expect him to feel that way. He asked me to deliver to you one message. You have always had, of course, his earnest support and affection. You have for this particular honor his undying gratitude.

He wants me to assure you that only illness, only very severe illness could have kept him from being on this rostrum today, to accept this great honor from The American Legion. Thank you.

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER LATIMER: I have the pleasure of presenting to you on this same platform one who, back in 1923, was elected our National Commander and who did such a grand job in 1923 and 1924, one of the younger Legionnaires of that day, John R. Quinn of Los Angeles.

PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN LEGION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL TO BOB HOPE

By John R. Quinn

Comrade Commander, Delegates to the National Convention of The American Legion: It is my great privilege today to confer a great privilege upon myself. When Leon Happei arose in the National Executive Committee in Indianapolis and presented a nomination from this Department for the Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion, I was proud then, but I am prouder now that the National Commander designated me to present to this friend of the veterans, the Distinguished Service Medal. In the days of old, only the nobility could afford the luxury of the jester. By that standard more than 12,000,000 GIs of World War II were nobles. For Bob Hope was the personal jester of every man and woman in uniform. He performed on their terms; he traveled by plane, sea and foot to their own courts. Wherever they were—in foxhole, Quonset hut, jungle or warship—he administered the toxin of cheer and laughter. He made five trips to entertain fighting men overseas—in Alaska and the Aleutians, the South Pacific, the Caribbean and Panama Canal zone, Africa and the European theater. He has flown a half million miles to perform in the din of the front lines as well as in the hush of hospitals. For this invaluable volunteer service to the members of our armed forces, and especially in recognition of the unselfish spirit in which it was rendered, I am happy and honored, Bob, to present to you in the name of more than three and a third million Legionnaires, this Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion.

ACCEPTANCE OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Bob Hope

Thank you very much. Thank you very much, John. Distinguished Guests, Legionnaires, Ladies and Gentlemen: I don't have to tell you that I am really thrilled, and I can't think of anybody in this world I would rather have pin this medal on me than the Past Commander, that grand American, John Quinn. I mean that sincerely. It is really pretty, isn't it?

I don't have to tell you that this is rather a surprise to me. I didn't read it in the papers until three weeks ago, you know; but it is really wonderful and I know that Crosby will never believe it. Of course, he hasn't received anything like this since General Lee gave him his for leading the retreat of Bull Run. I want to say that I am just thrilled being in this company, ladies and gentlemen. I can't tell you how thrilled I am. It is wonderful. That was a wonderful speech that Mr. Hoover made—you could hear them applauding all the way from Alcatraz.

I don't mean to minimize the importance of this award because really, it means a lot to me. It commemorates a lot of wonderful events and I have been paid off. It is a big surprise that they ever gave me anything because honestly, I've been paid off many, many times by wonderful events—the expressions on the faces of the boys
in different parts of the world. Guys just like me standing out in the rain. Wonderful kids. I have had the great pleasure of associating with ladies and gentlemen in all services and I wish that I had the great pleasure of associating with ladies and gentlemen in all services and into the hospitals. This job isn’t finished. They still have to be entertained. There is still a tremendous morale job to be done, ladies and gentlemen.

When I say it is a surprise to me, I think that that Ohio delegation on over there probably are more surprised than I am because I started in Ohio in Cleveland. One of a family of seven. That was kind of rough. In fact, if you were four chairs away from the butter, you had no chance of living.

It is such a great surprise because I went on in theatricals and got up over here was finally in the palace in New York. That was a big surprise to me and I came to Hollywood and have officiated in awarding the Oscars at the Hollywood Academy. I never really got any, but I got close to them. I also went to the White House and officiated at a dinner for President Roosevelt, another surprise, and met President Truman at the White House. He didn’t OK the speech. I also went to the White House and officiated at a dinner for President Roosevelt, another surprise, and met President Truman at the White House. He didn’t OK the speech. By the way, he didn’t really OK the Wallace speech. I understand. It got mixed up with his sheet music.

Really, to stand up here, ladies and gentlemen, you can’t imagine how delighted and thrilled I am because this is the most thrilling surprise in my life. I mean it. It is the high spot of my life. I mean it. It is the high spot of my life. It got mixed up with his sheet music. Really, to stand up here, ladies and gentlemen, you can’t imagine how delighted and thrilled I am because this is the most thrilling surprise in my life. I mean it. It is the high spot of my life. I mean it. It is the high spot of my life.

The second session of the convention met in the Exposition Auditorium at 10:35 a.m. National Vice-Commander R. Graham Huntington presiding. Vice-Commander Huntington called National Chaplain Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith to deliver the invocation after the colors were advanced.

Prior to the meeting Miss Caterina Jarboro, concert artist, sang several selections. The Star Spangled Banner was sung by the International Male Chorus, Armed Forces, Western Pacific.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT GLASCOFF: We have a telegram addressed to Honorable John Stelle, National Commander, American Legion, San Francisco: "Please convey to J. Edgar Hoover my deep appreciation of his timely comment on the menace of Communism. The Veterans of Foreign Wars endorses his remarks and pledge full cooperation in opposing the serious threat of Communism. I congratulate The American Legion and yourself on Mr. Hoover’s appearance before your convention. Louis E. Starr, Commander in Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HUNTINGTON: A bluejacket in the first great war, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and later Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air during the second, our next speaker has had a wealth of personal experience with the two-war veterans of The American Legion. A Legionnaire himself, past Department Commander of New Hampshire, he is a lawyer by profession, a champion of national military preparedness by choice. He was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, graduated from Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School, and practiced law in New Hampshire and Washington, D. C. Always avid for detailed knowledge of the chore at hand, he made a 25,000-mile tour by air and sea of the Pacific combat area in 1945. In July of that year he was sworn in as Assistant

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1946
Secretary of the Navy for Air aboard a United States aircraft carrier off the Japanese mainland. Last June he became Undersecretary of the Navy. In that office he is today helping build and strengthen the machinery of our peacetime fleet. I am happy to introduce the Undersecretary of the United States Navy—the Honorable John L. Sullivan.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN L. SULLIVAN
Under Secretary of the Navy

I want you to know how happy I am to have this opportunity to meet with you—my comrades—at this 28th National Convention of The American Legion.

I am, of course, glad to come here as the representative of the United States Navy. I am proud to be here as a man who for 28 years has been a member of one of the finest, most patriotic and most constructive organizations this country or the world has ever known—The American Legion.

I bring you the Navy's most cordial greetings. From Secretary Forrestal down through the ranks, from brass to boots, the United States Navy will always cherish its association with The American Legion.

The Navy Department and The American Legion always have been bound by hearty bonds of friendship and cooperation in national defense. The Navy is proud of the contributions your membership has made in two great World Wars. The Navy is profoundly grateful for the less glamorous but equally important work accomplished between these wars. Through many trying years The American Legion in the face of public apathy labored to spread the gospel of Americanism and to preach the doctrine of preparedness.

When the Japs struck at Pearl Harbor this country was far from prepared. I shudder to think of America's fate—and that of ourselves and our children—had it not been for the work of The American Legion between 1918 and 1941.

Among the ranks of your membership from World War I can be found the finest Americans I have ever known. This year's circle of patriotic comradeship embraces hundreds of thousands of veterans of World War II.

We veterans of World War I thought we were good. I know that all of you other old re-treads agree with me that the secret weapon with which America won World War II was not the radar nor the influence fuse nor even the atomic bomb. The secret weapon with which America won World War II was fifteen million of the finest young men the world has ever known—The American Legion.

Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention

I am sure that you all share with me not only the hope but the confidence that the United Nations will fulfill its destiny and become the guarantor throughout the world of that peace for which all humanity yearns.

I am sure that there are many sacrifices we all agree are justified in the hope that we stand on the threshold of lasting international amity.

This great country of ours—potentially the most powerful military force in the world—has given convincing evidence of its confidence in collective security by the prompt demobilization of its armed forces. Within the year a Navy of nearly 4,000,000 has shrunk to a force of 871,671 for the Navy and 112,755 for the Marine Corps. This minimum efficient naval force cannot be substantially reduced until the United Nations has proved its ability to preserve the peace.

Immediately following the cessation of hostilities in 1918 the United States led the world in disarmament. If ever the futility of unilateral disarmament could be demonstrated we did it in the 1920's and 1930's. To such an extent did we carry out our demonstration that it was only at the appalling cost of rows of white crosses all over the world and unmarked graves in every ocean that we finally saved America and gave our civilization one more chance. That major error must not be repeated.

The purpose of a Navy in time of war is to control the seaways for our own use and to deny them to the enemy. So long as there is traffic on the seas we will need a Navy. Until permanent peace is assured, our Navy must be the best in the world. We must all remember one of the funda-
mental physical facts of this planet. That fact is that 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered with water.

An ocean is like a railroad—especially in war-time except that it runs in all directions. Now you know that if you control a railroad you can go where you choose and send a tremendous amount of freight to any station along the line. The other fellow, who doesn't control the railroad, can't do this. If he is at a way station, and you refuse to let him use your railroad, he is isolated. The nation that preserves the right of free use in any direction of the world's waterways is in an enviable position to guarantee and if necessary to enforce peace.

At the beginning of World War II, America lost control of a great part of the Pacific Ocean. We regained this control and won the war in the Orient at terrific cost in lives and money. Since no nation in the world today fears America as an aggressor, I submit to you that the cause of world peace can best be served by America's retention of air-sea power adequate to prevent any but ruthless use of the world's waterways.

The existence of the atomic threat to Naval ships means that we must redesign hulls and structures to keep pace with scientific developments. This already is being done. We must be prepared to meet the threat of atomic power on the seas as well as in the air and on land. We must press intensive research in this and all other military research. The Navy needs your help in keeping America awake to this phase of preparedness.

You can tell the public that research and invention in America must lead the world. You can say that the evaluation of the Bikini tests forecasts for the Navy a new era. This new era calls for changes much more revolutionary than our transition from wood to steel and from sail to steam. Whatever change may be required by scientific development you can instat be made. We must preserve that security and protection that can be guaranteed only by air-sea power competent to control our adjacent oceans.

For the Navy, I assure you that our air-sea power will be prompt to seek and adopt all improvements which will enable us to discharge the Navy's traditional responsibility of preserving the peace by protecting America.

All this, I know, will be a part of the Legion's great program of national defense. Coupled with national defense, the other two causes dearest to the heart of Legionnaires are the rehabilitation of veterans and the promotion of Americanism throughout the land.

I earnestly commend to this convention that until your program for national defense, rehabilitation and Americanism is underway, you must go so far as to success you continue to concentrate on these three major objectives. Don't overwhelm your officers and representatives with a multitude of worthwhile but relatively less important resolutions and directives.

For the last seven years in Washington I have seen the workings of your very fine representation in your nation's capital. Colonel Taylor, Frank Sullivan, and all of their assistants and associates are giving The American Legion the finest representation any organization this country has ever had. But I beseech you, let them work on the things that count, and don't snow them under with thousands of resolutions, as you and I have often seen happen.

In this troublesome time between war and peace, when internecine and internecine hostility blinds our vision, The American Legion must continue to inculcate all Americans in the faith of our founding fathers.

We must make it clear to young and old that it is our freedoms and our ideals which have made America great. We must make sure they understand that there is room for only one political "ism" in the United States, and that is Americanism. We must make it clear to those we harbor from foreign lands that the privilege of citizenship in this great republic cannot be a mantle of convenience, to be worn or laid aside to suit the purposes of the individual.

We must make certain that loyal Americans are not misled. Rarely in our history have sinister and purposeful minorities been so clamorous with subversive ideology and been listened to so soberly and awedly by those whom they would destroy.

There is a great job for you to do—to Americanize America. National unity requires that everyone within our borders realize that if he remains an Americanist, he must adapt himself to the spirit of our institutions and conform to the basic principles of our laws. Every lawless group or organization, regardless of its name, purport or birthplace, must be driven into the open and destroyed.

The basis of our unity is the loyalty of our citizens. To achieve that loyalty among all Americans this country looks to The American Legion. In this great adventure, my comrades, I salute you. May God help you to speed the day of mankind's freedom from the fear of man!
devoted service of the ship and its men during this last great war. They shall be placed in the archives of our great organization as a living memorial to the service rendered by this ship and its gallant crew. Thank you, sir.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE

Glen R. Hills, chairman of Indiana, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-Eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, California, September 30, October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946. Forty-two (42) members of your committee on Monday, September 30, 1946, met at 5:00 p.m., and on October 2, 1946, at 8:30 a.m., in committee room 319 in the Veterans' Memorial Building and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Introduction

As early as 1922, members of The American Legion began to note the deplorable conditions under which some of the children of our former comrades were being forced to live and decided that something should be done about it; so the national convention at St. Paul in 1924 adopted a Child Welfare Program.

Very early in our work we found that if we wanted to improve the environment of veterans’ children that the best approach to the problem was to work for the betterment of living conditions for all children, so we adopted as our goal, “A Square Deal for Every Child.”

Concerned as we were about our children’s future in 1922 when veterans’ children were just a small segment of our total youth population, how much greater must be our concern today when the children of veterans constitute approximately one-half the youth of our nation.

Child welfare presents a challenge to The American Legion as an obligation to our sick, disabled, and deceased comrades and as a duty we owe to the future citizens of our nation.

We must continue to move forward on all fronts in our “Whole Child” program which is concerned with the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of the child.

The following resolutions were presented for the committee’s consideration fourteen (14) resolutions:

Resolution No. 398 from the Department of California and pertaining to studying of the Altaｄema Juvenile Council Plan to check juvenile delinquency was tabled since similar plans already have had our approval and the instruction to the National Child Welfare Division of The American Legion to study this plan can be undertaken without national convention action.

Resolution No. 807 from the National Child Welfare Standing Committee of The American Legion and pertaining to Spiritual Training for Children was tabled with the advice that further study be made of this subject in order that the desires and beliefs of all sects and creeds might be considered in working out a rounded program that could be recommended to all.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Aid to Dependent Children

1. Resolution No. 702 from the Department of Louisiana and No. 805 from The American Legion

Child Welfare Standing Committee were consolidated into the following resolution:

Whereas, Present grants in Aid to Dependent Children under the Social Security Act have proven inadequate in some cases by reason of insufficient allocation of funds, in some other cases by reason of insufficient grants of funds, and in still other cases by reason of ineffective administration, thus leaving children to become neglected and in danger of becoming delinquent, and

Whereas, Experience of the National Child Welfare Division has shown that a goodly number of children of veterans must have their needs as dependent children met through this form of public assistance in the states and communities; therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion approves the recommendation to the effect that departments be urged to usefully fill in our public assistance funds and bring forcefully to their legislatures the necessity for the proper appropriation and administration of these funds, and be it further

Resolved, That the national convention direct the National Legislative Committee to assign a priority and to use its best efforts to amend the section of the Social Security Act pertaining to Aid to Dependent Children, so that federal reimbursement to the states shall be equal to 50 per cent or more of the total amount granted by a state to meet the needs of its dependent children, such reimbursement not to be retroactive.

Pertaining to Grants to Children from Aid to Dependent Children

2. Resolution No. 810.

Whereas, Information has been brought to The American Legion Child Welfare Division and the Child Welfare Executive Committees that approximately twenty-four (24) states still retain a ceiling on the amount of allowance which may be made available for Aid to Dependent Children, which results in:

1. Failure of the eligible children to obtain adequate care.
2. Loss to the state and to the child under present national legislation by the state’s failure to obtain national reimbursement to the full extent possible; and
3. Probable greater future losses through amendments or changes in federal Social Security legislation; therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion favors the use of public assistance funds based upon the studied needs of the child’s situation, rather than upon an inflexibly fixed sum which results in the child’s situation, rather than upon an inflexibly fixed sum which results in:

1. Resolution No. 806.

We recommend that an Advisory Committee representing the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish and such other faiths, as well as public assistance, be appointed by the National Commander to assist the National Child Welfare Division and the Na…
Training program of the Child Welfare Division aimed to interest children, youth and parents in welfare which were set out in the "Children's medical question rather than a legal one, and mends to those states still requiring such court action requiring a legal definition rather than a medical definition of "Crippled Child," and whereas General of the United States military administrative personnel to perform these functions; therefore, be it Resolved, That The American Legion recommends to the American Legion still requiring such court action, that such procedure be simplified or eliminated, with a view toward fixing the duties and responsibilities of determining eligibility as a medical question rather than a legal one, and making such services more quickly available.

Resolved—
5. Resolution No. 899.
Whereas, The American Legion has, through the past 21 years, followed the principles of child welfare which were set out in the "Children's Charter" adopted by the White House Conference in 1930, and Whereas, Those principles should now be newly called to the attention of the people of the United States, therefore, be it Resolved, That we do now affirm the principles set forth in the Children's Charter and pledge ourselves to strive earnestly toward a full accomplishment of its objectives which are as well the objectives of The American Legion.

Cooperation Through Conferences on Juvenile Delinquency
6—Resolution No. 812.
Whereas, In the light of the increase of juvenile delinquency in this country after the war, it is of importance to the nation to mobilize aid of our population as a whole in replacing juvenile delinquency with "juvenile excellence"; and Whereas, To that end governmental agencies and leaders of other interested organizations and agencies are being brought together through the Attorney General of the United States in a national conference on juvenile delinquency to be held in the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., October 21-23, 1946; and Whereas, The American Legion has participated in the preliminary planning of this conference in the selection of specific topics for the agenda and should continue to have representation at and give help to conferences of this character; therefore, be it Resolved—
1. That The American Legion expresses itself as being in accord with the mobilization of public opinion and action of the nation under authoritative leadership such as is expressed by the Attorney General of the United States calling the conference in the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., October 21-23, 1946, for the purpose of discussing problems of delinquency; and
2. That The American Legion expresses its approval of all practical action along that line as approved by its National Executive Committee and pledges the cooperation of its national, department and post organizations in aid of the overwhelming majority of the youth of our country, who sincerely desire to make America an even better place in which to live.

Eliminate Distribution of Salacious and Obscene Literature
7—Resolutions Nos. 225 from the Department of Washington and 479 from the Department of Massachusetts, consolidated.
Whereas, A steadily increasing flood of salacious and obscene literature is being distributed throughout the country; and
Whereas, Much of this degrading literature is finding its way into the hands of the youth of our nation and undermining their faith in true American principles and doctrines; and
Whereas, The American Legion, since its inception 28 years ago, has made child welfare and other proper youth activities and education one of its outstanding major objectives; therefore, be it Resolved, That The American Legion vigorously protests the action of many greedy and unscrupulous people who are publishing obscene literature, thereby weakening the morals of the younger generation and causing a definite trend toward juvenile delinquency; and be it further Resolved, That members of this organization urge public spirited publishers and distributors to themselves curb and eliminate sales and distribution of this objectionable form of literature.

Radio Programs for Children
8—Resolution No. 259 from the Department of Illinois.
Whereas, Combating juvenile delinquency has long been and is still one of The American Legion's prime objectives, and numerous expressions of opinion confirm the conviction that radio programs dealing with criminals, crime, easy money, etc., constitute a factor contributing in a major way to juvenile delinquency; therefore, be it Resolved, That disc jockeys on the American Legion bring this condition to the attention of the sponsors of such programs with the urgent request that they eliminate this type of program and substitute in its stead a more educational and wholesome type of programs for children.

State Cooperation in Raising the Standards for Prevention and Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency
9—Resolution No. 811.
Whereas, Combating juvenile delinquency has long been and is still one of The American Legion's prime objectives, and numerous expressions of opinion confirm the conviction that radio programs dealing with criminals, crime, easy money, etc., constitute a factor contributing in a major way to juvenile delinquency; therefore, be it Resolved, That The American Legion bring this condition to the attention of the sponsors of such programs with the urgent request that they eliminate this type of program and substitute in its stead a more educational and wholesome type of programs for children.

Summary of Proceedings of the
Resolution No. 813.

Whereas, Our children's future has always been, and is increasingly recognized as one of our greatest national responsibilities and obligations to posterity; and

Whereas, The fundamental strength of a nation lies within its people, and the most basic and most difficult task of any country is the conservation and development of its human resources; and

Whereas, The American Legion realizes that emergent, if not critical, times are now pressing in ever-increasing force upon our people, and that our great National Organization of The American Legion must take steps to meet problems with which we are being confronted on the national, as well as the state level; therefore be it

Resolved, That we endorse the growing feeling that the administration of the Federal Security Agency be raised to cabinet rank; and be it further

Resolved, That we here record our firm conviction that only through such action will the best interests of veterans' children and of all children of this nation be effectively guaranteed at this time in our history when our future lies so clearly in the hands of the oncoming generation.

Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of the report.

VICE-COMMANDER HUNTINGTON:

The report has been regularly moved for adoption. Do I hear a second?

... The motion was severally seconded.

The report was adopted.

VICE-COMMANDER HUNTINGTON:

I will turn the Chair over at this time to National Vice-Commander Sam L. Latimer of South Carolina.

... Vice-Commander Sam L. Latimer assumed the Chair.

VICE-COMMANDER SAM LATIMER:

Ladies and gentlemen, I think it is peculiarly fitting that another of our National Vice-Commanders introduce the next speaker. We are honored in having with us one of the most distinguished soldiers of all time of the American Army, a man whose magnificent record is an inspiration to us now and ever shall be.

One of our National Vice-Commanders served with him on Bataan and like he, was a prisoner of war for many months. I should like to ask National Vice-Commander Fred P. LaBoon to introduce to you General Jonathan Wainwright. Commander LaBoon.

VICE-COMMANDER FRED P. LA-BOON: Mr. Commander, Fellow Legionnaires: This is indeed a heartfelt honor to me. As you know, I had the privilege and the honor of serving under General Wainwright in the Philippines at the beginning of this war. He took over command at Scottsboro in November, 1941, where my outfit, provisional tank group, was stationed. We had the honor of meeting him and gave him a reception when he took over the command of that post. He is dear to all of us that served under him in the Philippines. It is with heartfelt thanks that we had such a marvelous leader to guide us and give us orders to make such—I want to brag a little bit—such a grandstand defense of Bataan and Corregidor. I had the privilege of meeting and dining with General Wainwright at the Nebraska Department convention.

I want to tell you a little story about General Wainwright. As you know, we both served in the Philippines and were taken prisoners by the Japanese for three and a half years and we were noted for three and a half years as "rice-burners." Some fellow asked General Wainwright if he still liked rice. He said, "I don't know. I haven't eaten it for a year."

I told him I had a little different slant on that. I said, "I never did get enough rice to know whether I did like it or not."

General Wainwright is a distinguished and courageous warrior. Our next speaker endured the worst of the war in the Pacific. He led his troops gallantly on Bataan and when further resistance would have meant needless American bloodshed, he was forced to perform the heartless task of surrendering to the enemy. He spent 39 months in a Japanese camp and returned home the hero he is. His record as a combat soldier in the First Great War is equally impressive. An officer in the 82nd Division, he fought at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne and in numerous other major engagements in France.

It is my privilege to present a leader of men who gave a matchless military performance in two World Wars, the Commanding General of the 4th United States Army, General Jonathan M. Wainwright.

REMARKS BY GENERAL JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT

4th United States Army

Fellow Legionnaires, Ladies and Gentlemen: Today I propose to talk to you for a few moments only on the question of the prestige of the United States Army.
I am honored and happy to be at this national convention of The American Legion. You Legionnaires and I have been comrades-in-arms in the defense of this nation—some of us in two wars. We have in common those memories of the camp, the drill, the battles which bind men in a close fraternity. We hold mutually that love of country which can be understood by those who have defended it in battle.

The profession of arms is an honorable one. That has been true down through history. It is even more true under this democracy. For us of the United States, the only mission of the armed forces is the maintenance of the national security.

In the war just ended, millions of our fellow Americans, represented by you here today, served this nation. Working as a superb team, they won great victories over the two most formidable military machines ever assembled. You and I also represent here, those of our friends and kinmen who died in this war.

We have an obligation and a debt to them. We are in a day of great prospects and great peril. We have won more than military victories. We have advanced to the leadership of the world, in the support of and the enforcement of those moral principles which were proclaimed in the Atlantic Charter.

This leadership carries with it heavy responsibility. It is attended with grave risks, but risks which are worth the cost, whatever it may be. I, for one, am proud that my country is in the forefront for the right. I have no fear that my countrymen will shrink from daring all in this great cause.

We would be, however, much less than wise, if we did not carefully calculate the risks and assay our own faults.

We can fail only if we permit ourselves to be weakened, either by softening from within, or by pressure from without. At any show of weakness on our part the struggle through the roadblocks, on the path to peace, could be transferred by others from the field of diplomacy and negotiation to that of armed conflict.

Such being the prospect, it is most urgent that we take care to remain united, as a people, and not weakened, either by softening from within, or by pressure from without. The scramble to get home, after the last shot was fired, degenerated into a spectacle too much like what takes place after a football game, everybody dashes for his automobile and roars off.

This is scarcely conducive to the morale of the team for next Saturday's play.

What has happened with regard to our army is even less helpful in the future defense of this nation. Each of you is proud, I am sure, of the achievements of the branch and unit in which you served.

I come here with no intimation of personal complaint. The army and the people of the United States have been good to me. I never dreamed that one day I would wear four stars and this ribbon of the Congressional Medal of Honor. For these things I am duly and humbly grateful. I want to here again express my gratitude to the American public and the men of the army.

I am an old soldier. I have only a brief time yet to serve actively in the army. If there is another war, I will not be permitted to go again into battle. But I would be derelict in my duty if I did not point out to you that the volleys of abuse which have been fired at the army during the year just past have done great harm to our future defense.

I make no claim that the army is perfect. I do not deny that it has made mistakes. Undoubtedly others will be made in the future. But I sincerely believe the mistakes have been, and will be, honest ones. For the army is truly American, as American as The American Legion. Its members are Americans, imbued with the firm belief that the army's only function is to protect and defend this nation and the American way of life.

Honest criticism is right and proper. It is welcomed by reasonable men and is the foundation of democracy. I can not believe that the tirades we have heard against the leadership of the army are representative of the views of the majority of those who served in battle with it. Of course, we encountered disagreeable situations, and were required to perform disagreeable tasks. Nobody has yet found an easy and altogether pleasant way to win a war or to assimilate discipline.

The leadership of our army, from corporal to five-star general, was chosen on the basis of qualifications for the assigned tasks, and not because of wealth, ancestry or subscription to any code of snobbery.

The vast majority did their jobs well, or we could not have accomplished what we did. In the tremendous expansion of our army, the greatest such effort in all history, it was inevitable that some mistakes were made. Some men were commissioned who should not have been. The tremendous need for haste, and the increased requirement for technical training, demanded emphasis there, with resultant less time for training in leadership. Should we condemn all officers for the shortcomings of the few?

And yet what happened in the hysteria of the scramble to get back into civilian clothes? The desire to be home again is understandable. The harm done in smashing down the door is serious.

While it was fighting, the American people took great and justified pride in their army, in the boys who wore the uniform. If they were proud a little more than a year ago, why should they no longer have that pride?

The campaign of ill considered criticism has done infinite harm to the morale of those who remain to perform the necessary tasks of enforcing the peace we have won.

There is danger today that a wedge may be driven between the enlisted men and their leaders. This is especially true, and especially concerning, as regards the newly-joined youngsters who may be brought to view their officers and non-commissioned officers as more monsters than men.

Once and again I would be willing to give up the opportunity for high pay, and the comforts of civilian life in order to serve as junior officers in
Twentieth Annual National Convention

the army. The number who recently have turned down regular army commissions, while not disturbingly large, is an indication of the harm done.

It speaks well for our army that there is hardly a general today who did not once serve as a lieutenant, and come up the long, hard road of national service. Where do people think we get generals and “brass” in time of distress?

Without the leadership of the junior officers, the war could not have been won. Without junior officers now—proud of their army, proud of their men, proud of the regard in which their nation holds them—you will not have the leadership in the next war that you had in this one.

As veterans—as members of The American Legion—it is your responsibility to do something about correcting the damage that might be done to your army of tomorrow. I call upon you for an active interest in the welfare, the strength, and the prestige of your army.

The army and your country need your help. We need the help of The American Legion, as the alumni association of the armed forces, in restoring the public regard for the soldier.

We ask for fair play—for criticism made openly, with clean hands. We seek a fair fight—we want your help.

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER LATIMER: General Wainwright, speaking for The American Legion, with its 3,310,000 members, we thank you for the inspiration of your presence here today, and for your very fine address.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: I want to introduce to the convention one of the men who, in my humble opinion, has accomplished more in the matter of rehabilitation to those boys who had to lie on their backs in hospitals than any other service, and his buddy who has been doing such wonderful work for the Legion, and for the purpose of making an announcement of a wonderful show they are going to have for you this afternoon. Charley—you all know Charley McGonegal.

MR. CHARLES C. MCGONEGAL: Delegates to the convention, I am happy to have here on the platform with me, Doctor Howard Rusk of the University of the College of Medicine, New York, who is in charge of our demonstration this afternoon, of some of the physically impaired who have been brought back.

Without further ado, I’m going to let Doctor Rusk tell you something about the demonstration this afternoon. Doctor Rusk.

DOCTOR HOWARD A. RUSK: We hope that you will have a seat this afternoon at 3:45 o’clock to see some real life drama. A dozen of the severely injured men from World War II who have been through the mill—amputees, spinal cord injuries—and others, are going to show you what determination and training can do to win their own decoration of independence. They will be here on the stage, and then we are going to summarize from their experience, what the Legion can do to lead this great movement for the handicapped in America.

We are in the position now where the veteran with his modern rehabilitation program is in a position to do great things for the disabled civilian. We hope you will be with us to see these boys, and to see them on to the goals that they are all striving for in winning their own independence. Thank you.

PRESENTATION OF RECIPIENTS OF CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: I have the honor of presenting to this convention some of our extra-distinguished guests of The American Legion here in San Francisco, one of whom will speak for all the others.


Now I want to tell you what these boys did.

To James E. Swett of Burlingame, California, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor in aerial combat while a marine fighter pilot in World War II. On April 7, 1943, he shot down seven Japanese planes in 20 minutes off Guadalcanal.

Colonel Nelson M. Halderman, Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Napa County, California, now commandant of the veterans’ home there.

Louis Van Iersel of Sierra Madre, California, received the Congressional Medal of Honor for valorous actions in combat on the Meuse-Argonne front in World War I. He also served in the late war in the United States Marine corps.

David E. Hayden of Los Angeles, California, awarded the Medal of Honor for combat valor in September, 1918, while a member of a naval hospital company on detached duty with the 6th Marine Division.

George B. Turner, World War II Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Los Angeles, California.

Sergeant Beauford T. Anderson, Medal of Honor winner from Beloit, Wisconsin.

Staff Sergeant Peter J. D’Allessandro, Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Watervliet, New York.

There are other men here who will be introduced later.

The talk for these men and 30 other distinguished guests that we have, will be given by the Honorable Ed. V. Izac.
United States Congressman from San Diego, California, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor while serving in the Navy in World War I. A survivor of the sinking of the USS President Lincoln off Brest, France, he was taken prisoner and later escaped with invaluable military information to the Allied forces. Congressman Izac.

RESPONSE FOR RECIPIENTS OF MEDAL OF HONOR MEN

By Honorable Ed. V. Izac, Congressman from California

Thank you Commander. Distinguished Guests and My Comrades of The American Legion: It is indeed a high privilege for me to address you in the name of all of the Medal of Honor men present here at this convention.

We deeply appreciate the consideration, kindness, and hospitality that you have offered us in the name of all the Legionnaires of this great country of ours.

We are enjoying ourselves, I assure you. It is unfortunate that the press of time means that some of my comrades will have to be introduced at a later moment, but in the name of them, and the name of all of us, I want to tell you we are very glad that you have asked us as your guests at these national conventions.

There is only one thing that we would ask of you, and that is the consideration for those survivors and dependents of the men who did not come back.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

Frank C. Love, chairman, of New York, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-Eighth Annual National Convention:

The American Legion, San Francisco, California, September 30-October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946:

Thirty-nine members of your Committee on Publications met at 5:00 p.m., September 30, 1946, in Committee Room 324 in the War Memorial Building and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Reports were submitted by the Director of Publications, James F. Barton, and the chairman of the Legion Publications Commission, Mr. Roland Cocreham, concerning the financial operation, and the manufacturing, advertising and editorial problems and policies of the two official publications of The American Legion, The American Legion Magazine and The National Legionnaire.

These reports showed that The American Legion Magazine is enjoying the most successful year financially in its history, and that despite the paper shortage which made it necessary to limit the amount of advertising published, there will be turned back to the general funds of The American Legion approximately $1,200,000 as a result of 1946 operations. The reports also showed the possibility that sufficient paper may become available by the middle of 1947 to make it possible to send the full-sized magazine to every member.

It was interesting to note from the reports that recent readership surveys made by the national research organizations show a surprisingly high readership in the Legion publication, and that studies of reader interest continued to further improve the quality of The American Legion Magazine and make it more interesting to our members.

Resolution No. 35, from the Department of Arkansas, recommending that the National Executive Committee of The American Legion be authorized and directed "to make a study of the costs, benefits and services of the two national publications, with a view of determining whether one or the other should be discontinued, or the two combined into a monthly or semi-monthly news magazine, and the savings thereby effected, if any, be diverted to financing expansion of other programs and services of The American Legion, nationally and in the various departments," was submitted for discussion.

Full discussion was had on the subject. It was brought out that a subcommittee has already been named to make a study of the costs and benefits of the two publications, with directions to submit its findings to the National Executive Committee. It was, therefore, voted that the resolution be referred to that subcommittee since it has power to make the study requested in the resolution.

Resolutions No. 263, submitted by the Department of Illinois, and No. 503, submitted by the Department of Pennsylvania, having reference to the delivery of the two national publications, recommending that the necessary action be taken to expedite the delivery of the publications to our members, were considered and discussed at length.

The Director of Publications submitted a report covering the situation, and setting forth the many problems and difficulties involved during the past 18 months in adding the names and addresses of the greatly increased number of Legionnaires to our mailing list, and that these difficulties had been occasioned by the inability to secure adequate efficient personnel, adequate Pollard-Alling embossing equipment because of the wartime restrictions, and adequate space for the efficient operation of the Circulation Department. This report showed, however, that now the personnel has been increased from 30 to 119, that additional equipment has been received from the Pollard-Alling Company, and that the purchase by the National Organization of a building in Indianapolis has made it possible to increase the floor space from 6,000 to 15,000 square feet; that the addition of this needed personnel, equipment and floor space has made it possible now to handle efficiently a membership of 5,000,000, and that at the present time all 1946 members whose American Legion Magazine cards have been received at the Circulation Department, have been added to the mailing list, and will receive the publication promptly and regularly in the future.

Discussions brought out the fact that in many cases the failure of posts and departments of The American Legion to send promptly to the Circulation Department of the Publications Division the American Legion Magazine cards has been responsible for the delays complained of, and urged that posts and departments make every effort to expedite the sending in of these cards immediately in order that there may be no unusual delay in adding these members to the mailing list.
It was directed that notices should be carried from time to time in The National Legionnaire calling attention to the necessity of this action as an aid in handling this particular problem.

Since it appeared that the conditions complained of have been corrected, it was voted to table the two resolutions submitted.

After a full discussion on the many matters pertaining to The American Legion Magazine and The National Legionnaire, the committee adjourned.

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Charles E. McKenzie, chairman, of Louisiana, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-Eighth Annual National Convention,

The American Legion, San Francisco, California,

September 30-October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946:

Thirty-seven members of your Committee on Finance met at 8:00 p.m., September 30, 1946, in Committee Room 212 in the War Memorial Building and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Charles E. McKenzie of Louisiana was elected chairman, and W. B. Waldrip of Michigan was elected secretary.

A subcommittee composed of James Favret of Ohio, Harry Mayo of Missouri and C. J. Mortensen of Nebraska was appointed by the chairman to examine the annual report of the National Treasurer. The subcommittee recommended acceptance of the report and also recommended that the city of Hammond, Indiana, Barrett Law Bonds now carried on the books at $5,493.77 be written down to $2.00. The recommendations were approved unanimously.

Comrade Sam W. Reynolds of Nebraska, National Chairman of the standing Finance Committee, was in attendance and answered many questions submitted by committee members in connection with the treasurers report.

It was voted unanimously to recommend to the respective committees concerned that Resolutions Nos. 52, 115, 193, 695, 598 and 548, relative to refunds to departments of 15 cents per member to respective committees concerned that Resolutions Nos. 52, 115, 193, 695, 598 and 548, relative to refunds to departments of 15 cents per member to

The report was adopted.

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER LATIMER:

Next I should like to present to you America’s top ace of World War I, a pioneer champion of military aviation, who has rendered this country invaluable service in peace and in two wars—Captain Eddie Rickenbacker.

REMARKS BY CAPTAIN EDDIE RICKENBACKER

Fellow Members of the Legion: I am happy to have the privilege of being here. I heard someone say “speech.” I want you to know that I brought my speech-maker with me—the Honorable Secretary Patterson. He'll make all the speeches.

But I do want to say a word to the effect that I am happy to see so many young faces present. No doubt they represent World War II. I say that because all of us old “half-cracks” and “re-treads” have got to recognize that youth must be served. The sooner we give up to youth, give them the benefit of our judgment, recommendations and advice, voluntarily only, the better off we'll all be. Furthermore, I hope that the representatives of the Legion from the four corners of this great land of ours will add to their platform, reiterate and repeat over and over again the absolute necessity and importance of the World War II veterans joining The American Legion.

I hope the day isn't far off when the Legion can proudly boast not three million members but a membership of five or six millions, and that, in turn, will be representative of the spirit of America which is being dissipated by alien elements very rapidly.

You men have an obligation to perform above your ordinary duties, the same as I have—if you love your country, and I think you do, or you wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be here if I didn't. It is my first choice; the one thing in the world that I prefer above everything else is the freedom and the liberty in the land of the U. S. A.

These foreign elements—or aliens, as I prefer to call them—who love to habitate with foreign ideologies, should be permitted to habitate with foreign ideologies on foreign lands. And if they don't like the way we live, by the laws we live, let them go back to the lands from which they came.

Let us stand four-square, shoulder to shoulder, for the fundamentals that have made this land what it is today, the greatest in the world. Let us recognize problems of other lands and peoples. Let us be positive and sympathetic. Let us recognize that they, too, have a right in the world, but not at our expense.

Let these millions of young men who fought and brought victory to this land again have their right to say; let them accept their obligations as you have and I have, to carry out the duties that go with the heritage of citizenship in this land of ours. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: It is with a mixture of deepest pride, admiration and affection that I present to this great national convention of The American Legion its next distinguished speaker. He is a great soldier and a fine Legionnaire. He is a combat veteran of World War I, in which his gallantry
ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE
ROBERT F. PATTERSON
Secretary of War

In time of war, Legionnaires have been in the vanguard fighting for the nation. In time of peace, they have been in the vanguard in promoting an adequate national defense. It is appropriate that I give to you, who represent at this convention those men and women devoted to America's defense, the War Department's blueprint for the Army's future.

Our plans do not envisage an America armed to the teeth, an America embarked on voyages of aggression. The peaceful purposes of our people are known to the world, and there cannot be the slightest doubt in the mind of anyone that those same purposes will guide our behavior in the future. But the old lesson, that military weakness is nothing but an invitation to be pushed around and assaulted by ambitious dictators, has been taught us once more by recent and bitter experience. In these days it is the unarmed 'transmission' of the truth that the American Legion is expected to perform.

The Regular Army has two principal missions. Primarily, we have done our best to eliminate the sharp distinctions, in responsibilities and training, that existed between components in the past. In the future Army—which means the Army from now on—every component must be capable of close and immediate integration with all other components. Many of the components must be in a state of combat readiness at all times, prepared for instant action; every component must be capable of taking the field in the shortest possible time. Delay will mean defeat in war of the future.

The American Legion has been a tower of strength in recruiting for the Regular Army. To put into effect the supported vote at your 1945 convention, you set up the Volunteer American Legion Army Recruiting Plan, known as the VALAR Plan. That has been of great value to the Army Recruiting Service. We ask you to continue the VALAR Plan and your support in the year ahead.

The National Guard will be the backbone of our national Army. Its mission will be to move swiftly to the support of the Regular Army in emergency. In an extreme situation, National Guard organizations would be capable of defending their communities against direct enemy attack until our over-all military defense could function.

We will do our best to raise and maintain the Regular Army by getting volunteers. So far, we have recruited 960,000 Regulars. But nearly half of them are for the short terms, and the hard part will be to maintain the Regulars at full strength in the near future. By volunteering.

In the missions, organization, strength and fast at any enemy daring to attack us.

In the missions, organization, strength and fast at any enemy daring to attack us.

Maintenance of a respectable military strength, on the other hand, will give pause to any power overseas. It will furnish strong support to the United Nations in its aim of maintenance of world peace. The War Department plan is based on the need of providing a respectable amount of military strength. The decision is one for Congress and the people to make.
Army cannot maintain on active duty in sufficient numbers in peacetime and yet who are needed immediately into military control, so that, under this plan, as the Legion foresaw, the training would be continuous throughout the year. Thus the training plan would be in continuous operation and the taxpayer would get the greatest return for the money invested.

Actual training, according to the War Department plan, would be under military control, but the trainees would retain their status as civilians. It is part of the program that the President should appoint a civilian advisory council on UMT to review our whole program and tell us where it could be improved. The council would concern itself particularly with the educational, religious, moral and recreational aspects, as well as the training phases, of UMT. I hope that a permanent civilian council on UMT will result.

The UMT Plan calls for every male citizen to register on his 17th birthday and to enter training at age 18 or upon graduation from secondary school, whichever is later. Age 20 would be the top age for beginners. Secondary school graduates could begin their training any time after reaching their 17th birthday, with the consent of their parents.

It is estimated, on the basis of one million qualified men of training age being available, that the Army would get 726,000 youths to train every year. The Navy would get the balance.

I wish to call particular attention to the fact that, under this plan, as the Legion foresaw, the National Guard and the Organized Reserve, as well as the Regulars, would be greatly assisted in obtaining the men they must have, through the options. Of as great importance, the men received by the Guard and the Reserve would have had thorough basic training, so that those components then could devote their efforts to training the larger military units. This large unit training is a "must" in any adequate program of national defense.

The War Department plan provides for a disciplinary code adapted to the age and civilian status of the trainees. In no case involving purely military offenses would the proposed penalties compare with those for similar offenses under military law. This idea of a discipline adapted to fit UMT needs is a Legion idea to which the War Department subscribed.

Universal Military Training, plus the training planned for the Regulars, National Guard and Organized Reserve, will give us the experienced men needed for an emergency. But trained men are not enough. They must have—and on time—enough weapons to make victory certain. To provide those weapons, industry, like manpower, must be mobilized for immediate action when necessary. Industrial mobilization is essentially a civilian, not a military function. The actual job of mobilizing industry for war, before war comes, is one for a civilian agency such as the proposed National Security Resources Board.

The problem is, as always, to be ready to turn out the best and latest weapons on a mass production basis. If we have to. This means that we must be fooled up and ready to go, with trained men as well as the necessary models and machine tools available at all times for quick conversion to war production. It means also that we must place orders regularly with the mass production industries, to acquaint them with possible requirements, so that if we have to pull the trigger on
an industrial mobilization plan it will not hang fire for two or three years before we can get the new weapons into the hands of the men waiting to use them.

I cannot touch on planning for industrial mobilization without mention of the impetus given to industrial mobilization in the 1930's by Louis Johnson, Past National Commander of the Legion. In his capacity as Assistant Secretary of War he devoted himself to pioneering work in the thirties that proved to be of the utmost value when war was thrust upon us.

I ask your patience in referring once more to the initial period of continuous training in Universal Military Training—six months under the War Department proposal. A year ago War Department thinking was that one year was the minimum period, and you may recall the able arguments made for one year of continuous training presented by General Marshall in the final chapter of his report on the war. In an effort to meet various objections and to present a common viewpoint, the War Department has receded from its earlier position and has shortened the period to six months. Below that we cannot conscientiously go. I know from consultation with many division commanders, leaders who won renown in World War II, that they view six months continuous training as the shortest period in which effective training can be given. There is a school of thought in some quarters of the Legion that believes four months to be enough. But we cannot recommend to the Congress that four months' training, followed by other training on a non-intensive character, will suffice to give the country the security it needs in trained manpower. We cannot in honesty give it as our opinion that men so trained will afford the nation the protection it should have in return for the dollars spent on the program.

What period of time have other nations set for military training of their young men? The British have specified 18 months for universal military service. The Russians have taken two years as the minimum period. In considering this matter, we should keep in mind the first and foremost purpose of Universal Military Training. That purpose is to keep this country out of war. That purpose will succeed or will fail according to the impression of military strength that is made on foreign statesmen and military leaders. It is not so much the impression made in this country as the impression made on those in other countries who control the actions of those countries. We cannot adopt a sham system and hope that nations overseas will be deceived by it. In the words of General Marshall, we should avoid producing "a half-baked product which would fail to create in the minds of the nations of the world, and therefore negate the primary purpose of the entire system."

In preparing for the war which we hope and pray will never come, we cannot slight either efficiency or economy in our national defense program. Without efficiency, no plan will work. Without economy, the burden on the taxpayer might become so great that he might withdraw his support of the program. I am convinced that we can have efficiency and economy in our overall defense program only through unification of the armed forces.

The issue of national defense must be seen for what it is—a single issue. That means, if we are to deal with a single issue in a sensible way, that we should have a single, united organization of national defense, headed by a single secretary. Under the secretary there should be three branches of equal standing—Army, Navy, Air. That is a simple structure, and it will work.

A single department of national defense will give us discussion followed by decision, in place of endless debate. It will enable Congress to appropriate funds after seeing the whole picture. It will put an end to ceaseless jockeying for unnecessary duplication of installations and services. It will bring unity in place of wasteful and purposeless rivalry.

The public favors unification. Polls show a majority of 70 per cent believing in this plan. I do not think that the public is impressed by the assemblage of reactionaries that a single department will give dangerous power to the military. The plain fact is that civilian control will be as complete as ever. The single department will be under a civilian secretary. He, in turn, will be subordinate to a civilian president. Congress always has the power of the purse. But the most effective safeguard against any tendency toward militarism under any organization of the armed forces is the lively vigilance of a democratic people. Freedom from militarism does not require us to keep an organizational anachronism that prevents the armed forces from doing their duty efficiently. We cannot consider national defense properly without full appreciation of air power—and we cannot attain maximum exploitation of air power unless we give the air forces parity with naval and ground forces. Parity achieved by creating a separate department of air would result in even greater disunity in our national defense. The logical solution is to create a single department to cover the armed forces, and to have within that department three branches—Army, Navy, Air.

In the corner of my office there stands a collection of weapons in use at the beginning of this last war. All of them have been discarded or substantially modified since 1941. Similarly, the Army has discarded or modified many of the ideas about the organization of our military defenses to meet the needs of an atomic age. But the final decision, whether America will have a modern, adequate defense system, rests with the people of the United States.

The Army can plan. The Army can recommend. The Army can ask. But the Army can do little or nothing to implement its program. You can. The people and Congress will listen to you, because you are the people. You have the greatest right to be heard on this subject. Your Army asks you to raise your voice in behalf of its program, that you may safeguard in time of peace the freedom you have maintained for America in war.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FROM U. S. ARMY

By Robert F. Patterson, Secretary of War
the Army Recruiting Service in building the new Volunteer United States Army.

John Stelle, it gives me the greatest pleasure to present this to you because It has been under your leadership that the great aid to national defense, to the rebuilding of the United States Army in these critical times has been due.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Secretary of War Patterson, I accept this on behalf of three million, three hundred thousand Legionnaires and in the name of The American Legion. I am certain that the next commander that the Legion elects will continue to render the great service the Legion wants them to.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Young Legionnaires who may be aspiring for election to political office had their trail blazed for them by our next speaker. Twenty-five years ago he was a Legionnaire veteran of a world war with fresh ideas, hunting a ring for his hat. In 1925 he was elected governor of the State of Maine. In 1934 he went to Congress as a member of the House. He moved up to the Senate in 1940 and just a few weeks ago his people retained him in office by a rousing majority.

A native of Dexter, Maine, he was a member during the war of a number of major Congressional committees, including the Truman Committee, the Mecad Committee and the Naval Affairs Committee. He is here today to address The American Legion and I am privileged to present him at this time, the Honorable Owen Brewster, United States Senator from Maine.

ADDRESS OF HONORABLE R. O. BREWSTER
United States Senator of Maine

Members and Comrades of the Legion: I am delighted to be out here today, and to follow Bob Patterson on the platform, comrade in law and in the war. Without committing myself to the details of the program he has outlined, I can simply assure you, and that is as a member of Missouri's majesty's loyal opposition—you have to be up in the State of Maine—we and all my colleagues are one hundred per cent behind the adequate preparedness of the United States.

We have tried unpreparedness a couple of times as the means of preserving the peace, and it has dismally failed. So I think that we as Legionnaires are going to lead America into the part of leading the world in adequate preparedness in all the mechanisms of modern war.

No one ever picks a fight with Joe Louis, and I think the United States may well follow that analogy.

Flying out here from Maine to California, I looked down upon a hundred million Americans, more or less, who are the inheritors and in part the creators of an economy that in the last century made America the productive marvel and envy of all the earth.

I made a little gaffe in my own lifetime voyage, on the unknown that we still call in America, a great experiment in liberty. It took them about two centuries to discover Texas and California. And since then, we have been going to places. They sort of annexed us. And Senator Connally admits that he was glad that this time they had the Yankees on their side.

Our good old pilgrim ancestors lived for six months on clams—long before OPA was discovered. We may have to do it again, and I think we can. But meanwhile, we are still believers in this America. It was the contributions of America that led in this great war, and which led Harold J. Laski of Great Britain, who when he visited our shores recently, to pronounce our economic system moribund—an Oxford word for death.

The chief obstacle, he said, to economic recovery in the world, was our economic system. Like the statesman of a century ago, James Madison, who said in an address long ago that we were going to be up in the State of Maine—we and all my colleagues are one hundred per cent behind the adequate preparedness of the United States. I look down on the homes of a hundred million Americans, as I flew out here, but I didn't dare say ‘home’ in the presence of representatives of ten million veterans, including my own son, who can't find a home. We want homes for veterans, and yet at the present time, we are exporting more than one billion feet of lumber a year, which would provide homes for more than five hundred thousand veterans and their dependents.

We talk about meat and wheat, which we want, and yet while we are exporting vast quantities of these products I saw cattle in Omaha headed for overseas, while we sigh for meat and wheat! We are this year, plowing under one hundred million bushels of potatoes that would feed twenty million starving Europeans, if we would only ship it overseas.

We talk about the needs of America, and yet we are today exporting more than seven billion dollars worth of essential goods, while America seeks to find means of taking care of its own supply.

These are some of the reasons why we wonder at the direction that we have taken. We have tied up our Merchant Marine not only in the
strikes to which I do not refer, but in a policy of the government that is scrapping more than fifteen tons of the shipping that cost us nearly twenty billion dollars!

Who is to take the place in world shipping of Japan and Germany? That is an interesting speculation at this time.

We tear down a communication system build around the world to win the war. You saw it over seas. But it is being torn down at the behest of our allies, lest America should continue to learn the truth as to what is going on, and lest the rest of the world should learn that America openly desires peace.

We had a hired man up in the State of Maine who didn't get along well with the farmer's wife. She thought he was a lazy lout, as hired men sometimes are, even in the State of Maine. He thought she wasn't a very good provider because he didn't have pie for breakfast every morning.

One morning, along in the fall when it was getting dark early, he asked the farmer if he couldn't borrow his lantern that evening, to use it down the road a piece to court the hired girl in the next place. The farmer said, "Jim when I was young and went courting, I didn't take a lantern with me." Jim said, "Yes, and look what you got."

Well, we didn't take a lantern after the last war. We showed the world we could lick them, and then folded up the tent and came home. We thought we had taught them a lesson, and didn't pay attention to what was going on over seas. We put our head in the sand, and didn't discover for twenty years that our tail was in the air.

Hereafter it may be well for us to see to it that our head is up, and that we know what is going on, and that we preserve something of this communication system that will enable us to detect the rumbling of the earth again before another holocaust breaks upon this earth.

These are the reasons why it is time for us to take a little thought.

From seventy-five hundred feet up, I had a window seat at the explosion of the atomic bomb at Bikini, the mightiest demonstration of terrible power seen in the time of peace. That told the world about a two billion dollar experiment in military might.

Three days later, at Manila, I saw the greatest demonstration of spiritual power the world has ever seen, when America, for the first time in the history of the world—a great nation—gave freedom to another people without the firing of a shot. You are to hear from General Romulo as to the meaning of that act, but that is the reason for which, communistic propagandists need to not insinuate that America has any designs on the liberty of any other land. That was the convincing demonstration, answering all critics of every kind that American military might is designed for no other purpose than liberty in America, and liberty for people everywhere.

Let every American be on guard that we do not lend ourselves to that espirit! What are you going to do with the American Merchant Marine that shall be prepared in terms of tomorrow, and not for yesterday. We need, also, all American-communication-system around this world, that will carry to all the world a message of America's desires for peace, and which will bring to us unfettered, uncensored, the story of what is going on.

We need an all American air system to transport the eighty per cent of international travel that is of American origin, and not to see our air ports in this country filled with planes financed by America, and under foreign flags.

These are the things, because as long as there is a dictator on this earth, there is danger. Every dictatorship in the history of the world has been either compelled to promote a foreign war in order to quiet domestic discontent. That is the lesson of all history. Without regard to how benevolent may be the intention of one or other dictators—given time, the dictatorship spells peril and democracies meanwhile are ready to forget that under the philosophy of divide and conquer. That is the design for chaos in America. That is the prime motive as those who are following the Moscow party line.

Let every American be on guard that we do not lend ourselves to that esprit!

Joe Scully, one of the distinguished leaders of the California Bar, arriving fresh from Ireland as an immigrant in New York, got his first job as a hod carrier. While he was getting up to the top of the fifth story on a ladder—climbing with a hod of bricks, he was about all in. A good comrade of experience from Tipperary said to Joe, "Let me tell you what the trouble is Joe. Never look down. Look up, and you will never get dizzy."

That is a profound truth, and one that here in
America, I think, we need to study at this time. There are defeatists abroad who want to tell you America is all finished. They want to tell you there is nothing good in America, and that there never has been anything good here. They want to tell you ideas like that and to sell you on those ideas. But it is The American Legion more than any other single organization that can sell America, first to Americans, and then to the rest of the people of this world.

It has been said here today, that they have been having a lot of trouble getting good men to serve the United States. Well, that is an unfortunate situation. But who wants to play on a football team, when after you have gotten hold of the ball the quarterback gives the signals, and one of the halfbacks goes on the address system and tells the grand stand, "I think the quarterback is all wet. I am going to run this play around left end."

Perhaps that is why good men have a little hesitation in getting on that particular football team.

Now we have a bipartisan foreign policy, formulated over the period of many months and years, under the leadership of Byrnes and Vandenberg. Let us as an American Legion support a foreign policy, made in America, and not in London nor in Moscow.

In the immortal words of Senator Vandenberg, speaking again as a loyal patriotic Republican, we can only cooperate with one Secretary of State at a time, and we are delighted to do that.

Now America is coming of age. I know it is easy to establish the proposition that America is all finished. I know these fellows are going around hanging crepe. I know these fellows who are sold on the Moscow party line. God help them!

I agree with Eddie Rickenbacker. We can well give them their passports, and I would chip in for a ticket to get them to Moscow, if they believe in that. But in this association, in The American Legion, we are an association of believers in America, believing not only in its glorious past of a few centuries, but in the divine destiny directing us in the future that lies ahead, in the recognition that this century is the century of America.

For the last century, before the two world wars in which we have participated, there was a Pax Britannica. Remember, for a century there were no world wars, from 1850, with the downfall of Napoleon, to 1914, when the Germans began marching. There was no world-wide war, and the Pax Britannica prevailed.

Now we ourselves, can go forward in this century, the greatest and grandest hundred years of peace in America, if America shall only recognize its power and its responsibility under the leadership of the ideals of this American Legion of ours, that is so obviously on guard.

I want to close with my testimony to defend my belief in this America of ours. Let us have faith in our institutions and in the genius of this new people gathered from all the nations of the earth.

I want to close with the words of Henry Van Dyke, a great American, paying tribute to another voyager who would not be denied when, up in Hudson's Bay, he was set adrift by his crew, and Henry Hudson continued on his quest for the Northwest Passage. Those lines appeal to me as the spirit of this America of ours that is going to keep constantly on its course in spite of all the Communist dissension we have ever had.

"These are the longest days of all the year. The world is round, and God is everywhere, And while our shallop floats we still can steer. So point 'er up, John King, Nor'west by Nor'. We'll keep the honor of a certain aim Amidst the perils of uncertain ways And sail ahead and leave the rest to God."

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE
It is my privilege and honor to introduce —not present, because he has been a hard-working Legionnaire these many, many years—Paul H. Griffith of Pennsylvania, delegate from Pennsylvania.

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
By Paul H. Griffith

The honor I have been accorded in bestowing this award on a veteran of two great World Wars is multi-fold. First I have the honor of presenting this man with the honor of wearing this award, to a soldier, but to a good Legionnaire, who has continually fought for the same program of national defense as that advocated by The American Legion; secondly the man who is about to receive this award accepted one of the most difficult and thankless jobs created during a time of emergency. Despite all his accomplishments this man is not content to rest on his laurels. No, he is now actively engaged in extending the services of his agency to incorporate, not only post-war military requirements, but to assist, through this agency, in the all-important job of rehabilitating the veteran.

The Swiss ancestors of this great military leader, I point to with provincial patriotism, for they settled near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Later his branch of that family moved to Gorham, N. Y. Still later the family moved to an Indiana farm, near Angola, where this boy attended a one-room school house named Hell's Point School.

He has come a long way from that one-room school house. He taught others long enough to acquire the funds to continue his own education.

He marched with the regular Army after the First World War. Statesmen and military experts in 1941 saw a horrible war creeping over the horizon. This gloomy view necessitated the calling of the military leaders of the nation into key positions newly-formed for the defense of this country. I appreciate the tremendous task with which confronted this man when he was called to fill the position of Director of the Selective Service System for I had...
I am humble when I remember the millions of our young men who answered the summons of the local boards throughout our America. Young men who left school, job, and home. Men who left mothers, sweethearts, wives and children to meet the foe. Men who offered their time, their bodies, their lives that America might be spared the fate of much of the rest of this world. It was the difficult task of Selective Service to send one man into danger, sometimes death, while another was chosen to remain because he helped to build an airplane, a ship, a tank, or he helped to grow the food the fighters and workers ate. I know that The American Legion today pays tribute to the members of the Selective Local Boards who did this heart-searching task. I am honored because I am the symbol of those thousands of our fellow citizens, a large percentage of them fellow Legionnaires. To each and every member of the Selective Service System belongs a full share of this Distinguished Service Medal.

I am grateful to this great veterans' organization for its Distinguished Service Medal. I appreciate it particularly because it is given by an organization whose members individually and collectively have supported so wholeheartedly the operations of the Selective Service System. Six years ago you came by the hundreds of thousands to help register sixteen millions of our manhood. During those early days you accepted the responsibility of local board membership and appointments as examining physicians and dentists, government appeal agents, and Advisory Board members. You undertook the operations of the Selective Service System. Six months before Pearl Harbor, you were quick to pick up the gauntlet. You provided manpower in such a way as to minimize disruption of essential industries connected with the war effort, the national health, safety and interest and essential agriculture. Those lofty goals had many roadblocks and were certainly not easy to attain, but through your tireless efforts, Thank God, we did attain them.

More than one year after cessation of hostilities, responsibilities still rest heavily upon your shoulders. More than 6,500 local selective service boards throughout the nation are confronted with more than two and one-half million questions monthly. Reduced staffs are doing their utmost to provide those answers.

General Hershey, of all the men with whom I have come in contact in Washington I consider you the best friend of the veteran. Recently when you were called upon to interpret the law of Congress as contained in Section 8 of the Selective Service Act relative to re-employment of veterans, you gave your answer. When you responded the nation heard the voice of the American veteran. You spoke for them and still are battling for them in their efforts to re-establish themselves as good American citizens. You spoke, with courage, a quality which has always been linked with the name Lewis B. Hershey. Your voice rang in chorus with that of The American Legion to arms—to send men out to suffer many lives and heartaches, and perhaps even saving our great America.

I am humble as I remember the efforts of the tens of thousands of my fellow Americans who worked without thought of self, and who served without pay, to make Selective Service a reality. I am humble when I remember the millions of our young men who answered the summons of the local boards throughout our America. Young men who left school, job, and home. Men who left mothers, sweethearts, wives and children to meet the foe. Men who offered their time, their bodies, their lives that America might be spared the fate of much of the rest of this world. It was the difficult task of Selective Service to send one man into danger, sometimes death, while another was chosen to remain because he helped to build an airplane, a ship, a tank, or he helped to grow the food the fighters and workers ate. I know that The American Legion today pays tribute to the members of the Selective Local Boards who did this heart-searching task. I am honored because I am the symbol of those thousands of our fellow citizens, a large percentage of them fellow Legionnaires. To each and every member of the Selective Service System belongs a full share of this Distinguished Service Medal.

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an Army, a Navy, an Air Force, and a Merchant Marine approach the miraculous. By the strong hearts and the stout hearts of these boys sent out from communities all over this nation, America found herself the strongest nation in this world. She was feared by her enemies and respected by her friends. She gained that enviable position by her strength, so often we act as though we have forgotten that it is not by being afraid of us that America won, but by her courage and her fighting strength that the war brought. There was and will be for years the necessity of maintaining the peace which the blood and efforts of our sons have won. We have not retained the place in the world we occupied when America met in Chicago in 1945.

We are a peace-loving people. It is not perhaps surprising then that we threw away our military strength, even more rapidly than we built it. The demobilization of each of our divisions reduced our ability to be a constructive factor for peace in a chaotic world, which must have sternness as well as sympathetic guidance if it is to be rebuilt into a community of friendly nations. If America is to protect the rights of small nations she must maintain armed forces commensurate with her size, her wealth, and her responsibilities in one world. Have we destroyed the nation during the past years? Who has been able to forecast where America would stop in her headlong flight toward military impotence?

If this flight from reality is confusing to loyal and understanding American citizens, how much more must it be to those abroad who had set their hopes for a democratic way of life on the influence of America in world affairs. Disappointment, disillusionment, even despair has come to those who held onto life in the hope that America's entry into World War II would bring the Four Freedoms to them. During the time America has brought doubts and misgivings to the lovers of democracy throughout the world she has unwittingly, but none the less certainly, brought hope to the forces in this world who do not believe in the dignity of the individual man. A strong America one year ago was the one barrier to prevent the world from becoming the strong man dominating the small and the weak. Today the last remaining hope for liberty for the individual in this world, and the right of the small nation to control its own destiny lies not only in what America does today but what she indicates she can do in the future. But the nation which has been so sure, so strong, so united when its existence seemed in danger hesitated and debated when danger seemed for the moment to have lessened. The privilege of preventing the world from becoming the strong man dominating the small and the weak is as living if America lost. The farmer was aware of his independence dependent upon victory.

With victory came complacency. Fear fled, but with it personal obligation. During war the nation could demand the services of the citizen to do whatever was necessary, and that nation did. When the nation required the services of the eighteen-year-olds, they were taken; when it demanded the fathers, they were inducted. All this and more to gain one objective—victory. What have we done to keep the peace? A year and a half of a million of our comrades died to win? As a people we demanded immediate demobilization. The mobilization began in 1940, four years passed before it reached its peak. Four months after V-J Day millions were out of the armed forces, relieved even of the responsibility of a reserve status, and those remaining to hold the peace we had won were engaged in the demoralizing process of reshuffling as they crowded toward the exits. The men in the forces who had had long and dangerous services had earned a right to relief. They had a right to expect others to take up their burden. They had a right to expect that the nation which went to war for the ability to fight, if necessary to die, upon them to win the peace would not hesitate to leave a liability far less dangerous, upon others to hold the peace their blood had bought.

But the nation which has been so sure, so strong, so united when its existence seemed in danger hesitated and debated when danger seemed for the moment to have lessened. The privilege of the individual became more important than his obligations. The petty selfish interests of labor, of management, of farmers, of educators, of churchmen, even of veterans, have eclipsed the greater interest of America. Who won this war and who could win the next has been too much debated by those who fought World War II. The Internal arrangement of our armed forces has been the topic of heated discussions by well-meaning advocates of ground, sea, and air forces. The internal arrangement is important where there is an organization to arrange. Our first need is an adequate overall policy for national survival. This policy must include a method by which we procured and trained for the men needed to support our organizations flesh and blood. Until our projected military units have men in them they are dangerous to our safety, for their existence lulled us into a false sense of security.
The victory has cost us billions, most of it to be paid in the future. We face a future in which economy in expenditure will be demanded, and wisely so. This economy will fail inevitably on national defense by default unless our citizens realize that we risk our liberty, even our lives, when we permit this to occur. As veterans we will be forced to decide how much of this cost we are to bear. Will it be to pay for the last war or to avoid the next war? It will be a hard choice, but if we use income unnecessarily for veterans while accepting bargain basement measures for the protection of our lives in the future we will have violated the trust left us by our comrades who died, and will have shirked the obligations we owe to our children and our children's children.

Because of the cost and because we have always believed in keeping with our traditions, our leaders have planned to maintain a minimum in our professional forces and to supplement these forces by trained reserves available for immediate use. These plans involve the use of men, millions of them. It is true in our wishful thinking we have hoped we might find safety in atomic bombs that no one else could get and a few volunteers on our side could drop. Some of our well-meaning people feel that total war is a futile means of warfare, guided missiles, proximity fuses and such means of warfare can be operated by the few. I know of no official responsible for the safety of any nation who is willing to expose the mass of the citizens from their part in the defense of their homeland. Even those who hope that the few can operate atomic bombs and biological warfare for the benefit of the many are strangely silent on the defensive measures that must be taught universally to us if we are to survive, assuming our possible enemies have some or all of the newer means of destruction. We cannot and dare not ignore the conclusion that to be safe in the future we must train everyone to know what to do to survive. America was most fortunate in missing the devastation of the last war. Had we been bombed we should not have been interested in self defense and we would have been far more conscious of the need to train everyone. Lives will be lost unnecessarily if the owners of them are denied the training which spells the difference between life and death when the emergency comes. The argument that universal military training means close order drill is senseless. If our fire escapes are worn out we replace with modern ones if we are wise; we tear them down if we are foolish.

Our present plans call for relatively small regular forces in the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps. These plans provide for much larger forces in the reserves of the Army, including the National Guard, of the Navy and of the Marine Corps. The size of the regular forces was planned on the assumption that there would be large forces in the National Guard, the active Naval and Marine Corps Reserve, and still larger forces in the organized reserve of the Army and the inactive reserve of the Navy and Marine Corps. To make available trained men for these components universal military training was to be provided. We have been demobilizing a year. We have not been able to test the worth of our force in emergency obligations in ground forces by the volunteer method. The second line of defense is in the realm of talk and of paper organizations. I betray no confidences when I state what every National Guardsman knows, that there will be no National Guard of 650,000 without Universal Military Training geared to furnish men to the National Guard units after their basic training has been completed.

England, who has avoided compulsion even more than we have, now requires two years in the forces and five years in the Territorials, and she takes eighteen-year-olds. I believe the most pressing need now to insure our national existence is men. Without universal military training the supply for current need in our regular forces is precarious. Without universal military training the allotted strength of the National Guard is impossible. Without Universal Military Training there will be no continuing source to provide trained men for the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps Reserve. These facts force one conclusion. The most pressing need today is a Universal Military Training law. A law which will insure sufficient and suitable measures will be in training at all times to furnish current strength to meet the needs of the day and to build adequate trained reserves to be available immediately in any emergency we may face as a nation.

A Universal Military Training law is a must. On this issue there is no difference of opinion between Army and Navy, air or ground, National Guard or Reserve. This is a measure that all veterans' organizations can support without reservations and without division of opinion. The passage of this law in the early days of the Eightieth Congress will be possible only if there is unity among all of those who fear for the future safety of America. This unity must be shown in energy, in objectives, and most of all in the exact language of a bill that all can support. The American Legion speaks for millions of veterans, with its objectives, and most of all in the exact language of a bill that all can support. The American Legion carries a tremendous obligation in these dangerous times: an obligation to thousands of comrades dead, an obligation to millions of comrades living. An obligation to our nation enriched by service in two wars. The responsibilities and the obligations of The American Legion in these times require that first things come first. A Universal Military Training law is a first. The American Legion will not falter in its obligations nor fall in its responsibilities.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Thank you, General Hershey.

I have the pleasure of introducing a Past State Commander, Paul Armstrong, of the Department of Illinois and the head of our Selective Service in the State of Illinois.

PRESENTATION TO GENERAL LEWIS B. HERSHEY

By Paul Armstrong, Illinois

Mr. Commander, My Fellow Legionnaires, and General Hershey: You have headed during the past six years an organization comprising almost a million citizens of this nation, members of local boards and associates, in the handling of the procurement of manpower.

It is my high privilege this afternoon, repre-
senting them, and representing every state and
territorial director of selective service and the
members of your staff, to present to you this
volume of testimonial letters, congratulating you
upon your service to your nation, and upon your
receipt of the Distinguished Service Medal of The
American Legion which has been awarded to you
here today.

General Hershey, these letters indicate the great
loyalty and affection that is held for you by the
members of your organization. I congratulate you
in their name.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: We are happy to have with us today
another native Californian whom the na
tion has claimed from the state. Born at
Crescent City, California, he attended
Stanford University and later taught the
law he had learned there at the Univer-
sity of Southern California. He rose to
be Dean of the College of Law and then
trekked across country to take the same
position at Duke University. Equally suc-
cessful in class room or court room, he
served as a justice on the Federal Court
of Appeals for eight years.

He was elected to the presidency of the
National Association of Broadcasters last
October. Within a few months he was
off to Europe at the head of a delegation
of broadcasting representatives to inspect
radio equipment and techniques turned
up by the war. His sincerity and his will-
ingness to pioneer for progress are re-
flected today in advancements made in
broadcasting this past year. It is my
good fortune to present him to you now
—the President of the National Associa-
tion of Broadcasters—Judge Justin Miller.

ADDRESS BY HON. JUSTIN MILLER
President, National Association of Broadcasters

It is a privilege to speak to this great organi-
ization, whose members represent the finest
equalities of the American people. It is a plea-
ture to describe for you—what many of you
know from experience—the part which radio
broadcasting played in the war and its signifi-
cance in the days to come.

Three out of four radio engineers joined the
armed forces. The main core of the service per-
sonnel and of the facilities which went into
radio's part in the war came, naturally, from
the broadcasting industry.

But broadcasters are not interested in ad-
vancing competitive claims as to radio's role.
We are mindful of what the airplane, the sub-
marine and all the other refinements of modern
warfare did to gain us victory. And, most of
all, we are mindful of the fact that World War
II, like the first World War, was won by the
fighting men of all services who lived daily
with dirt and danger and death.

Without large-scale cooperation of all—the
military, the government, the people and of in-
dustry—we could not have succeeded. Without

the cooperation of all we cannot succeed in the
future—in peace as well as in war. It is as true
today as in the days of Washington and Lincoln
that a nation divided cannot stand.

It is with these considerations in mind that
we should face the sobering task of the activities
of broadcasting. Radio broadcasting provides a striking example
of effective joint action to secure such ends, in-
terweaving as it did in all military operations
and pervading as it does all phases of civilian
life in times of peace.

The most obvious and most direct military
use of radio broadcasting was as an invaluable
new instrument of operational communications.
Another direct military use was in maintaining
contact with forces behind the enemy lines—in
receiving intelligence from our own agents and
directing Intelligence activities, sabotage and
armed resistance in the part of the world
occupied by partisans. A third use, less directly
military, but immensely important to military
aims, was in maintaining the morale of our
troops abroad through entertainment and infor-
mation. No such use was in beaming propa-
ganda at the enemy.

Certainly it is not necessary to speak in de-
tail to this group concerning the use of radio as
a means of direct operational communications.
Without plane-to-base and plane-to-plane radio
communication, without the intercommunica-
tions systems within the planes, our tremen-
dously successful aerial warfare would have
been only a fraction as effective as it was. The
success of the tank was no small measure
dependent on radio communication. Our infan-
try and artillery relied heavily on radio, which
they could use from even the most advanced
point by means of the walkie-talkie; without the
time, labor and danger involved in laying wires;
without the risk that wires would be cut. The
Navy, too, although it observed long periods
of radio silence, found radio communications indis-
perable—plane to ship, ship to ship, and ship
to base.

What the Office of Strategic Services did with
radio in keeping in touch with its agents behind
enemy lines and with the underground in enemy
territory—directing them, securing intelligence
from them, learning their needs and supplying
them—is the thread running through many cur-
rent movies, books, magazine articles, and
broadcasts.

OSS did two main jobs in enemy territory—
intelligence and resistance. It is difficult and in
a sense unfair to select specific examples from
the many heroic performances of the war. But
the telling of some will suggest many more for
telling as the years go by. Thus, for example,
the success of Operation Torch—the invasion of
North Africa—was due in large measure to the
five secret OSS broadcasting stations operated
on the German-held coast—in Algiers, Oran,
Cabilia, Tangier and Tunis.

An example of resistance work was the so-
called Jedburgh Mission, which was equally de-
pendent on radio communication. In the spring
and summer of 1944 a considerable number of
three-man Jed teams were dropped be-
hind enemy lines in France and the Low Coun-
tries. They got in touch with the underground,
integrated it, and supplied it by radioing word
as to what was needed and where and when it
should be dropped. Of 82 Americans who participated in this operation, 52 have already received the DSC, the Croix de Guerre, the Legion of Merit, the Silver or Bronze Star, or the Purple Heart. Of course the radio did not make heroes of these men, nor was it alone responsible for the success of their mission, but they would be the first to proclaim its value.

To maintain the morale of our forces abroad, the War and Navy Departments set up the Armed Forces Radio Service and the Armed Forces Network. With the cooperation of the stage and screen industries, programs were produced, recorded and shipped to overseas forces, and short-wave and standard outlets were used to distribute them. This was continued throughout the war and carries on today. Some idea of the size of this operation can be obtained from the figures for the month of June, 1946:

For regular broadcast, 800 programs totalling 300 hours were produced; for short-wave, 150 programs totalling 66 hours; 63,000 records were shipped in this single typical month and transmitters over 17 short-wave transmitters and 160 standard outlets—38 of them overseas, 73 in hospitals in the United States.

With the full cooperation of American broadcasters and sponsors, the Armed Forces Radio Service produced a considerable number of our regular commercial broadcasts and sends them overseas. It also produces some programs of its own; for example, the famous "Command Performance."

On the propaganda front, the Office of War Information and the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs took over full-scale operation of all but the technical phases of the country's international short-wave stations. Subsequently it increased the number of transmitters. Thus, for example, on June 15, 1945, a new 200,000-watt station was opened at Delano, California. It was named, of course, at the Japanese homeland. Additionally, a powerful station—its old 100,000-watt transmitter of WJW—was sent abroad for service in the Mediterranean theater. In addition, a number of stations—clandestine and for the most part mobile—were operated by the Office of Strategic Services.

The story of the surrender of the Italian fleet is a well-known chapter in the war history of radio broadcasting which illustrates the value of this phase of military operation. Without tools for the task, an old transmitter was set up and surrender terms and instructions were successfully broadcast. Here is a saga for song and story! Recently the following testimony was given before a committee of the House of Representatives:

"Admiral Cunningham, chief of the British Mediterranean Fleet, on seeing the Italian Fleet steam peacefully into Malta, turned to an aide in astonishment and said: 'Congratulate the man's morale."

"To the men and women of America's radio: The United States Army is grateful for your manifold contributions to victory. "Radio broadcasting was a new weapon, used for the first time in World War II. It quickly proved itself to be a triple-barreled weapon. One barrel delivered a steady fire aimed directly at the mind of the enemy. The second spread

recurring campaigns for enlistment and recruitment of the various services.

Throughout the war, both Army and Navy maintained regular incentive programs to boost industrial production, in which radio broadcasting played a large part. For example, in cooperation with the National Association of Broadcasters, the Navy's Incentive Division sent a daily five-minute program of exclusive last-minute news, incorporating a timely incentive message, to local stations throughout the country.

Equally important were the civilian morale-building programs; getting accurate news promptly; dramatic first-hand reports of the bombings, the front-line fighting, the international conferences; faithful dramatizations of great acts of heroism and of statesmanship.

The best known regular program of this type was the Army Hour. This was continued every Sunday for three and a half years. It broadcast the last message from Corregidor. It originated battlefront broadcasts from Guadalcanal; it rebroadcast wire recordings made in bombers over Berlin and Tokyo; it put on the air the outstanding wartime personalities, including the tragic Mihailovich; it picked up broadcasts from almost every hole and corner of the earth, even the Russian front, where the broadcasters were not permitted to advert to the fact that we were at war with Japan!

You will remember, also, other outstanding wartime programs—Spirit of '41 and '42, The Fighting AAF, Chaplain Jim, Assignment Home, Your Army Service Forces, and many others.

Besides these regular programs, sponsors and networks were constantly arranging pick-ups from all over the world—providing restrictions from which thousands of GI Joes, Generals and Admirals, Roosevelt and Churchill, addressed the American people.

The home folks, you may be sure, will not soon forget those memorable broadcasts—of the Battle of Britain, the invasion of North Africa, the surrender of Italy, the invasion of Europe across the Channel, the crossing of the Rhine, the collapse, MacArthur's return to the Philippines, and of Japan's surrender—just to mention a few of the most gripping, memorable occasions.

To sum up this latter phase of psychological warfare, let me quote, General MacArthur, who in March, 1946, said:

"Nothing wields a greater influence than news. Men must know, if they are to be content. Radio transmission of entertainment and news is the answer in campaigns at the front. It keeps our soldiers abreast of events at home, dispels the haunting fears bred by a lack of knowledge of what goes on, and thereby becomes one of the main generators of a fighting man's morale."

In the same month General Eisenhowen wrote:

"To the men and women of America's radio: The United States Army is grateful for your manifold contributions to victory. "Radio broadcasting was a new weapon, used for the first time in World War II. It quickly proved itself to be a triple-barreled weapon. One barrel delivered a steady fire aimed directly at the mind of the enemy. The second spread
news, information and entertainment among our troops, and the third sped to the people at home news of their men and armies. The success with which it served in all three fields is due in large part to the American radio industry and to the industry-trained men who served their country both in and out of uniform.

"American radio programs, personnel and techniques have measured up to the new requirements of war. May we never need to use them again for anything but peaceful pursuits."

"We have come to a time when radio broadcasting, like all other American institutions, must be tested for its capacity to serve us fully in the peacefull pursuits to which General Eisenhower referred.

Only in the United States does there exist a system of radio broadcasting which even approximates a free and uncontrolled medium of communication. In many countries radio broadcasting is owned and operated, in whole or in part, either by the government itself or by a government corporation.

We have become acutely aware of this fact recently because of the surprising revelation that there still exist in this world large groups of people who are as closely controlled intellectually and who are as conditioned emotionally as were the people of Germany under Hitler and the people of Italy under Mussolini.

The Secretary General of the United Nations has said recently that: "The aims and objective of the United Nations can only be achieved if they are fully understood by all the peoples of the world. To reach them it is vital that there should be maximum freedom in all information media, including those two great organs, the press and the radio."

Last May I made a statement before the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations which will bear repetition:

"In the United States there are approximately 1,000 broadcasting stations. Needless to say, there is no part in furnishing information to the American people, both international and domestic in nature. The operators of these stations have formed the association which I represent here today.

"General David Sarnoff has proposed that the United Nations should: 'Establish the principle of "Freedom to Listen" for all peoples of the world.' "Thia," he says, 'is as important as "Freedom of Speech" and "Freedom of the Press."'

"Whether we call it freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or freedom to listen, in its essence it is the right of the people to be informed fully on all possible subjects and on all possible occasions without qualification or reservation.

"Perhaps it is a matter of emphasis or of individual approach to the problem. Freedom to listen would be valueless without freedom to provide information to which one can listen."

"We hope that all will join in acceptance of these principles, and that it may be possible to secure an agreement, along on methods for realizing and implementing them.

"We believe that to achieve the necessary maximum freedom in all information media there must be competent, unfettered reporters and interpreters who enjoy access to sources of information, who are free to tell what they see and hear, who have adequate facilities for compiling and distributing the information which they discover.

"We believe, in order to achieve maximum freedom in information media internationally, there must be freedom on the local and national level. Government slanting of information, no matter how subtle; government control of opinion, no matter how indirect, is inconsistent with the idea of that maximum freedom which is necessary for understanding, by the peoples of the world, of the aims and objectives of the United Nations."

"We may as well face frankly the fact that government 'by the lifted eyebrow'—or by other forms of intimidation—is fatally destructive of the objectives which we seek. And this may be true with respect to control of the facilities of means of communication as well as of those who would use them. We believe that unless all free people, the country can only achieve the great discoveries of science have had to struggle for recognition against the vested interests of those who have grown old in accepted prejudices. Without maximum freedom in information the progress of scientific discovery would be stalemated.

"It is perhaps not so well understood that this is true also in other fields than science. It is a curious fact that some of those who have the most to gain, and who have gained most by reason of such guaranties as freedom of speech, are willing to surrender guaranties, hoping thereby to make secure advantages which have been already gained. It seems to be a human failing to use government controls to perpetuate not only the values of the past but its mistakes as well. Unless we are willing to permit free interchange of ideas in the market place of public and private thinking, there will be no sitting of truth from falsity, no progress in human affairs, no achievement of the aims and objectives of the United Nations."

"I am sure that I speak for the broadcasters of America when I pledge to you full cooperation in your efforts to secure and maintain that maximum freedom in all information media which is vital to common understanding and unified action among the peoples of the world."

Although every person in this country knows that radio broadcasting is one of the most effective media of communication, many have not yet come to understand that it is, as much as the newspapers and the magazines, one of those agencies upon which the people have a right to rely for the free interchange of ideas; one of those agencies which, so long as it remains free, grants freedom to the people their right to listen. The Constitution of the United States guarantees freedom of speech, however that speech is..."
broadcast—by word of mouth, by the amplification of a megaphone, by the public-address amplifier and by the radio transmitter. The Commerce Clause, as interpreted by the courts, has given to Congress, in 1934 to secure technical regulation of the channels of radio broadcasting, specifies in terms that the Federal Communications Commission shall promulgate no regulation or condition which interferes with freedom of expression. This is true of broadcasting, as it is of newspapers and the magazines, because there is even more truth of broadcasting than of the proverbial camel in this respect. It moves in, of other countries? Then don’t let any mediocrity and government-slanted propaganda supported broadcasting for the tax-supported government get their hands on the contents of broadcasting programs, the evil is the same in both cases. We should demand, as we have a right to demand, that the broadcasters “clean their own house” and improve the quality of their programs, just as we make similar demands on newspapers, magazines, motion pictures, doctors, lawyers, colleges, universities, churches. But beware of the man who wants to correct those things by expanding the activities of government, and beware of the government officer or agency who plausibly justifies the encroachments of government into areas of free speech and free press. Whether it be the Postmaster General, who would use the second-class mail privilege as a club to control the contents of a newspaper or magazine, or the Federal Communications Commission, which would use the technical regulation of broadcasting channels as a club to control the contents of broadcasting programs, the evil is the same in both cases. Consider the old American adage that the man who pays the piper should have a right to call the tune. Who provides the funds which make possible the finest radio broadcasting programs in the world? The advertiser. This is even more true of broadcasting than of the newspapers and the magazines, because there are no subscription lists to support broadcasting. Would you want to trade our commercially supported broadcasting for the tax-supported mediocrity and government-slanted propaganda of the one case governs in all. The Constitution gave no more power to control radio broadcasting than it did the press. We are told that the channels of broadcasting are scarce. Does scarcity justify the taking over by government? If so, what of the scarcity of paper pulp and of motion picture film? What of the scarcity which results from the need of the major industries, the major arteries of transportation and the media of communication. They would like to become directors of that government in the process of taking over. They have seen the process of taking over as it has occurred in other countries and as they would like to have it occur here. These people are just as much our enemies as are the armies whom you defeated. They are more insidious and more vicious. They know the axiom that “A nation divided against itself cannot stand” and they are busily engaged in the process of dividing us against each other. It behoves us to remember, therefore, that when we casually or in irritation criticize the “singing commercials,” the “soap operas” or other features of radio broadcasting and suggest that “the government” should prevent and correct such practices, we are playing directly into the hands of those whom I have described. We should demand, as we have a right to demand, that the broadcasters “clean their own house” and improve the quality of their programs, just as we make similar demands on newspapers, magazines, motion pictures, doctors, lawyers, colleges, universities, churches. But beware of the man who wants to correct those things by expanding the activities of government, and beware of the government officer or agency who plausibly justifies the encroachments of government into areas of free speech and free press. Whether it be the Postmaster General, who would use the second-class mail privilege as a club to control the contents of a newspaper or magazine, or the Federal Communications Commission, which would use the technical regulation of broadcasting channels as a club to control the contents of broadcasting programs, the evil is the same in both cases. Consider the old American adage that the man who pays the piper should have a right to call the tune. Who provides the funds which make possible the finest radio broadcasting programs in the world? The advertiser. This is even more true of broadcasting than of the newspapers and the magazines, because there are no subscription lists to support broadcasting. Would you want to trade our commercially supported broadcasting for the tax-supported mediocrity and government-slanted propaganda of the one case governs in all. The Constitution gave no more power to control radio broadcasting than it did the press. We are told that the channels of broadcasting are scarce. Does scarcity justify the taking over by government? If so, what of the scarcity of paper pulp and of motion picture film? What of the scarcity which results from the need of the second-class mail privilege to maintain the newspaper and magazine in commerce? Make no mistake, the principle which governs in the one case governs in all. The Constitution gave no more power to control radio broadcasting than it did the press. The sole power lies in the power to regulate commerce between the states. Let advocates of government control of radio programs explain that away. As a matter of fact, the Constitution gives more power to control the press than it does broadcasting, because both the commerce clause and the postal-office clause apply to the press, while only the former applies to radio broadcasting.

Make no mistake that the concession of power to government to control radio broadcasting will be followed by a demand for government con-
It is said that radio sponsors control the character of broadcasting programs. The same has been said of the press. Even assuming its truth, does the remedy lie in government press or government broadcasting?

It is said that broadcasting programs are in bad taste. What, after all, is good taste and bad taste? The Supreme Court told the Postmaster General that, whether the taste of the pictures and jokes in Esquire Magazine were good or bad, was none of his business, so long as they were not obscene or did not contribute to crime or violence. The Supreme Court will tell the government critics of broadcasting programs the same thing when the issue is presented to that court.

Once concede to government power to tell our people what they may read or hear—on the theory that they are bad—and you have conceded power to tell us what our political beliefs must be, what our religious beliefs must be, and whom we shall call "Der Fuehrer."

That is not the way of American life. That is not what you men of the Legion fought to prevent, to eliminate. It is inconceivable that you will permit it to be insinuated into our way of life by guileful men looking for power, or by the ignorant, the shortsighted, the stigmatic perverts of society.

Instead it is your right to insist that this great invention shall be kept free and untrammeled, to serve us in our achievements of peace as it served us in the achievements of war. Let the world know that in this respect, as in others, the United States is a great oasis of individual liberty, of free enterprise, of self-government; that we are not yet ready to trade freedom for fancied security; that we are willing to surrender freedom to government only when it will give us greater freedom in return.

I am sure that I speak for the broadcasters of America when I pledge to you full cooperation in doing our duty to our country and to our religion. I pledge, too, to stand by and maintain the freedom for which you fought—the American way of life, the sacred heritage which has come down to us from the many generations of free men who fought for liberty in the years gone by.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF ORPHANS OF VETERANS

E. F. Carter, chairman, of Nebraska, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, Calif., September 30, October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946:

Fifty-three members of your Committee on Education of Orphans of Veterans convened at 5:00 p.m., September 30, in Meeting Room No. 303 in the Veterans Building. The annual report of the directors of the standing National Committee on the Education of Orphans of Veterans was received and given careful study. Further study was given plans for the aiding of needy and ambitious orphans of all ages. In the obtaining of higher education, including business and vocational courses. Resolutions directed to the committee for study were discussed and acted upon. Your committee has unanimously agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Special thanks were extended to Major General P. C. Harris, national director, for his continuing efforts and conscientious service in behalf of the education of orphans of veterans. Recognition was given to the increased needs, and to the greater numbers requiring assistance in this program. It was recommended that a study be made by all of the departments of The American Legion of beneficial legislation in behalf of education of orphans of veterans, with particular commendation extended to California and Louisiana for their outstanding programs.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Committee:

Resolution No. 216, amended to read as follows: Whereas, The committee recognizes the value of National Commander Scholarships; and whereas, There is an increased need and interest throughout The American Legion in these awards; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the National Finance and the National Executive Committees give favorable consideration to the increase of the number of National Commander Scholarships from fifteen to twenty-five yearly.

Resolution No. 787, amended to read as follows: Whereas, The educational aid provided by the Federal Government and the various states for the orphans of veterans is not adequate and further aid is required other than and in addition thereto; and

Whereas, The American Legion, in national convention assembled, has established National Commander Scholarships to supplement the program of the State and Federal Governments in this field; and

Whereas, It has been recommended that each department establish Department Commander Scholarships to further assist in the education of orphans of veterans; and

Whereas, Several departments have made little or no progress in the development of these programs so essential to education of the orphans of veterans; therefore, be it

Resolved, That all departments of The American Legion be urged to immediately establish Department Commander Scholarships, to the end that these further advantages may be made available to the orphans of veterans.

Resolution No. 788, adopted as follows:

Whereas, There is a growing feeling among veterans that the Federal Government is under the same obligation to provide educational opportunities for the sons and daughters of those who sacrificed their lives for their country in World War I or World War II as for surviving veterans; and

Whereas, The compensation now provided by the Government is wholly inadequate to support a boy or girl attending school or college other than a local public school, under existing conditions; therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion national convention assembled at San Francisco, California, this 2nd day of October, 1946, that the Congress of the United States be requested to provide a subsistence allowance of $50.00 per month for children over 16 years of age of veterans of World War I or World War II who died as a result of
war service, while such children are pursuing a course of instruction in a business or trade school, technical institute, college, or university, for a total not exceeding 46 months, said subsistence allowance paid to such children to be in addition to all other benefits or compensation provided by law and in addition to any earnings by the children themselves.

The report was adopted.

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER HUNTINGTON: Before the birth of more than two-thirds of the members of The American Legion our next speaker was charging up San Juan Hill with the 18th Infantry. The Adjutant General of the Army during World War I, he retired from active duty in 1922 and has devoted the last 24 years to volunteer work in behalf of the orphans of America’s veterans. Through The American Legion he has registered the full measure of a true patriot’s devotion to God and country. I am proud to present a grand gentleman and a great veteran, the director and chairman of The American Legion National Committee on Education of Orphans of Veterans—Major General P. C. Harris.

PRESENTATION OF GEORGE ILIFF Recipient of National Commander’s Scholarship

By Major General P. C. Harris, Retired

In furtherance of a Chicago national convention resolution, the National Executive Committee on December 18, 1945, adopted a resolution increasing the number of National Commander Scholarships from ten to fifteen, two for each of the five areas and five from the United States at large.

The winner of a National Commander Scholarship receives $100.00 for each three months he is in actual attendance at a business or trade school, college or university, with a maximum limitation of $1,200.00 for the entire course.

The two Eastern Area Scholarships were awarded this year to Roland Allen Jones of Maine and Maurice N. Bowler of New Hampshire; the Northern Area scholarships to David Henry Fithian of Minnesota, and five from the United States at large. The two Eastern Area Scholarships were awarded this year to Roland Allen Jones of Maine and Maurice N. Bowler of New Hampshire; the Northern Area scholarships to David Henry Fithian of Minnesota, and five from the United States at large.

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ness to become an interested party in the creation of a just and secure post-war world. We attempted to substitute the ostrich for the eagle as the symbol of America.

And in the second case, through the policy of whittling down our armed strength to a virtual state, the role of force and power in human relations was lost. Our major shortcoming in the search for new security was characterized as coldly factual as her efforts to win a war once more. Failure to win, our hopes for the success of this venture is not diminished. If anything, it is more grave than ever.

In that respect, it is not the Navy's intention to become involved in international politics. But it is very much your Navy's duty to insure the safety of the citizens of this country against any eventuality. Given the enthusiastic support and backing of the American people, the Navy can be counted upon to do just that.

Just a year ago at a point in our international commitments, we seem determined not to make the second error. Although our Navy has been reduced to about one-sixth of its peak wartime strength, it is still many times larger than that maintained prior to the war. Our current efforts for peace are based on a formidable group of Reserve personnel and standing ships far greater than ever authorized before.

I think we all agree that our statesmen in Paris are at this very moment giving evidence that our country has awakened fully to its responsibility as a leader among nations. We are finally aware that our position in world affairs makes this obligation of leadership inescapable.

It is simple logic, I believe, that as our world shrinks in size at the hands of science, our attention to its trends must increase.

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is going to strike within effective range of the target.

Although it is still too early to predict what general lines the construction and design of new ships and planes will take, certain trends are, I feel, obvious. For instance, the Navies of the future will certainly have increased emphasis placed on the development of underwater craft. Such vessels will probably not resemble submarines as we know them today. Undoubtedly they will be much larger, perhaps even capable of carrying aircraft and launching guided missiles from a submerged position.

Even the battleship as we have known it is due for many changes. A surprisingly large number of people still persist in thinking the Navy and the battleship are synonymous. This long ago ceased to be a fact. Actually your Navy is now 40 per cent navy, 50 per cent army, and all other components, excepting the submarine are largely in a supporting role. Even the airplane is no longer the only "Eyes of the Fleet," for radar has taken over a major role in that field. And aviation is the long arm and "Sunday punch" of the fleet. In other words, each weapon played a part and a vital one in an integrated Navy that took to the air in this last war. The weapons of the air were combined with those of the surface of the sea and undersea to develop the United States Navy as a unified force.

The Navy was engrossed with the problem of scientific research long before the Bikini tests, but recent developments in science have served to sharpen our interest in basic research. That program has now reached flank speed, and this fiscal year we are devoting $250,000,000 to the cause of developing basic new knowledge, and making the application of these technical advances for the benefit of mankind as well as the fleet.

Our experience in World War II clearly showed that a first-class Navy can no longer exist without the closest tie-in with science. This is as true in peace as in time of war. The Navy must have its roots in science at all times, whether the centers of knowledge are in the laboratories of the government, industry, or the universities. An excellent step in that direction has been made by the newly-established office of Naval Research. Already they have organized work and let contracts on 167 research projects at 58 leading universities.

It is a healthy condition, I feel, that each of our armed forces is engaged in this field separately, bent on producing the tools which best suit its own needs and purposes. There is a dangerous fallacy in the idea of concentrating or regimenting research work and limiting development of equipment to any one organization. The great benefits that have come from industry—the motor car, home appliances, aircraft—all have stemmed from the healthy competition between our independent industrial organizations. It is a well-recognized fact in research that independent groups working in the same general field will serve to stimulate and cross-fertilize one another.

You may wonder if such a practice does not allow for overlapping between the services. For that very reason the Secretaries of War and of the Navy established the Joint Research and Development Board. This body, headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C., includes representatives of the Army Air and Ground forces, and of the Navy.

They are seeing to it that unnecessary or wasteful duplication of effort is eliminated from the respective research projects of the services.

In pursuing itself to meet the demands of so-called "push button" warfare, the Navy is developing a training program for its personnel that recognizes the importance of new technology. This is most essential for the man who must man the guided missile warships and radically designed aircraft of the future. Nor will this new program be entirely restricted to a chosen few. We propose to acquaint the entire Naval service with practical information in the developments of every field of science that affects the Navy—and they include such fields as nuclear physics, jet propulsion, gas turbines, guided missiles and electronics.

One thing we must realize above all others: wars are fought with the weapons which are developed before the fighting begins—for a nation at war does not have time to push through a new line of fundamental research before the outcome of the war is decided. And the outcome of an atomic war might well be decided in the first day of fighting.

In the last war our nation paid the penalty of forgetting the lessons of the years between wars. We have won victory despite our past mistakes. We cannot hope to be as fortunate at any time in the future. For if there is a "next time," despite all we can do to prevent it, the penalty of forgetting may be the loss of our liberty.

Let us keep that picture ever in mind as we strive to find a way to make the peace work.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:
I have the pleasure to present to the convention General Maurice Mathenet, military attaché to the French Embassy in Washington, D. C., as the official representative of the Republic of France. He has a message to our convention.

REMARKS BY GENERAL MAURICE MATHENET
Military Attaché French Embassy

It is a great honor and a great pleasure for me, as a French veteran of the two World Wars, to be here today to represent the French Government. And I am very happy also, thanks to your kind invitation, to be able to bear witness to the deep feelings of thankfulness which the whole of France holds for the great contribution that you have made to its struggle for liberation.

I should like, first of all, in the name of my country, which also mourns her many dead, to salute the memory of your comrades who, in every corner of the globe, have made to its struggle for liberation.

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ton and Rochambeau met for the first time and where a common plan was evolved which was to bring about the victory of Yorktown. That shows that this friendship goes back to the very dawn of your national life. More than one hundred and fifty years have passed since the meeting at Hartford, and our soldiers are just now laying down their arms after having once again fought side by side for the “unconditional surrender” of their adversary.

The esteem which France holds for you goes back as far as our common memories, as we find this thought in the memoirs of Rochambeau: “The country folk and the innkeepers of Connecticut are imbued with a patriotic spirit which may well be envied by many other peoples.” Those Americans that General Rochambeau admired are your ancestors, gentlemen. And you, their descendants, soldiers of Pershing, Eisenhower and MacArthur—those who landed in Normandy, those who made the break-through at St. Lo and those who planted the flag at Iwo Jima—have shown themselves worthy of their fathers, continuing throughout history the great tradition of patriotism and heroism of the great soldiers of the Independence.

We were at your side at Yorktown, fighting for the same ideals of liberty. You were beside us at Belleau Wood and at St. Mihiel; you fought with us and your comrades fell with ours, so that the Tri-color might fly again from the streets of Strausbourg and in order that liberty might always remain among men. Yes, truly, our histories are closely linked, and you yourselves, as victorious veterans of two World Wars, have written their most memorable pages.

Three times in the course of a century and a half, the United States and France have fought under a single commander-in-chief: the great George Washington, Marahit Foch and your splendid chief, General Eisenhower, and three times, thanks to the genius of the leader as well as to the courage of the soldiers the Star-Spangled Banner and the French Tri-color have waved side by side in the breeze of a common victory.

America has not forgotten Lafayette—General Pershing landed at the head of your army, saluted the soil of France with the famous “La-fayette, we are here.” But I can assure you, that likewise France has not forgotten you who so powerfully aided her in her tremendous struggle in 1914, and who have recently restored her to life. France will never forget what she owes to your courage, to your suffering, to your dead. She holds for your soldiers, all the more easily, the same loving affection that she has for her own, because, thanks to the generosity of the great American Democracy, her men were able to fight again in American-made tanks and wearing the American helmet.

The Poilu and the GI have just been fighting, clad in the same uniform and striking with the same weapons. Let us remember the significance of this beautiful picture, it symbolizes more than any other perhaps, the true value of our brotherly affection.

The American Legion was organized at the Grand Palais in Paris in 1919. Its national convention was held in Paris in 1927, and veterans paraded along the Champs Elysees. For many of you undoubtedly these events will constitute precious personal memories.

Veterans of The American Legion, I come to you today with the invitation of the French Government to hold your next national convention in Paris and to celebrate there the twenty-ninth anniversary of The American Legion.

The Grand Palais suffered considerably during the battles which were launched by our heroic population of Paris, for the liberation of the capital, shortly before your arrival. But that large building has now been restored, is being used at present for an American Exhibit, and stands ready to offer itself again as headquarters for your meetings. The Champs Elysees is still there in that section of the Invalides, and the Arc de Triomphe in the midst of the memories of our military glory, that magnificent frame in which you marched the first time. And the heart of France is wide open to receive you.

For you, veterans, this will be an opportunity to visit again and to show to your wives and children the places where you struggled and reaped glory: for our veterans it will be a wonderful occasion for renewing ties with their brothers-in-arms, and for demonstrating to them their affection.

France appreciates fully the help given her by the United States, and without which she could not yet get along. But what I wish to tell you, is that it would be an error to believe that, as some have said, it will take France two generations to get back on her feet. Promising results of France’s renewed activity can already be seen.

The railroads are functioning regularly, the textile industry has reached the 1938 level, agricultural production, with God’s help, will also soon have reached a prewar level. Our difficulties are of a financial nature, for we must pay for and replace all that was destroyed and taken by the enemy.

During the ages, France has had her ups and downs, but she has always surprised the world by the way she has emerged out of her troubles to become once again an important element in international affairs.

It is therefore with confidence that I invite you to see for yourselves the truth of what I have said. You will return convinced that before long France will resume her former position. War, that great and sorrowful task, enabled the soldiers to unite their heroism across frontiers and oceans. In order to bring to a successful conclusion the undertaking of peace which faces us, we must continue the contacts which are the basis of mutual confidence, esteem and friendship.

Our friendship must be the foundation of our common prosperity. We are, as we say in the Liturgy, “United forever for better or for worse,” in the same ideals of democracy and freedom.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STEELE: We appreciate your presentation, General Mathenet. Thank you.

Our next speaker is Major General T. B. Larkin, Quartermaster General of the Army. General Larkin,

REMARKS OF MAJOR GENERAL T. B. LARKIN

The Quartermaster General

The American Legion has served as a prophetic voice in American life for more than a quarter of a century.
Years ago you warned, and have since given warning repeatedly, that America has room for only one "ism"—Americanism. You were right about that. Long ago your leaders told the people of our country that America must not become a breeding ground for the philosophy of government which cloaks itself in false garments and calls itself Communism. You were right about that, too. And in recent times you have also made it clear that such ideologies as Nazism and Fascism have no place in our American scheme of life.

It is not easy to peer into the future and chart the channels through which our nation must travel if we are to find peace for ourselves, our families, and the world. It is doubly difficult, however, to look back and remember the past. The human mind finds it easy to forget history very quickly. Gratitude for the men who fought and died in order to clear the way for the future is often lacking in life.

But even here your organization has not failed. I cannot impress upon you too much the great care which we in the Quartermaster Corps have taken to insure the certainty of identification. Both as Quartermaster General and as Chief of the American Legion, I have been profoundly impressed by the work done by your organization, the American Legion. It is to the everlasting credit of The American Legion that it has not forgotten the dead! Your National Graves Registration and Memorial Plan states as its first objective: "To fulfill an obligation to our departed comrades." In the midst of crass materialism and selfishness in the world today, such a high and worthy purpose is in the best tradition of our nation.

As quartermaster general of the Army, I have been impressed, too, by another American Legion objective, which pledges "To be helpful during the period of repatriation of the dead of World War II from overseas graves in rendering every service possible to the next of kin and every honor to the men and women who made the supreme sacrifice on foreign soil." Your organization, with more than 16,000 posts and more than three million members, is well equipped to render a vital and important service to next of kin who may seek your help. You may begin at the time the Office of The Quartermaster General has returned the remains to the place designated by next of kin. You can provide honor guards, firing squads and buglers from your membership in order that a proper military funeral may be conducted for those families desiring it. Of course I realize that The American Legion is helping families in many other ways.

To grasp the importance of this work, however, you must know something of what your government has done thus far, what the Army has accomplished and what the Army will do in the future.

When Congress passed legislation late last spring providing for return and final burial of our World War II dead, the responsibility for carrying out this program was given by The Secretary of War to the Quartermaster Corps.

Certain underlying principles guided our thinking as we started to accomplish this solemn duty. We were determined to carry it out in keeping with the highest traditions of democracy.

First, the decision as to the ultimate final resting place of a deceased soldier, sailor, marine, or civilian who was left to the next of kin. That right is theirs and theirs alone. Second, we were determined that there would be no distinctions made as to rank, race, creed or color. These principles guided us at the start and they will continue to be the keystone of the program.

Some 300,000 of our fighting men who died in almost every part of the globe are involved. Our American Graves Registration activities here at home have had to be undertaken on a global scale. Our work has been going on across the European battlefields of World War II and on countless islands of the Pacific which were our stepping-stones to ultimate victory. We are still searching the vastness of a land like China and the jungle depths of a country like Burma to locate remains of our service people.

As a result of these operations, we have identified a total of 293,915 remains. In addition, we have located 17,084 remains which are unidentified. This of course does not include 37,300 lost at sea or otherwise vanished.

A total of 91.3 per cent of the approximately 298,700 remains in all theaters possibly affected by the program have been located. Most of these remains have now been put to rest in temporary United States Military cemeteries over seas. These are under U. S. military supervision, and they receive constant landscaping and beautification.

In regard to the unidentified, we have pursued a vigorous policy of employing the latest available methods of identifying remains. Every possible aid has been given to those families who have been put to good use. As a result, we are able to identify many service men who might otherwise have been classified for all time as "Unknown".

I cannot impress upon you too much the great care which we in the Quartermaster Corps have taken to insure the certainty of identification. Both as Quartermaster General and as Chief of the American Legion Graves Registration Service, I give you this pledge: Once we have notified next of kin of the identity of remains, there can be no doubt as to the absolute certainty of that identification. It is positive beyond the shadow of a doubt.

These, of course, are but the preliminary steps which must be taken as we carry out the wishes of Congress and the people. The countless records which must be kept, the great care and attention which must be given remains—these are elements which we have considered more than the matter of speed in accomplishing this repatriation program. For I feel sincerely, and I believe you will agree with me, that it is far more to be desired that we move cautiously and carefully than to take any chance of error.

All of the delays cannot be attributed to operational matters, however. Quite frankly, we have had to schedule and reschedule our program for the return of remains due to industry's inability to supply caskets because of shortages of steel. We had expected that there would be a supply of caskets on hand by January which would be sent overseas. Last month, however, we were notified that our schedules would have to be set back once again, this time for sixty days. The best estimate I can give you at the present time is that remains will probably not be returned to this country much before the summer of 1947.

Once the remains arrive at either New York or San Francisco, they will be sent in special railroad cars to one of fifteen distribution points. The Armed Forces will furnish the military escorts to accompany the remains to the place designated by the next of kin.

It is when those remains are given to next of kin...
For your assistance, I am sure of the many of you will turn to veterans for guidance; I know that The American Legion will not let these people down.

You must keep this in mind, however: These remains will be coming back to this country over a period of years. The task of providing personnel with which to accord our war dead a funeral with military honors will not be an easy one. Planning, understanding, tact and sympathy are required. If you take this responsibility and offer to provide military funeral arrangements, after a number of such ceremonies in your local communities, your interest and zeal must not diminish. Your national commander, Mr. Stelle, as well as Mr. Talcott, chairman of The National Graves Registration and Memorial Committee have already done a great deal toward planning for the participation of the Legion.

The last man to reach these shores in death must not be considered worthy of less notice or be given fewer honors than the first to return. Your task must also be kept at a high level since you embark upon this sacred and solemn obligation.

These, of course, are just words of caution, ideas which may not have occurred to you. I feel certain that in this vital work the spirit and enthusiasm of The American Legion will not lag. By becoming participants in the final burial of World War II dead through offering assistance to the families, I believe that you will offer a concrete example of how the Legion translates into action the opening phrase of its Constitution's preamble: "For God and Country." Certainly there is no nobler purpose to which our posts scattered throughout our country can dedicate themselves in the next few years.

But you cannot wait until the last minute to take up this serious work. You must bring to the attention of the bereaved the honors which you wish to pay to their loved ones who fell in the cause of this country. By making certain this far in advance that all who are privileged to call upon you for aid are aware of the services which you are prepared to render, confusion and oversights will be avoided.

As far as the War Department is concerned, every single detail of the repatriation program will be handled with simple dignity, in the best American tradition. We will strain all of our efforts toward accomplishing this duty reverently and so as to spare the living relatives of the brave whom we bring back as much anguish and sorrow as possible. In our muddled and weary post-war world, all the high-minded plans and schemes may not be accomplished as we wish. By cooperation, by understanding, and by constant awareness of the privilege which is ours, I am convinced that we can carry out the wishes of the war dead's next of kin in a manner which will redound to the credit of all.

For only when this is accomplished can we, in all truth, look to the setting of the sun, recall our comrades who have passed on, and say: "We have not forgotten. We shall never forget."

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Truly the next speaker is a product of America. In the year 1908 he was in charge of a newspaper route in his home town of Clark, Missouri. Today he is custodian of the rights of some twenty million war veterans and their dependents.

In the interim he distinguished himself as one of the great combat generals of all time. Like General Eisenhower and many other great soldiers of the late war, he drew the assignment of training troops during World War I. With fresh war clouds gathering in 1939, he became Assistant Secretary of the War Department General Staff. On May 9, 1943, in Tunisia, he became the first American Commander to demand and receive the unconditional surrender of Axis forces. He invaded Sicily with his Second Corps and then went to England to create and train the First Army with which he landed in France. Following the Saint Lo breakthrough he received overall command of the Twelfth Army Group, whose armies contained more than a million and a half troops.

It was this largest of all American military forces that accomplished the liberation of France and shattered the core of the Wehrmacht on the western front. In the spring of 1945 he was made a full general. His decorations include the Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and eleven awards from allied governments.

He is recognized not only as a brilliant military tactician, but as the G. I.'s General of World War II. It is my privilege to present to this convention the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, General Omar Nelson Bradley. He is recognized as a G. I. General of the world war—and as the father of two boys who followed him and worked with him from Africa to Germany—General Bradley, I present to you this audience and to you the audience one of the great men who is our administrator and doing a great job. General Bradley.

ADDRESS OF GENERAL OMAR N. BRADLEY

Administrator of Veterans' Affairs

Forty-eight hours ago, while I was en route to your convention as guest of The American Legion, my host—your National Commander—accused me of breaking faith with the American veteran.

At the same time, my host—your National commander—said, and I quote: "I do not hold the General entirely responsible. The Veterans Administration is first a government agency and secondly a veterans' agency.

My host—your National Commander—was prompted in his attack by a law enacted by Congress.
This law prevents a privileged minority of veterans from profiting unfairly by the G.I. Bill.

The American Constitution has guaranteed democratic government for all citizens of these United States. There is no agency of our American government that dare place its special interests before the interests of this nation.

The Veterans Administration is first an agency of government. It is, thereafter, an ally of the veteran.

While I am Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs, the Veterans Administration will do nothing to surrender the welfare of this nation to the special interests of any minority.

The American veteran is first a citizen of these United States. He is thereafter a veteran. He will find that the opportunities to work, earn a living as a industrious American citizen far outweighs the special benefits granted him as a veteran.

I refuse to believe that the American veteran will do anything to endanger the country for which he fought.

As Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs, I owe a solemn duty to seventeen million veterans who fought this country’s wars. And yet, I am positive that the huge majority of these veterans will support me in my conviction that I owe an even more compelling duty to all American veterans and to the nation in which they live.

I am charged by my host—your National Commander—with breaking faith with the veteran because I have sided with Congress in an effort to defend the rights of all veterans against the encroachments of a privileged few.

My host—your National Commander—has elected to be the spokesman for this minority group of veterans whose incomes exceed the level beyond which Congress will no longer supplement their wages in training.

He has chosen to jeopardize the rights of more than thirteen million other veterans of World War II to benefits of the G.I. Bill.

If we dare countenance abuse of any portion of this bill, we shall have to reckon with the danger of public distrust and ultimate rejection of all its essential provisions.

The abuse of their privileges by a small minority of unthinking veterans can poison the American people against all veterans.

If we ignore this danger, we shall have to reckon with the loss of confidence in these young men who won the war.

We shall break faith with the veteran only if we cause the country to lose faith in him.

I shall not surrender my responsibility to these men. Instead, I shall defend at all costs the integrity of every honest American veteran in his use of the G.I. Bill.

Experience has demonstrated to us that a ceiling is essential to the honest conduct of on-the-job training. Congress concurred in this conviction when it passed the ceiling law.

Within the Veterans Administration we are conducting a continuing study on the fairness of those ceiling levels. If it is determined that these levels have been placed too low or that the cost of living renders them too low—we shall have no hesitancy in going to Congress again with recommendations for change.

My host—your National Commander—has inferred that Congress is off on an economy spree that will pauperize the American veteran.

He is manifestly unfair to a Congress which this year voted more for the veteran than ever before in the history of our country. His accusation, I believe, is as affront to the millions of American citizens who this year will gladly devote a substantial share of their earnings for the veterans’ benefits they provided.

Your National Commander did not mention that Congress has authorized an 800-million-dollar hospital construction program for the care of your sick and wounded comrades.

He did not tell you that Congress has provided a flat twenty per cent increase in disability and pension payments to more than three million veterans.

He neglected to say that Congress repealed restrictions on payments to disabled veterans in hospitals.

He ignored the free automobiles provided by Congress for amputees.

He did not indicate that Congress has liberalized veterans’ insurance and bad paid it on a peacetime basis.

He declined to tell you that Congress doubled the government guarantee on veterans’ home loans.

He failed to reveal that Congress had repealed the veterans’ 25-year age limit for education and training.

I ask you—do these new laws smack of the pruning knife? Do they sound like a double-cross?

This is not the first time I have been forced to differ publicly with your National Commander. This is not the first time he has questioned our sincerity and impugned our motives.

Last February my distinguished host—your National Commander—asserted in a letter to Congress that Congress made a tragic breakdown in the administration of veterans’ affairs.

He cited figures in his effort to show our work a failure. His only mistake was in being too kind. The situation he depicted was—if anything—far better than the one we revealed.

At that time your National Commander also predicted that thousands of disabled veterans would be kicked out of our hospitals.

He ignored the anguish and anxiety caused by these claims and predictions made headlines.

Did your National Commander refer to them in his address before you Monday?

Did he tell you that as of today there are seven thousand more non-service-connected cases of World War II veterans in our hospitals than when he predicted we would kick them out?

More dangerous than the German Army is the demagoguery that deceives the veteran to-day by promising him something for nothing.

The American veteran is not for sale. His loyalty and duty to the nation cannot be purchased at the price of a dole or a bonus in the guise of job-training.

There are among the ranks of the highest-salaried professional veterans those who forget that the veteran has paid, and is paying, for all that he gets.
I regret that my host—your National Commander—forced me to reply publicly to him today. Many of you will recall that last year I asked the help of your American Legion in the difficult job we knew lay ahead. Not once during the entire year has your National Commander come to me with a sincere offer to help. Instead, he has deliberately obstructed our effort. He has impaired our progress by misrepresenting our objectives. What we have been able to accomplish during this year in the Veterans Administration has been achieved—not because of—but in spite of your National Commander. I say this with no malice toward those thousands of poets of The American Legion throughout the country where you have joined willingly and helpfully in the work we are doing.

To the tens of thousands of you who have given your time and your interest to the American veteran—we are as grateful to you as I am certain the veteran is.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Our next speaker played a dynamic and decisive part in the formation of the Republic of the Philippines, whose birth last July fourth was hailed by all the democratic peoples. He served as aide-de-camp to General MacArthur during the early, dark days of the Pacific war. A native Filipino, he endured the last days on Bataan, and before he left, April 9, 1942, under orders from the General, he earned the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

He continued to carry the fight to the enemy from Australia, the South Pacific and the United States until his homeland was liberated and victory won. Today, as permanent delegate of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations, he is fighting again—this time for structure and peace. It is my honor and pleasure to present the Resident Commissioner of the Philippines to the United States, Major General Carlos P. Romulo.

ADDRESS BY BRIGADIER GENERAL CARLOS P. ROMULO

Ambassador-at-Large, Philippine Islands

It is ever a pleasure and an honor to be present at this Convention of The American Legion. My presence here today, however, I must consider as a singular privilege. I have been invited to address this great body of American veterans. This would of itself be a mark of rare distinction; the fact that I am here to discharge a special mission at the behest of the President of the Philippines, a veteran like yourselves, who founded the American Legion, Brigadier General Manuel Roxas, enhances many fold my personal satisfaction in being with you on this happy occasion.

I am delighted to bring to this convention the loyal and fraternal greetings of the Filipino veterans of World War II. From the Philippines, which has been one of the greatest battlefield of freedom, to this great American metropolis, which has been the birthplace of the great ideal of universal peace, comes a pledge of faithful adherence to the noble purposes of The American Legion and of earnest participation in its wholesome endeavors.

This gathering of veterans in the city of San Francisco evokes the memory of significant coincidences and comparisons. It was more than a year ago that we laid the foundation of One World. It was a gratifying experience for me to be here then as the chief delegate from the Philippines, yet I rejoiced no less in the knowledge that I was here in my personal capacity as a veteran of the war which made that conference both necessary and possible.

We were here to perform a task, the most sublime that has ever been given man to do—a task that was in essence Godlike, somehow recalling that awful moment of Creation when "the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." But as we were not gods but men, we could not stand upon this premonitory of light and give the divine command. Let there be One World—that peace everlasting 'might descend as if by magic upon an embattled humanity and order be born out of darkness and chaos. We had to labor ceaselessly and long, using for our tools the minds and hearts of men, patiently piecing together the all-too-human hopes, ideals and ambitions of fifty-one nations in their endless variety.

There were disheartening moments, but in the end the task was done. We had sunk the foundations for the edifice of One World and we had, according to our best lights, fortified it with the stout battlements of peace. Whether our best intentions and efforts were good enough, only time will tell—time and the unswerving devotion of men of good will everywhere.

To be back here today in San Francisco at this convention of The American Legion is for me like renewing an act of faith. This is a gathering of Americans who fought in two victorious wars to extend the frontiers of freedom and democracy. What thought could be more fitting than that this convention should relegate itself to the winning of the peace as an enterprise quite as momentous as the winning of the war?

Many of the heroes of the war are not with us today. They lie where they fell in a thousand battlefields, and the soil where their dust has mingled with the earth is hallowed ground. We turn our thoughts to the lives and sympathy, sharing still, as if they sat beside us in this hall, the high hopes that animates us all in the din and heat of battle. Did they,
and the whine of bullets and the detonation of bombs, think perhaps that all this would be over on the morrow, that the cloud of darkness would lift and the light of peace shine upon all men everywhere?

If so, then let the vision remain. It ennobled them in their passing; it lives in us, and it shall become immortal in the lives of our children and in that of their children after them.

Let our heritage henceforth be the heroism of peace. It is a heroism without fanfare and without banners—the heroism of the cool, steady hand and of clear, unclouded thinking. This is the sort of heroism that becomes no men better than the fighting men of America, than the citizens of the most powerful nation in the world.

The great concern of America today is peace. One might say, indeed, that it is America's primary responsibility. That is the logical consequence of her world leadership.

What is the measure of that responsibility? Is it to achieve peace in our time? Or peace at any price? It seems to me that to think so would be to apply a niggling measure upon the tremendous proportions of America's historic responsibility. That responsibility calls not for a mere breathing spell between wars, not for a temporary truce between sworn enemies, but for a just and lasting peace born out of the conviction that we must have One World now—or none at all.

It is our earnest hope and belief that America will prove equal to this tremendous responsibility. Our victory in the war just over was in a very large measure due to American resources, American science, and American courage. Our triumph in peace will depend no less decisively upon these admirable qualities of America operating this time not in the field of matter merely, but of conscience and morality.

America has the power, and we of the other nations—especially the small nations—derive enormous comfort and confidence from that outstanding fact. It is good to know that the supreme power for good and evil in this world today lies in the hands of America. It is even better to realize that America's unsullied sense of justice is our strongest guarantee against any possible misuse or abuse of that power.

We in the Philippines had reason, not as long ago, to mourn the consequences of the deterioration of American power. But even in the moment of our deepest grief we doubted not that its eclipse was only temporary. We knew that there would come a resurgence of American strength so overwhelming that the high tide of enemy power would be rolled back as if by an advancing wall of fire and steel. The Filipino soldier and guerilla fought some of the greatest battles of the war under the American flag, and when the arrogant enemy hauled down the Stars and Stripes aloft in their hearts for three long, terror-laden years.

I speak now of the Filipino veteran because no Allied soldier symbolizes better than he the absolute confidence of the non-American in the sacredness of the devotion to peace, and the power of America.

He was on the firing line at the time of Pearl Harbor, and he fought from the foxholes of Bataan and on the beaches of Corregidor for four grueling months, long before America could gather sufficient strength to hurl back the forces of the treacherous foe. In the years of occupation, he remained completely indifferent to the efforts of the enemy to lure him with wily invitations of friendship and alliance. For in his heart he knew that freedom was his heritage and democracy his destiny, and he knew that this conviction placed him irrevocably on the side of America.

When I emphasize the loyalty of the Filipino soldier as a sterling instance of the unswerving faith of a non-American in America, I have very good reasons for underscoring this fact. We Filipinos belong, in the first place, to a race apart from yours—a race, moreover, that has retained for centuries many bitter and unhappy memories of its contact with the white men. Nearly fifty years ago we fought your soldiers for what we firmly believed was our right and opportunity to be free at last of the foreign yoke. We became reconciled to American sovereignty over our land only after we had been given every assurance that independence would be ours after a period of training in self-government. Up to that time there were no important cultural ties between us and the Americans, and they held no valuable economic interests in common. Yet, out of that diversity of race, language, tradition and culture, we were able in forty years to forge a common political faith based on democratic principles, as well as a system of economic relations for the most part untainted by any motives of exploitation. When the war broke out in December, 1941, we needed no law of Congress and no proclamation of the President of the United States to join the American colors in the struggle against the enemy.

Our army was committed to battle from the first day of the war, and America had the unique satisfaction of having one hundred thousand men fighting beside her own soldiers under the command of one of her greatest generals—troops that were in no sense colonial mercenaries, but American in training, in objectives, in ideals, in all but in name. And on the battlefields of Bataan the name FilAmerican spoken as one word was coined to signify the new citizenship of the fighting Filipinos who there gave testimony of their faith in a baptism of blood and fire.

The substance of that faith was what we knew and believed of America: American democracy, American justice, American fair play. Today the Filipino veteran is eager to reaffirm the substance of that faith. He dares to reaffirm it in the face of evidence that might serve, unless promptly remedied, to undermine it in many ways. He sees the march of American power across the face of the earth, and is both exalted and fascinated by it. He sees, closer at hand, the manner in which his rights as a veteran of the armed forces of the United States have been abridged and even ignored, and he is disconcerted and dismayed. And he asks himself: Can the substance of American prestige and power throughout the world remain unshakable by an act of injustice toward those who risked or gave their lives to make that power and prestige possible?

American veterans are zealous over their privileges and they have a right to be. But I ask
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you now to consider the unhappy plight of the Filipino veteran.

In 1935, the year we established the Commonwealth Government, preparations for independence, the first law passed by our National Assembly was the National Defense Act creating the Army of the Philippines. Under our Constitution the President of the Philippines was commander-in-chief of the Army, with the proviso that, in the event of emergency, the President of the United States would have the authority to call the Philippine armed forces to the service of the United States. By arrangement between President Roosevelt and President Quezon, the new Philippine Army was organized and trained under the direction of two of the greatest American soldiers of all time: by General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, who had just retired as Chief of Staff of the United States Army, and by a younger assistant of his, then Lieutenant Colonel, now General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

By 1940 we had approximately one hundred thousand men trained under the MacArthur plan. In August, 1941, as the tension in the Far East rose to a crisis, President Roosevelt issued an executive order formally inducting the Philippine Army into the United States Army Forces in the Far East, USAFFE for short, which was thus constituted as a new military command under General MacArthur.

The Philippine Army soldier was sworn to defend the Constitution of the United States and had become, to all intents and purposes, a part of the Army of the United States, subject to the same hazards of battle, obeying the same commander, owing allegiance to the same flag as his American brother-in-arms, but receiving a base pay of $9 monthly without the allowances and privileges of the American G.I. In March, 1942, the United States Senate, recognizing the equality of sacrifice that was borne by Filipino and American soldiers alike, voted to federalize Philippine Army pay. Soon afterwards, Batasan fell, and the measure died a natural death in the House of Representatives.

That was bad enough, but a worse disappointment was yet in store for the Filipino soldier. In February this year the United States Congress approved the First Surplus Appropriation Recession Act, which included a rider transferring a $200,000,000 item for the pay of the Army of the Philippines. By this action Congress sought to make final settlement of its obligations to the Filipino soldier by providing for current pay and for service-connected disability and death payments on the basis of one peso, or fifty cents, for every dollar of eligible benefits.

The Philippine Government opposed the rider, and as Resident Commissioner of the Philippines I placed on record before Congress the grounds for our opposition. President Truman approved the measure, but not without expressing his objection to the rider which would deprive Philippine Army personnel, inducted into the service of the United States Army, of most of the benefits which American law provides to its veterans.

What are the benefits that have thus been denied the Filipino veteran? Specifically, the Filipino veteran is not entitled to the following:

first, the automatic gratuitous insurance against death in line of duty in active service between October 5, 1915 and April 12, 1940 which includes the whole period of the First Battle of the Philippines; second, the pension for non-service-connected disability; third, medical treatment, hospitalization and domiciliary care for injuries or diseases incurred or aggravated in line of duty, including funeral and burial expenses; fourth, vocational rehabilitation in the case of disabled veterans; fifth, civil service preference; sixth, the six-month death gratuity to dependents of personnel who died in line of duty; seventh, the mustering-out pay; and eighth, the provisions of the Missing Persons Act providing for the compensation of soldiers who have been taken as prisoners of war.

Pursuant to the Act of Congress, the War Department ordered the United States Army in the Philippines last May to suspend all payments of pensions, gratuities, insurance, and arrears in salary to Philippine Army personnel. To this day, nearly two years after the landing in Leyte and five years after the Japanese invasion, not one Filipino war widow has received a cent, or even a peso, for the true love of her beloved husband or son who fought for the American flag and kept it aloft in his heart during the dark years of the Japanese occupation.

A great majority of Philippine Army personnel have been denied payment of arrears in salary. Disabled veterans under medical treatment and hospitalization for disabilities or diseases incurred in line of duty were discharged from U.S. Army hospitals shortly before the inauguration of the Philippine Republic and left to shift for themselves.

Fellow veterans: You are gathered in San Francisco, this great American city that looks out across eight thousand miles of ocean to Asia and the Far East, where dwell more than one-half of the human race. Today there is a mighty stirring among the one billion peoples of Asia. Once again the wheel of history is about to turn a complete circle. The ancient and resurgence East, cradle of great civilizations which flowered before the memory of man, is shaking off the shackles which have bound it in these latter years. It stands at the door of an era of new growth, new progress, new achievement. It is ready to take its rightful place as full partner of the West in building a new world of peace, of justice, of everlasting good will among men.

The movement of this historic cycle may be said to have been reflected in the westward movement of the American frontier—from the Atlantic Seaboard across the Appalachians to the broad plains of the Mississippi, from the Midwest prairies across the Rockies and the desert to the Pacific Coast. Yet a few decades more and the historic cycle moved on till the American frontier overleapt the ocean barrier to Hawaii and the Philippines.

Today that frontier is everywhere. It will remain everywhere, outlasting the barriers of time and space—provided it shall not represent a frontier of imperial dominion but of freedom and democracy for all men, in all lands, everywhere.

By granting independence to the Philippines, America has given an earnest example to the
world of her determination to stand by the principles of freedom and democracy that have made her great. More potent than the atomic bomb and more beneficent in its consequences to mankind is the progressive impulse which, by her action in the Philippines, America has contributed to the awakening peoples of Asia.

Yet the peoples of Asia know, as do we in the Philippines, that there are items of unfinished business between our two countries that await a just and speedy solution. One of these concerns the treatment of the Filipino veterans who fought under the American banner in the war just concluded. This must seem a small item indeed in the vast agenda of America’s important preoccupations in the realm of freedom and democracy and peace. But nothing that has to do with justice is unimportant in any scale of human values, and the American struggle for freedom and democracy and peace shall lose validity by as much as America shall ignore the principle of justice in her relations with other nations.

The Filipino veterans plead for plain and simple justice, not mercenary reward for services rendered. I beg of you, gentlemen, to take time during this your convention to support and endorse the substance of their plea. I ask this as one who has known and admired for years the generous heart and warm sympathy of the American people, and I ask it knowing that the plea of the Filipino veteran will be heard and granted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: It is my pleasure to introduce to you Major General Graves B. Erskine of the United States Marine Corps, Administrator of the Retraining and Reemployment Administration, Department of Labor. He was the Commanding General of the 3rd Marine Division at Iwo Jima. Major General Erskine.

ADDRESS BY MAJOR GENERAL GRAVES B. ERSKINE

U. S. Marine Corps

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to address the national convention of The American Legion. I want you to know that I am here as a representative of the Secretary of Labor, as well as in my own capacity as Administrator of the Retraining and Reemployment Administration.

Secretary Lewis B. Schwellenbach has asked me to extend his personal greetings to his fellow members of The American Legion. As most of you probably know, he was at one time state commander of The American Legion in the state of Washington. During recent years, the pressure of other affairs has compelled him to take a less active part in Legion business. It was only his duties in Washington that prevented him from being present in person at this convention. He asked me also to offer his apologies and regrets on that account.

In my own capacity as RRA Administrator, I want to emphasize the similarity of the ultimate objectives of The American Legion and the agency that I now head. Let me recite as briefly as possible some of the things the Retraining and Reemployment Administration has done and is trying to do in the interest of former servicemen and women, many of whom are members of your organization.

To begin with, we have tried to obtain recognition on the part of educators and employers of the value of an ex-serviceeman’s training while in service. Educators throughout the country generally have accepted the idea. We promoted a national radio advertising campaign to publicize veterans’ assets as prospective employees and, as a result, uncounted industrial and business firms have learned to appreciate the benefits of military or naval service.

The Retraining and Re-employment Administration has concerned itself with the education of returning servicemen. As official expeditor and central point of contact in Washington for the disposal of surplus government property for educational purposes, I have exerted myself to the limit of the legal authority granted by my Administration to assist schools and colleges in the acquisition of such facilities as are available. I have tried to keep information centers and service officers adequately informed on openings for students in the crowded colleges throughout the country. Although these efforts could not possibly have solved the entire problem of overcrowding in institutions of higher education, I do believe that they were of some help.

It came to my attention that many returning servicemen were having difficulty in obtaining suitable clothing to accept employment or educational opportunities. I called together representatives of all branches of the clothing industry, along with officials of Federal agencies regulating the clothing industry, to ask what could be done about the problem.

Clothing manufacturers, distributors and retailers promised and have given some cooperation in granting preference to war veterans in the purchase of suits and working clothes. I set up a special committee that tracked down sufficient surplus fabric to make a million additional men’s suits. These suits are now reaching retailers, who are giving veterans preference in the purchase of them.

We have set up a special committee to study the coordination and expansion of rehabilitation facilities for former servicemen and other citizens who are not entitled under laws to the services offered by the Veterans Administration.

At the same time, we are working on the question of appropriate treatment for war veterans in Federal Government service. With due regard for the status of non-veterans, we want to see that those who fought and won the war need not suffer because of the time they gave to the fighting services.

Still another committee sponsored by RRA is working out general principles of employment to be recommended to both management and labor. These are designed to give veterans the best possible opportunities and advantages in all possible fields of employment.

One of our greatest efforts at the present time is the promotion and coordination of National Emplopy the Physically Handicapped Week. By Presidential proclamation, this intensive week-long campaign to arouse public interest in employment for the disabled will begin next Sunday, October
6. But it is not our intention to let the matter drop at the end of the week.

Other Federal agencies and private organizations, who are working with us on this, have agreed to continue the effort throughout the year. There should be no need to remind The American Legion that the maimed survivors of all wars in which we have engaged will benefit most from this campaign.

Far from the least of our undertakings has been the promotion of community veteran advisory centers throughout the country for informing and counseling returning war veterans. I am sure that you men, having been through the same experience yourselves, appreciate the importance of authentic information and sane advice for ex-servicemen during the transition period from military to civilian life.

The Retraining and Re-employment Administration has done everything possible to encourage the establishment, under community auspices, of guidance centers everywhere. We considered it one of our prime responsibilities to war veterans to furnish them with the answers to the questions they encountered on returning to civilian life.

These are the highlights of the Retraining and Re-employment Administration activities. I believe they demonstrate clearly that our objectives and those of The American Legion have much in common.

Local American Legion posts have been and are working right along with us. Local American Legion posts, have recognized our purposes and have given us their fullest cooperation. We welcome this cooperation and try to reciprocate by keeping them thoroughly and reliably informed of developments in our common field of interest. I hope that, having explained our program to your national convention, we may have your cooperation from here on in.

Many of you old-line Legionnaires, veterans of the first World War, are now in a position to lend a friendly helping hand to the veterans of World War II. These newer veterans need employment, suitable, gainful employment. Many of you can help them find it. They need homes in which to live, suitable, comfortable homes for their new families. Many of you can help them on that score.

In the field of employment, there is one point that I want to emphasize. For several months now, we have had one million, seven hundred thousand World War II veterans receiving Servicemen's Readjustment Allowances. The quit rate for World War II veterans employed in industry has been fifty per cent higher than for other employees. This means that it is not enough to offer these men mere jobs. They must have suitable jobs that will pay them a living wage.

Nor is it enough to place only war veterans in suitable employment must be provided for all, in order to assure the war veteran of the kind of American life for which he fought.

The veteran of World War II at present has a number of special privileges and benefits under provisions of Public Law 346, the GI Bill of Rights. When these privileges and benefits have been used up, he will be just another civilian. But he still will be an American citizen. He still will be entitled to the comforts and security which we consider the proper right of all American citizens.

Therefore, I urge that the leaders of The American Legion continue to work for the welfare of the nation as a whole, in order best to serve the men they represent.

I want to thank you very much for an opportunity to say a few words here today.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:
It is my privilege to present to you a distinguished citizen of our country. Having been born in a distinguished neighborhood, it was only natural that our next convention speaker should grow up to be a distinguished American. He is a native of Jackson County, Tennessee, named after Andrew Jackson. A graduate of the University of Nashville and overseas veteran of World War I service with the Medical Corps, he first attained medical prominence as surgeon in the hospitals of New York City.

He was editor for 18 years of the Journal of the Tennessee State Medical Association. Later he was speaker of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association for eight years. Today he is at the pinnacle of the medical profession. I am happy to present the President of the American Medical Association, Doctor Harrison H. Shoulders.

ADDRESS OF DR. H. H. SHOULDERS
President of American Medical Association

I wish, first, to express my appreciation of the honor and privilege of addressing this convention. I am especially proud of the fact that I can address you as a fellow Legionnaire.

At first glance The American Legion and the American Medical Association would seem to be organizations without common interest. I find, however, that there is a great similarity in their ideals and their motivation and that they have many interests in common.

1. The medical care of veterans who suffered injury during service is a matter of deep concern to The American Legion. It likewise is a matter of genuine concern to the American Medical Association.

2. Both organizations have demonstrated a genuine loyalty to our American institutions and our American way of life.

We of the medical profession are witnessing with keen interest the development of a new and different program for the medical care of veterans by the Veterans Administration, under the leadership of Generals Bradley and Hawley. General Hawley's knowledge of medical care and his administrative ability are worthy of the highest praise. He has the support of the medical profession in this program.

One hundred seventy (170) years ago our forefathers established in this country a new concept of human rights, a new concept of the origin of these rights, a new concept of the functions and purposes of government and a new concept of the relationship a citizen bears to his government. To make these new concepts a vital part of American
life a bloody war was fought. To make them secure the Constitution of the United States was written and adopted.

Since these actions took place more progress has been made by the people of the United States toward states of human well-being than by the people of any other nation on earth.

More progress has been made in the science and art of medicine and in their application to human needs in this country in the last hundred years than in any other nation in the world. In this atmosphere of freedom a system of medical care has been evolved which in many respects is peculiarly American. Its outstanding characteristic is freedom. I do not refer merely to the freedom of the doctor in his personal relationship to his patient; I refer especially to the freedom of patients—the freedom of a patient to choose his doctor, to accept or reject the judgment and recommendations of his doctor, freedom to obtain medical care altogether if he so chooses. The patient—the individual American citizen—is the master in this system. The doctor is the servant.

Under this system, the people of this nation receive the best medical care of any people on earth today. In support of that statement I wish to submit some statistical data. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in May of this year issued Bulletin No. 5, Vol. 27, entitled “Longevity of the American People, 1944.” The following statements are taken from that Bulletin: 

“In 1944 for the first time in our history the average length of life (expectation of life at birth) of the American people, including military personnel in the country, exceeded sixty-five (65) years. . . . As a result of this truly remarkable gain, the person of age 20 now has, on an average, as many years of life remaining as the newborn child had in 1900.”

The author of this bulletin also makes the following comment: 

“That our country was able to reach a peak in longevity in the midst of war, reflects the effectiveness of American medical and public health services and the high standards of life of our people.”

I have quoted from this bulletin for several reasons:

1. They are reliable figures based upon actual mortality experience.

2. They are an index of the vitality of the American people.

3. Life expectancy at birth is generally conceded to be the best single index to social progress.

4. They constitute the most dependable index in existence of the quality and effectiveness of the medical care that the people of this nation have received in the last forty odd years.

5. Obviously they are not the result of a survey by biased persons for the purpose of lending support to their theories and ambitions.

I wish to emphasize that this progress in medical care took place in an atmosphere of freedom. In fact, this atmosphere of freedom is the factor most responsible for this progress. A freedom unfettered by the confusion, delays and red tape of bureaucracy.

High quality medical care costs more than low quality medical care. Many new technics and procedures have come into daily use which multiply the cost of good care. While these technics and procedures have added to the cost of care, they have also added greatly to the effectiveness of medical care. The increase in effectiveness has been greater by far than the increase in the cost. However true this statement is, the profession is mindful of the fact that the financing of high quality medical care in the case of a major illness imposes a financial hardship on many people in the lower income brackets. For this reason many years ago the medical profession began to experiment with new technics in the financing of medical care, and an effort to find a financial mechanism by which the major costs of high quality medical care may be budgeted and distributed in such a way as not to impair and restrict freedom. The mechanism which meets this standard is voluntary prepayment medical and hospital service plans.

You have heard it said, and repeated many times, that voluntary methods will fail in this country because they failed in Europe—that government compulsion is indispensable. These assertions are made by people who seek the power to compel. Such an argument is fallacious. Democracy also failed in Europe, but it did not fail everywhere, and the American people are less inclined to more insurmountable than they are in Europe.

Notwithstanding all this progress under freedom, a vicious campaign has been carried on in this country for some years now, aimed at the destruction of the people in our system of medical care, and the establishment of a compulsory totalitarian system. Every deceptive trick known to the propagandist has been used. The virtues and accomplishments of our system of medical care have been misrepresented and misunderstood.

When the Selective Service Administration first released some figures which showed the rate of rejection for military service was high, these figures were interpreted by propagandists to mean that our system of medical care is grossly defective and inefficient. Such an interpretation was entirely unwarranted. It was not based on any form of analysis. It was a gross misuse of the data. Of course, it shocked and alarmed the entire nation an incredible rate of rejections. Of course, it shocked and alarmed the entire nation. In support of that statement I wish to quote from the bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company:

“In 1944 for the first time in our history the rate of rejection for military service was high. These statistics were for causes unrelated to medical care. Illiteracy, for example, was responsible for 10 per cent of rejections.

A careful study of a sample of these data shows...
that only about one-sixth (1/6) of the rejectees have defects which are correctible at all.

This propaganda campaign was continued however, and resulted in the introduction of a series of Wagner-Murray-Dingell bills. The two last ones were introduced while a majority of the 60,000 doctors in the military service were still serving.

I shall not attempt an analysis of the last bill except to say that its passage would have established a medical bureaucracy of gigantic proportions. The people would be taxed in an amount necessary to meet not only the actual costs of medical care, but the cost of an administrative personnel estimated to number between 100,000 and 500,000 persons.

For me to tell The American Legion that there are well organized and active subversive groups in the United States seeking to destroy our American way of life would be like carrying coals to New Castle. Nor would I tell you anything that is new when I say that greed for power is the most dangerous and vicious form of greed that exists. We also know that greed for power rarely parades in public under the banner of greed. It endeavors always to appear in disguise. The disguise in which it usually appears is "welfare... Everybody in this country is for welfare, and a large majority of people have sacrificed to achieve our concept of freedom has become the obligation of their oppressors. The preservation of the American way of life would be like carrying coals to New Castle. Nor would I tell you anything that is new when I say that greed for power is the most dangerous and vicious form of greed that exists. We also know that greed for power rarely parades in public under the banner of greed. It endeavors always to appear in disguise. The disguise in which it usually appears is "welfare... Everybody in this country is for welfare, and a large majority of people have sacrificed to achieve the obligation and the privilege of this generation.

In conclusion, I would like to utter with you two lines of Ripping's recessional: "Lord, God of Hosts, be with us yet; lest we forget, lest we forget."

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: I now turn the microphone over to T. O. Kraabel, our Director of Rehabilitation.

MR. T. O. KRAABEL: Thank you, Commander.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Three years ago just a special committee started its work on a bill which resulted in the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. One of the first demonstrations before that committee, which was then headed by the present National Commander, was that relating to the then Physical Rehabilitation Program of the Army Air Forces. Dr. Rusk came over and gave that demonstration. A few weeks later we started out on building up a team of mobile amputees of the Army and Navy in the person of Charles McGonegal and Walter Holloway. They traveled up the East, the West, North and South, visiting these amputee veterans, and this became the Amputee Morale-Building Team.

At Washington last spring Dr. Rusk and the National Commander got talking about actual demonstration of what has been accomplished.

I am now happy to present to you Charles C. McGonegal, who, in turn, will present Dr. Rusk, Dr. Cobolt and these boys of World War II. Charles C. McGonegal.

VETERANS' AMPUTEE DEMONSTRATION

AUDITORIUM STAGE

Arranged by National Medical Advisory Council of The American Legion

CHARLES C. MCGONEGAL; Comrade Commander, Distinguished Guests, Comrades of the Convention: I am happy to be here indeed, representing the National Rehabilitation Committee and have a part to present. We are going to present some of the boys that we have been working with from the time of their earliest hospitalization and brought back to this country from the battlefields abroad.

Rehabilitation begins at the bedside and the ultimate aim of everyone is to aid, assist, and cooperate with those who bear disabilities to seek full recovery so that they may be again restored in their former abilities, re-established in their former skills, and by all that is holy, they may recognize their own personal victories.

I believe the demonstration that will follow here today will prove to you conclusively that it is quite possible for everyone who comes to us to gain normal ways with the help and the assistance that has been given by the organized program of medical rehabilitation throughout this country followed by the United States Army, Air Corps, the United States Navy and now the present administration and now you may become definitely a part of this great movement.

My time is already up, but I have the pleasure of presenting to you a few of the World War II amputees who are guests of this convention. The employees in this building are assisting in the demonstration on the second floor. An exhibit has been established up there by the Veterans Administration and particularly under the supervision of Dr. Cobolt.

First, bilateral arm amputee, both arms amputated above the elbow. The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary has been actively engaged in research of this kind since its inception back in the year 1944. I present to you Lonnie Lee Carberry of Temple, Texas. Lonnie Carberry is demonstrating a pair of arms that has the new elbow joint. It gives a new type of arm control that makes it possible for him to operate in an efficient manner so that he may take care of himself almost completely. He is young in age and old in experience because of his interest in work and research. Lonnie.

MR. LONNIE LEE CARNBERRY: I would like to say "Hello" to everybody here. I am enjoying myself and am having a good time and I would like to say that this type of arm that I have here,
due to further research work will be available to all amputees.

MR. McGONEGAL: The next comrade that I want to introduce to you comes from San Joaquin Valley, California. I met this boy in Burnham Hospital in Brigham City. Bilateral amputee, below the elbows. He came back to California with the ambition of continuing his profession as a farmer. In spite of the handicap, he has returned to his work and he will walk across the floor. Amputated in the lower extremities. I want to tell you that the comrade is married and he not only carries on his daily duties, but when he wants to go fishing, he goes fishing! Roger C. Merritt.

MR. ROGER C. MERRIOTT: I am happy to be here, I appreciate everything that is going on and I say to all of you this.

MR. McGONEGAL: You can take the boy off the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the boy.

I introduce to you next, Ralph J. Anslow of Philadelphia. He was wounded in war two or three times, and amputated. He was totally blind and he is here today with both arms amputated at the elbow. I met Comrade Anslow at Walter Reed Hospital and I recognized immediately that he was working on his own problem. His goal was to work with the hands, not the feet as you will see by the rest of this demonstration.

LT. RALPH J. ANSLOW: Thank you, Mr. McGonegal. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of being a part of this very distinguished gathering. I am also very grateful for the mechanical genius of this country for long hours, long days and difficult weeks by air, by train, by bus, in all kinds of weather, and Herman Pfeffer never once failed to meet the train, the bus, the plane, or to meet an appointment on time. He may start a little earlier in the morning, but he gets there. He is happy in his recovery and his adjustment is an inspiration to all mankind. Herman, every Legionnaire in this audience would like to have you say hello to them.

MR. HERMAN PFEFFER: Thank you, Charlie. I think I would like to thank all the comrades while I have the opportunity of doing so while they are in one body for what they have done for me in giving me the opportunity of helping this great guy like Charlie in traveling throughout the United States, helping the boys in the hospitals solving their problems and getting them set back on their feet as you will see by the rest of this demonstration.

MR. McGONEGAL: I would like to have one boy take a bow right now from the chair where he is. He was in Walter Reed Hospital, bilateral arm amputee, also lost one eye. He is now gainfully employed and services Officer for the Veterans Administration at San Diego, California.

. . . Mr. LaBass arose. . . .

MR. McGONEGAL: One of our own comrades from California, a comrade who belongs to one of the old posts in the district where I come from, Norman Austin, unilateral below the elbow. He is an employee in the Contract Division, Veterans Administration at San Diego.

. . . Mr. Norman Austin arose. . . .

MR. McGONEGAL: A bilateral amputee from way back, just following World War I, who is serving as a Procedures expert in the central office in the Prosthetic Division of Veterans Administration. Harold Carlson from Buffalo.

. . . Mr. Harold Carlson arose. . . .

MR. McGONEGAL: Lincoln said in his Gettysburg speech, "The world will little note, nor long remember, what is said here—but will never forget what they did here."

While you have witnessed the amputees in a slight demonstration, you have a treat following because I present to you now Dr. Donald Cobolt, Chief of Medical Rehabilitation, Veterans Administration, from Washington, D. C. It is his job to carry out at the Veterans Administration the duties that he performed so nobly during the war as aide to Colonel Howard A. Rusk, Chief of the Rehabilitation Service of the Army Air Forces of the United States. He now presents to you his share of the program, a comrade with courage and ability, Comrade Dr. Cobolt.

DR. DONALD COBOLT: Comrade McGonegal, Members of The American Legion, and Fellow Workers in the Field of Rehabilitation: We are going to demonstrate here the rehabilitation of six paraplegic patients from the Veterans Hospital at San Diego, California. These boys are paralyzed from the waist down. They have no muscular control, they have no feeling from the waist down. Nevertheless, these men learn to take care of themselves. All of the
Show you some of that rehabilitation today.

I would like to say that in the first World War, the majority of these men died because of lack of knowledge. Today, better medicines, new surgery, new rehabilitation procedures have allowed these men to live. They are good workers and will live longer perhaps than you and I will.

First, I would like Chester Rudel, who is going to demonstrate how we get out of bed into a wheelchair and from there he is able to go to work.

Mr. Chester Rudel proceeded to demonstrate.

Dr. Cobolt: Chester Rudel is from Fessenden, North Dakota, 26 years old. He is married and he has a little boy. He used to be a farmer before he went with the 461st Bomber Group, 15th Air Force. Manifestly, he cannot be a farmer now. He doesn't want to be because while he is still in the hospital, he is learning to be an expert watchmaker. He is taking lessons and studying. When he is finished with the definitive care, he will go to a school for watchmaking and establish his own repair shop. I think you should see the development of the shoulders and chest muscles. Flex your biceps and show them the muscle power you have there. It takes months and years to develop those muscles. There is time and effort and sweat and agony in building those muscles, and many months of these men's lives are spent in developing such muscles as you can see.

Hugh Richens of Vernal, Utah. He is 22 years old and not married. He used to be an auto mechanic. While he is still in the hospital, he is taking courses in business management. We have every reason to believe he is going to be most successful. Show them the exercises that build the muscles. He will show you how he gets back into the chair, Hugh was with the 4th Armored Division and wounded in Rittersoffen, France, on January 17, 1945. While Richens is going ahead with that, I would like to introduce Jack Holler.

Jack is going to show you the beginning of walking and how he is able to walk over to his drafting board as he does every day in the hospital. He is learning to be a draftsman. Jack is 26 years old. He is married and he is a resident of Bell, California. He has one child, and he used to be a skilled worker. He is becoming a most expert draftsman.

I would like to introduce to you Wilford Gollnick of Elk Creek, California, who is 25 years of age, single. He used to be a farmer. He still would like to be a farmer, but he is going to be farmers' adviser. He is learning a lot of things that he never knew before and he is going to be an adviser to farmers.

This again is the beginning phase of walking. Believe me, ladies and gentlemen, it takes months to become that proficient. I think you should see the development of the shoulders and chest muscles. He will show you how he gets back into the chair. Hugh was with the 4th Armored Division and wounded in Rittersoffen, France, on January 17, 1945. While Richens is going ahead with that, I would like to introduce Jack Holler.

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This again is the beginning phase of walking. Believe me, ladies and gentlemen, it takes months to become that proficient. I would like next to introduce you Jessie Snyder from Woodville, Texas. Jessie Snyder is 21 years of age, single, and used to be a farmer. He was a member of the 361st Quartermaster Corps and was wounded July 16, 1945, at Firth, Germany.

While Jessie is still in the hospital, you will be interested to know that he is becoming an expert radio repairman and plans to establish his own shop. Will it be in Woodville, Jessie?

Mr. Snyder: Yes.

Dr. Cobolt: He says, "Yes," so your radios are going to be fixed in Texas.

Lastly, I would like to present to you Stanley Adel Dem of Corte Madera, California, which is not very far from San Francisco. The majority have been selected because of their excellence. We have men in our hospitals who are better at walking than these men and some of them are less efficient. We have not hand-selected these paraplegic patients, They are average. There is one exception. Stanley is a star performer. He is a good walker. Stan is going to show you how it is necessary to learn to get up on curbs and down curbs and across ramps. This gentleman is completely paralyzed. These men have to learn to cross streets in 15 seconds. The majority of street lights allow you 15 seconds, and they practice that in the hospital. They can get across and up the curb.

Stanley, show them the swing-to, which is the first gait we show. Second, show them the three-point gait. Now, if you will turn around and come back, use the swing gait. This way they go faster than you and I. This is a very rapid gait.

I want you to come out in front and I want to show you what happens and why these men must become very efficient with crutches. These men go downtown in Los Angeles and they get in a busy street and it becomes necessary sometimes, because you and I are careless, to use good balance.

Demonstration of crutches being kicked away from patient.

Dr. Cobolt: Stanley has learned great control.

We have groups of 100 or 200 of these men in our hospital. There are from World War II approximately 2,400 paraplegics. I think you would be interested to know that 75 per cent of these men learn to walk as well or better than you have seen here today. You will be heartened to know of their great interest in studying and in learning jobs that they can do. The trouble is not so much to get them to the classes to learn their shop work, but to get them away. We had to put on a few shifts of instructors for late afternoon and night hours.

Let me point out, ladies and gentlemen, that the same determination, the same grit that these boys have demonstrated here today in overcoming their handicaps are the very same qualities that will make them the very best of employees. Thank you.

Mr. McGonegal: I present to you the dean in the field of medical rehabilitation and one cooperating indeed with your national organization, The American Legion, Dr. Howard Rusk of New York.

Dr. Howard Rusk: Mr. Commander, Members of The American Legion: I don't think that any of you here, even after seeing this terrific demonstration today, can realize what you have started through your work on the Rehabilitation Committee as far as veterans are concerned. The courage you have seen today and the end result of training is really what you have in no little part been responsible for. I think at the present...
time you, the Legion, are in a very unusual position. I would like to call your attention to the fact that while you were getting 19,000 amputees from World War II, in the same period of time in civilian life we had 125,000. While we were getting paraplegics from World War II, 12,000, there were many more in civilian life. There were 220,000 injured in combat, and yet 1,250,000 civilians were permanently injured from accidents alone.

These men are happy. They are receiving the best rehabilitation that has been given after any war. We are sending them back to work. We are now in the position of having disabled veterans rendering service as able civilians at the ratio of eight to one. You can take the lead. We know from experience that disabled men properly placed have better workability, lower absenteeism. Two hundred and fifty thousand disabled veterans today are not placed on jobs. If we train them to do jobs that they have proved they can do better than the normal person, they deserve these jobs.

Big industry can only supply 25 per cent. There were 11,000 in the River Rouge plant during the war with arms off, selectively placed, dozens of blind men and leg amputees. They were all working and doing a job, but 75 per cent of these jobs must be in business, in agriculture, in professions, in the services right in your own communities. What the Legion could do for disabled people in selective placement would be an unbelievable service to the nation.

Another thing that you must take leadership in is the proper use of the pension. They must work in the light of their ability within the limit of their disability. There are certain types of cases that you service men know so well. The pension becomes a crutch and with that crutch, certain types of cases will never get well. I am speaking particularly of the psychic neurotic with anxiety.

The colors were advanced, following which Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith, National Chaplain, pronounced the invocation.

The third session of the convention met in Exposition Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. with National Commander Stelle presiding.

The colors were advanced, following which Rt. Rev. Meqr. Edward J. Smith, National Chaplain, pronounced the Invocation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: I want to present to this convention one of the men who has served our Legion long and faithfully, retiring this year from the National Executive Committee. They presented him with a citation for his service. He has worked hard, long, earnest hours for the defense programs and in helping on all programs that have been assigned to him in The American Legion. He was for ten years on our Executive Committee.

General Parker, it is a pleasure to present this convention to you and you to the convention—General Frank Parker of Illinois. He served from the Phillip-pine Islands for over ten years. He now lives in the state of Illinois.

GENERAL FRANK PARKER: Mr. Commander, My Friends and Comrades of the convention: There are two reasons why I am grateful for this presentation this morning. First is the opportunity to express my appreciation for the service I have been able to give this Legion of ours. The second is that you have given me that certificate of service. I give far greater importance to the first than to the second.

I am first and foremost grateful for the opportunity to have been of service; secondly for this recognition of that service. Thank you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Thank you, General Parker.

I have the pleasure of presenting to this convention Captain A. G. Piper of Ottawa, Ontario, second Vice-President of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League. Captain Piper.

The President's committee that was appointed some months ago to study this whole problem recommended that a committee of experts from the veterans' organizations and experts from industry study this whole program and see what recommendation might be made that would give these men not only dollars and cents, which God knows they deserve, but opportunity as well.

Today, just before I came up here, I met an amputee, one of our brothers-in-arms, Captain Allen Pfeffer of the SBT, bilateral amputee, arm amputee. He was told in the hospital about a year and a half ago, "You know, you can never go out in society. You can never live a normal life. Society will not accept you." It is up to every one of us as committees of one to see that that is never practiced in this country of ours. Arms, legs, eyes, and ears don't make men; spirit makes a man. The spirit that you have seen up here today.

If the disabled man were playing in the World Series, he wouldn't want to come up to the plate with two strikes on him as far as the job is concerned and he also wouldn't want four balls and a free trip to the first base. He wants an opportunity to come to the plate and take a cut at the ball, and if he gets to first base any way he can, white cane or two artificial legs, or crawling on his hands and knees, if he has to—if he gets around the bases, no matter how he gets around, the run counts just the same!

You in your leadership in the Legion with the spirit of your Rehabilitation Committee with the example of these men who have been rehabilitated must reverse the table and make it possible for disabled veterans to lead the way for disabled civilians because it is the right in a democracy for us all to have an opportunity to work in dignity. Thank you very much.

The colors were retired and the meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1946

Summary of Proceedings of the
CAPTAIN A. G. PIPER: National Commander Stated Fellow Legionnaires: Personally, I'd like to bring you a message from our Dominion President, who is indeed sorry that he was unable to attend this convention. I feel that I am very lucky to be here, representing the Dominion, being the first veteran of World War II to be appointed on the Dominion Command of the Canadian Legion. I feel very strongly for the Legion, and in hospital overseas, I was determined to do my best to help the veterans, and I don't mean just the veterans of World War II, but all veterans.

I heard a veteran of this war say, 'Let's be done with this 'old veterans' and 'new veterans' business. We're all veterans, and let's do away with the mentioning of 'old' or 'new.' You, like our own Legion, are fighting for the same thing, all across America. I am happy to say that I spent some time living in this grand country of yours, and I want to tell you that they were the happiest years of my life.

I think that we should do something about bringing together closer relations between the Canadian Legion and The American Legion. I would like to strongly urge, if I may, that the veterans of the United States join The American Legion, to put their voice in with the thousands of others so that they may be heard and felt, to administer proper legislation, to bring about proper treatment for the boys. In many cases in Canada, I know, the lads were getting a very good break, but in many other cases they were not. I know it is our duty to see that that is corrected.

I have come to the point now where I feel that there is no such thing as a handicap, unless it is in a man's head. I have been honored to meet The American Legion's Charlie McGonegal, and I was very impressed with the demonstration carried out here yesterday, to bring before you the idea that there really is no such thing as a handicap.

I have visited hospitals all across Canada, and the boys are only asking for an even break, and I think it's up to us to see that they get it. Once again I would like to say how much I appreciate the honor of being here with you at this convention. Thank you, indeed.

... National Vice-Commander Latimer assumed the Chair...

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER LATIMER: Yesterday we were honored by the presence of several wearers of the Congressional Medal of Honor. We are honored this morning by the presence of more of these heroes who served their country above and beyond the call of duty. It is my pleasure at this time to present them to you.

First, Charles H. Willey, Medal of Honor winner from Concord, New Hampshire, who won his medal serving on the USS Memphis, while serving in San Domingo in 1916.

Next, Forrest E. Everhart of Portsmouth, Ohio, formerly of the 90th Division. He won the Medal of Honor during the capture of Metz during World War II.

Next, Philip C. Katz of San Francisco, awarded the Medal of Honor for exceptional valor on the Meuse-Argonne front in the first World War, while a sergeant with the 91st Division.

Sergeant Douglas T. Jacobson, of the United States Marines, of Port Washington, New York, one of the men who won his Congressional Medal during the battle of Iwo Jima.

Edward A. Bennett of Middleport, Ohio, won the Congressional Medal of Honor with the 90th Division, U.S. Army, in Germany.

Max Thompson of Canton, Ohio, who tells me that the card reads wrong—it's not Ohio, it's Canton, North Carolina. He is a Congressional Medal of Honor winner of World War II.

Rufus G. Herring of Roseboro, North Carolina, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Lieutenant Commander Donald A. Gary, United States Navy, a native of Oakland, California. He risked his life repeatedly to rescue and rally shipmates aboard the burning aircraft carrier, USS Franklin.

Gentlemen, I now present all of them to you at one time.

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER LATIMER: I assure them on behalf of The American Legion that we shall ever appreciate the service they have rendered.

It is my pleasure now, ladies and gentlemen, to present to you our guest from Australia, K. MacLeod Bolton, President of the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's League of Australia, the veterans' organization which has cooperated consistently with The American Legion. He flew from Australia to be our guest at this convention. It is my pleasure now to present him to you.

MR. K. MACLEOD BOLTON: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is not necessary for me to say how glad we are to be present at your annual convention.

We all know in Australia, and we all thoroughly appreciate what the United States of America did for us. You remember the black days when those little yellow swine were right on our doors. Then we looked to the States. You came to our rescue. We fought together. You all remember the wonderful shoulder-to-shoulder battle that the American boys and ours put on, turning the tide of the Coral Sea battle.

Gentlemen, you have no idea of how much we appreciate your efforts in our day of real need. It has been said that the Australian troops and the American troops did not get on well together. That
is only dirty, filthy newspaper publicity. Don't you believe a word of it. We did have a few brawls occasionally. What's a few brawls among friends? That's letting off the steam of being in camp for long periods.

Now gentlemen, there is one real message I have, and that is we have passed in our convention the sincere hope that The American Legion will take the lead in calling a world convention of ex-service personnel. We feel that by that, you will obtain a real, lasting peace. Politicians we know are a necessary evil. You have to have politicians. There are some good ones and some bad ones. We have a lot of bad ones and we have some particularly good ones. I think you are in the same position.

Gentlemen, what we are suggesting is that the man who has been through the filth, the slush, the degradation of war is the only man who should be able to turn around to the politicians of the world and guide them as to how we are going to have a peace. That is why we are calling and trust that you gentlemen will show us the lead.

We are only a very small country in population, but, by thunder! we are going to be a very big one! When a good many of your boys are coming back to Australia to live, they must think something of them.

Gentlemen, don't think I am talking politics. I am not. Our organization is strictly non-political. We don't talk party politics, but by thunder, we talk politics when it comes to the benefit and the welfare of ex-service personnel. The result is that we have the wholesale respect of both our political parties and you chaps, I feel, can do the same as long as you don't ask for the impossible and ask for something reasonable.

Gentlemen, once again, I am very, very happy to have been here on behalf of Australia and New Zealand. I extend to you our fraternal greetings. Thank you.

VICE-COMMANDER LATIMER: Since our introduction of the five Medal of Honor men, we have found there are five other Medal of Honor wearers, all five of them are from Illinois.

It is my pleasure to present them to you. First, Sergeant Jake Allex Mandusich of Chicago. He won the Congressional Medal of Honor while serving in the 33rd Infantry Division in World War I.


Thomas A. Pope of Chicago won the Congressional Medal of Honor for combat performance in Harnel, France, in World War I.

Now I present to you Brigadier General William H. Wilbur, also from Illinois. General Wilbur is another World War II Medal of Honor winner. He won his Medal of Honor in North Africa in 1942.

Another Medal of Honor winner from Illinois, Master Sergeant Vita R. Bertoldo of Decatur, Illinois.

It has been my pleasure to introduce them individually. I will now present them to you in a group. These are Medal of Honor men from Illinois.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

Maurice F. Devine, chairman, of New Hampshire, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-Eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, California, September 30-October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946:

Forty-five members of your Committee on Legislation met at 5:00 p.m. September 30 and October 2, 1946, in Committee Room 215 in the Veterans' War Memorial and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

The following resolutions were considered by your committee and approved:

Resolution 66, to extend the time to file application for World War I Adjusted Compensation, as follows:

Whereas, No application for Adjusted Compensation has been legally permissible since January 2, 1940; and

Whereas, It is currently estimated that there are about 143,000 potential claims of World War I veterans, or their next of kin, who might otherwise be eligible to apply for and receive this benefit; therefore, be it

Resolved, by The American Legion, That we respectfully urge and request the President and the Congress of the United States to so amend existing laws as to extend from January 2, 1940, to January 2, 1950, the time within which World War I veterans, or their next of kin, may be permitted to file application for World War I Adjusted Compensation.

Resolution 69, to provide for the enactment of legislation to permit immediate redemption of G. I. Terminal Leave Government bonds into cash, as follows:

Whereas, The recent G. I. Terminal Leave Law, passed by Congress and approved by the President, does not provide cash settlement, but provides payment in government bonds which are redeemable in cash at the end of five years; and

Whereas, Officers' Terminal Leave payments were in much larger amounts than will accrue to the average G. I. Jane or Joe, but which were paid in cash to the officer upon release or discharge from active service; and

Whereas, Payment of Terminal Leave Pay to the enlisted men in the form of government bonds which are redeemable for cash only at the end of five years is placing a distinct premium against the enlisted personnel; therefore, be it

Resolved, by The American Legion, That we do hereby respectfully request and urge the
President and the 80th Congress of the United States that legislation be enacted during the next Congress that will correct this flagrant discrimination against the services of the enlisted personnel of the armed forces during World War II by amendment to the present G. I. Terminal Leave Law so as to permit immediate redemption of G. I. Terminal Leave government bonds into cash.

Resolution No. 191, to oppose H. R. 2346, giving benefits to former members of the Merchant Marine, as follows:

Whereas, There is now pending in Congress, H. R. 2346, an Act to provide aid for the readjustment in civilian life of those persons who rendered wartime service in the United States Merchant Marine, and to provide aid for their families; and

Whereas, H. R. 2346 contemplates the classification of former members of the Merchant Marine as quasi-military and grants to them certain benefits similar to those afforded honorably discharged veterans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by The American Legion in national Convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30-October 4, 1946, That we are opposed to the passage of H. R. 2346.

Resolution 265, to permit enlisted men to purchase surplus property from the War and Navy Departments, as follows:

Whereas, The War and Navy Departments are disposing of surplus property; and

Whereas, Many of these items have not been available to the public for several years; and

Whereas, To be qualified to purchase many of these items one must be a commissioned officer or a discharged commissioned officer; and

Whereas, A great number of men who have served in all branches of the armed forces below the rank of a commissioned officer desire to avail themselves of the opportunity of purchasing these items are barred by the regulations now in force and effect; therefore, be it

Resolved, by The American Legion in national convention assembled at San Francisco, September 30-October 4, 1946, That the War and Navy Departments change in regulations by which discharged enlisted men may be eligible to purchase these items from the respective services without discrimination as between former commissioned and enlisted personnel.

Resolution 268, to amend the War Assets Corporation Act to provide eligibility to purchase property by The American Legion and subdivisions thereof, as follows:

Whereas, The War Assets Corporation, successor to Surplus Property Administration, holds title to real estate which The American Legion could use for the benefit of the veterans and the public welfare in their respective neighborhoods;

Whereas, The War Assets Corporation has declared that under Surplus Property Act Regulation 14, non-profit Institutions eligible to purchase surplus property directly from the disposal agencies are limited to scientific, literary, educational, public health, public welfare, charitable and educational, and non-profit hospitals or similar institutions, and requirements call for an exemption from taxation under Section 101 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code;

Whereas, The War Assets Corporation has declared that The American Legion does not, according to the charter granted them by an Act of Congress, qualify under the act; therefore, be it

Resolved, by The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, September 30-October 4, 1946, That we go on record asking that the act be amended to include veterans' organizations chartered by Act of Congress and subdivisions thereof.

Resolution 359, to extend the time limit to apply for mustering-out pay, as follows:

Whereas, Public Law 225, the 78th Congress, adopted an Act providing for "Mustering-out pay to members of the armed forces, and for other purposes," the bill having passed both the Senate and House of Representatives and became effective as approved on February 3, 1944, permits certain sums to be paid eligible persons, to wit:

1.—$300.00 for persons having performed active service for 60 days or more, have served outside the continental limits of the United States or in Alaska;

2.—$200.00 for persons who, having performed active service for 60 days or more, have served no part thereof outside the continental limits of the United States or Alaska;

3.—$100.00 for persons having performed active service for less than 60 days;

Whereas, Under this Act eligible persons discharged after this act became a law, mustering-out pay is automatically taken care of under "1" by receiving one-third at time of discharge, one-third in first and second month following discharge. Under "2" one-half at time of discharge and remaining $200.00 one month after discharge. Under "3" the $100 is paid at time of discharge;

Whereas, Under Section "3" under the act any eligible veteran discharged under honorable conditions before this law was enacted is obliged to present his claim within two years after date of enactment;

Whereas, Due to the many and varied conditions that many veterans received honorable separation from the armed services before the act became effective, and not being too well informed or assisted in the preparation of their claims accordingly were denied their claims on the ruling that claims presented beyond the two-year requirement such claims were not acceptable; therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion, in annual national convention, assembled in San Francisco, September 30 to October 4, 1946, petition Congress to amend this act so that deserving veterans, who through ignorance of the law, or through circumstances that prevented their claims being presented within the two-year limit to permit claims of such veterans to be reopened, or, if not previously submitted to permit submission of just and deserving claims and to see that claims so presented are followed through to a satisfactory conclusion; and be it further

Resolved, That the Congress be petitioned to
extend such time limits so as to conform to those set forth under the provisions of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, which is known as Public Law 346, 78th Congress, which permits application for such benefits under this law to a time limit of four years after time of discharge, or after the end of the present war, whichever is the later, so as to make available all benefits under these two laws consistent insofar as time limits are concerned.

Resolution 393, requesting legislation to provide tax exemption on cigarettes purchased by The American Legion for distribution in hospitals, as follows:

Whereas, One of the major programs of The American Legion has been the distribution of cigarettes to cheer those of our comrades confined to their beds in the various hospitals of the nation; and

Whereas, When these cigarettes are purchased in the regular channels of trade, more than 50 per cent of the purchase price goes to the federal government in the form of taxes; and

Whereas, The American Red Cross enjoys an exemption from these taxes when the cigarettes are distributed similarly; therefore, be it

Resolved, By this 28th annual convention of The American Legion in convention assembled on September 30-October 4, 1946, at San Francisco, California, that the Legislative Committee be instructed and mandated to sponsor and aggressively follow through proper legislation to amend the existing law or laws to permit The American Legion and/or other nationally chartered veterans' organizations and their units to purchase cigarettes in the same manner and in the same way as the American Red Cross without the payment of the usual tax or taxes, but in our own name.

Resolution 453, to oppose federal taxes upon gifts donated to the Veterans Administration, as follows:

Whereas, Federal taxes are levied and must now be paid on gifts to the Veterans Administration by private, charitable and patriotic organizations, which taxes in many cases are substantially and act as a determent to the purchase of such gifts; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the American Legion in 28th national convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30-October 4, 1946, that it go on record as opposing the levying of such federal taxes upon such individual gifts costing $50 or over, and that we take such steps as may be necessary to secure the enactment of such appropriate legislation as will exempt such gifts from federal taxation.

Resolution 572, demanding amendments to our income tax laws to provide that all foreigners without diplomatic immunity shall pay taxes, as follows:

Whereas, At the present time there exists a state of emergency in these United States of America; and

Whereas, This country has offered its protection to citizens of foreign countries who were victims of oppression; and

Whereas, Many of these persons have invested monies in this country, from which they receive income; and

Whereas, These persons do not pay any form of tax to the federal government; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this convention of The American Legion adopt a resolution and present it through proper Legion channels for adoption and presentation to the National Legislative Council, for the purpose of the enactment of proper legislation making all persons without diplomatic immunity liable to taxation.

Resolution 844, providing for income tax exemption for veterans, as follows:

Whereas, The majority of veterans of World War II are in the low-income bracket; and

Whereas, The veterans of World War II are passing through a trying period of economic readjustment; and

Whereas, Many veterans who are in business of their own are faced with unusual economic difficulties; and

Whereas, The savings of this group of veterans are not comparable to the savings of those engaged in similar private enterprise; and

Whereas, The continuance of tax exemption for said veterans is now more necessary than during the period of tax exemption while serving in the armed services; and

Whereas, The purpose of veterans' legislation has been to help all veterans; and

Whereas, Existing legislation has only given aid to restricted categories of veterans; therefore, be it

Resolved, That honorably discharged veterans of World War II with a minimum of 90 days' service receive exemption for currently accrued income (Federal) for a period of three years from date of discharge or the official ending of the war, whichever comes later. Exemption to be applicable only to the first $5,000 of earned income.

The committee had before it a number of resolutions dealing with the so-called Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill and other phases of veterans' housing legislation.

Resolutions 65, 478, 627, 681, and 731 requested the endorsement of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill of the 78th Congress. The committee recommends adoption of a substitute resolution No. 848, reading as follows:

Be it Resolved, By the American Legion in national convention assembled, That it is the sense of this committee that the Wagner-Ellender-Taft measure does not solve the pressing problem of veterans' housing; and

That it is not, therefore, germane to the Legion's program.

Stricken and referred to National Committee on Housing.

The committee also had before it resolution No. 785 from the Department of the District of Columbia which resolved that "The American Legion reaffirm its support of the Wyatt program and the General Housing Act of 1946." The committee recommended that the words: "Wyatt program and General Housing Act of 1946" be strick-
en and that the words "Veterans' Emergency Housing Program" be substituted therefore, as follows:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirm to the Congress its support of the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program, through the medium of our National Legislative Committee.

Stricken and referred to National Committee on Housing.

The committee recommends adoption of Resolution 946 which pertains to building materials and subsidies for veterans' housing; as follows:

Whereas, The number one problem of the nation today is furnishing adequate veteran housing; be it Resolved, By The American Legion in national convention assembled, that at least 90 percent of all essential and critical building material be channeled exclusively to the building of veterans' housing until such time as the demand shall be filled, and that all building of non-essential construction be stopped and the export of critical materials cease; and

That adequate subsidy by the government of veterans' housing be furnished with safeguards to protect the government subsidy against transfers of property, and that the existing government housing agencies be empowered to immediately effect these priorities for the veterans and that legislation be presented by our Standing Legislative Committee of The American Legion to accomplish the purposes above set out.

Stricken and referred to National Committee on Housing.

The committee also recommends the adoption of Resolution 946, which recommends appointment of a Special Legion Committee on Veterans' Housing, reading as follows:

Be it Resolved, That the national commander appoint a Special Committee on Veterans' Housing to report their recommendations to the National Executive Committee at the November, 1946, meeting of such committee.

Stricken and referred to National Committee on Housing.

The following resolutions were referred to the National Legislative Committee for further consideration and study:

Resolution 97, to support measures providing for freezing wages, salaries and profits at peacetime level and to draft into service all citizens and enterprises.

Resolution 762, to amend S. 907 and H. R. 3571, relative to interest rates.

Resolution 763, to extend section 250 of the Internal Revenue Code to include Prisoners of War in Japan.

The following resolutions were considered by your committee and were REJECTED:

Resolutions 30, 264, 267, 336, dealing with the subject of mustering-out pay. One resolution, 269, dealing with this subject, was approved.

Resolution 756, relative to dwelling units under the Lanham Act.

Resolution 629, to exempt the Legion from payment of federal amusement tax.

Resolution 551, to oppose anti-firearms laws or registration laws.

Resolutions 63, 106, 254, 350, 475, 524, 599, 717, all dealing with the question of tax exemption for cigarettes. One resolution, 583, was substituted and approved.

Resolution 437, providing for commissary and PX privileges for veterans in France.

Resolutions 40 and 98, dealing with the subject of terminal leave pay, for which a resolution has already been adopted.

Resolution 528, to extend benefits now granted World War veterans to men who served on the Mexican border.

Resolution 526, making it unlawful to wear an overseas type of cap.

Resolution 190, providing for the establishment of a memorial scholarship for the late Ralph Coldwater.

Resolutions 227, 589 and 682, calling for the immediate enactment of a World War II Adjusted Compensation Act.

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

Lawrence J. Fenlon, chairman, of Illinois, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, Cal., September 30 to October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946.

Forty-three members of your Committee on Employment met at 5:00 p.m., September 30, 1946, in Committee Room No. 322 in the Veterans' Memorial Building and agreed unanimously on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Lawrence J. Fenlon of Illinois was elected chairman; Frank G. Onderof of Pennsylvania was elected secretary of the Convention Employment Committee. National Director Lavers and Assistant National Director O'Gara served as assistant secretaries of the Convention Committee.

One hundred and sixty-eight resolutions were submitted to and considered by your committee, together with the report of the Standing National Employment Committee as shown on Pages 227-231 of the Annual Report to the 28th Annual National Convention, the report of the Standing Committee on Veterans' Preference as shown on Pages 400-404 of the Annual Report, together with the reports of the Standing National Employment Committee, the Standing Veterans' Preference Committee and the Special G.I. Committee as submitted to the National Executive Committee on September 29, 1946.

The following actions were taken with respect to 103 resolutions assigned to the committee:

Thirteen are recommended for referral to the Standing Veterans' Preference Committee; 19 are recommended for referral to the National Standing Employment Committee, and 17 are recommended for rejection, as the subject matter is the present policy of The American Legion or has been established by law.

Twenty are recommended for rejection because the subject matters are not considered germane to the policies of The American Legion or are in conflict with established Legion policies.

Thirty-one resolutions on housing are recommended for referral to a Special Committee on
Veterans' Housing which is to be recommended for
appointment.
Sixty-eight resolutions are recommended for
adoption and are herewith submitted in 23 resolu-
tions, together with a resolution recommending the
National Employment Program.
The 13 resolutions recommended for referral to
the Standing Veterans' Preference Committee are
as follows:

Number

495. Replace war service employees in Postal Serv-
vice with veterans.

571. Non-veteran personnel in V. A. Rehabilitation
and Educational Division.

758. Payment of compensation under U. S. Em-
ployment Compensation Act of September 7,
1916.

424. Twenty-six days annual leave for all Civil
Service employees.

565. Civil Service pension premium credits for
period of military service.

566. Civil Service sick leave of disabled veterans.

231. All Civil Service employees have same annual
leave provisions.

230. Civil Service benefits to U. S. citizens who
served in Allied forces.

564. Civil Service employment at Brooklyn Navy
Yard.

757. Amend time limitation in Public 225.

830. Permanent Civil Service status to all veter-
ans in V. A. and other governmental agen-
cies.

566. Civil Service status of those on registries at
time of entry into armed service.

562. Violators of Veterans' Preference Act of
1944.

The 19 resolutions recommended for referral to
the Standing National Employment Committee are
as follows:

Number

302. Civil Service status of veterans holding War
Service appointments.

428. Temporary Civil Service appointees later
drafted into military service.

211. Right to work must not be denied a veteran
because of non-membership in a labor organ-
ization.

215. Require insurance of all trainees taking
flight training.

304. Post Office institute on-the-job training for
veterans.

369. Job training program in the V. A.

381. On-the-job training facilities on Navajo,
Arizona, Reservation.

407. Surplus government equipment for State
Veterans' Homes.

427. On-the-job training in air transportation in-
dustry.

460. On-the-job training include lawyers.

500. Delay in certifying establishments for on-
the-job training.

526. Continue job training payments during ill-
ness, etc.

547. On-the-job training program for teachers be
endorsed.

567. On-the-job training program where veteran
is son of owner.

592. Medical and dental treatment while under-
going training.

619. On-the-job training with father or other rel-
ative.

666. Commend apprentice-training service, U. S.
Labor Department.

667. Commission to study on-the-job training.

742. U. S. establish a Veteran Employment and
National Economic Development Corporation.

Seventeen resolutions recommended for rejection,
as the substance is already either the law or es-

established Legion policy, which are as follows:

Number

26. Employment opportunities for World War II
veterans.

44. Social Security status of veterans.

39. Employe representation on Civil Service em-
ployee appeal boards.

100. Social Security status of veterans.

101. Enforcement of the Veterans' Preference Act
of 1944.

107. Veterans' priority in surplus property sales.

119. Veterans' priority in surplus property sales.

239. Seniority rights of veterans in Civil Service.

366. Investigate War Assets Corporation and sur-
plus sales to veterans.

387. Veterans' preference in all state and federal
positions.

430. Certificates of priority be secured at point of
sale of surplus property.

499. Veteran priority in war surplus sales.

560. Reaffirm American right of jobs for all.

618. Promotion and seniority where veteran was
on Civil Service register at time of induction
into armed forces.

703. Remedy present system of surplus property
sales.

710. Social Security for veterans.

747. Civil Service registers and re-employment
lists of eligible veterans.

The 20 resolutions recommended for rejection
because the subject matters are not germane to the
functions of The American Legion or are in con-

cflict with established Legion policies are as fol-
lows:

Number

36. Veteran be appointed to Civil Service Com-
mission vacancy.

37. Unfair business practices against veterans
entering business.

43. Civil Service benefits for members of officers'
training camps not commissioned.

56. Top priority for World War II veterans in
purchase of new transportation equipment.

77. Extend time limit for readjustment allow-
ance.

94. Retention of war disabled preference em-
ployes.

110. Service disability be not considered in unem-
ployment allowance under Public Law 346.

329. Residence restrictions in rural letter carrier
positions.

502. Percentage of war surplus material be allot-
ted to veterans.

534. Extend duration of time to benefit by Serv-
icemen's Readjustment Act.

543. Veterans be allowed credit terms to purchase
furniture, etc.

544. Unemployment allowance under G. i. Bill of
Rights.

561. Permanent employee from National Veterans'
Preference Committee be stationed in New
York City.

613. Surplus hutsments for use of Boy Scouts, etc.
Under Title II of the Legion's G. I. Bill a method was provided for "on-the-job training" with a subsistence allowance for veterans seeking improved skills and to those veterans who previously were without employment experience. The tremendous possibility of benefit to the veteran and ultimately to the nation itself is commonly recognized. Your Convention Committee reports with sincere regret that in the closing days of the last session of Congress the Veterans Administration presented to the Congress a measure that did untold harm to the "on-the-job training" program. This action was taken by the Veterans Administration either without their being properly acquainted with the actual facts and the disastrous results that the measure would bring down, or was due to a virtual admission on the part of the Veterans Administration that despite the powers vested in the Veterans Administration as provided in the Legion's G. I. Bill, the Veterans Administration was not properly supervising the "on-the-job training" program.

The unfortunate publicity that accompanied the passage of this amended bill did untold harm to many thousands of honest employers and the hundreds of thousands of veterans who were receiving the beneficial provisions of these programs. This measure, S. 2477, now Public Law 679, was entitled with the disguised designation "An Act to authorize the Veterans Administration to reimburse state and local agencies for expenses incurred in rendering the services in connection with the administration of certain training programs for veterans and other purposes." In addition to performing the function designated in the above title, which is a proper one, the bill as finally drafted by the Veterans Administration and enacted by Congress set a ceiling of $375 for single men and $500 for married men, including compensation and subsistence, and further limited the course of full-time training to a period of not more than two years. This measure was passed by the Congress without hearings being conducted to secure the views of employers, the veterans' organizations and other interested in this program, and was passed within six legislative days. It is significant that the Legion's G. I. Bill required six months from the time of its original drafting to its final enactment by the Congress, with innumerable lengthy public hearings being conducted thereon by both the Senate and House committees. This convention should emphatically protest this hasty action by the Veterans Administration and the Congress in rushing this important legislation through without conducting proper hearings and predicated upon false assumptions.

The press releases both prior to and subsequent to the enactment of this law by the Veterans Administration stressed the many flagrant abuses that had arisen in the conduct of "on-the-job training" programs by unscrupulous employers and "gold-brick" veterans. The Legion, of course, at no time has condoned any such violations. A survey conducted by The American Legion indicates conclusively that there were no widespread flagrant violations, save those that were improperly predicted and anticipated, such could have been corrected by the Veterans Administration without securing additional power.

Twenty-two resolutions protesting the hurried action of Congress in the enactment of Public Law 679 and requesting that the ceiling and training limitations of these provisions of this amended bill be repealed, were received. Your committee recommends that the 23 resolutions, being Nos. 301, 66, 67, 140, 165, 189, 200, 228, 229, 345, 356, 425, 426, 476, 497, 518, 538, 594, 621, 622, 708, 751, be combined in Resolution No. 301, which is recommended by your committee for adoption, and is as follows:

Whereas, Title II of the Legion's G. I. Bill, among other educational benefits, provided, for on-the-job training programs with a subsistence allowance so as to afford an opportunity to World War II veterans who entered the armed forces without previous employment and to those seeking a skilled trade or occupation, to improve their future station in life; and

Whereas, On-the-job training programs as contemplated by The American Legion, if properly influfated, approved and supervised, can be of untold material benefit to veterans and to the future well-being of the nation; and

Whereas, In certain states instances have arisen, due to improper approval and supervision, whereby veterans have been exploited by certain unprincipled employers and such training programs have in some instances been otherwise abused; and

Whereas, The Veterans Administration caused to be presented to the 79th Congress, in the closing days of the 2nd Session, S. 2477, a bill entitled "An Act to authorize the Veterans Administration to reimburse state and local agencies for expenses incurred in rendering services in connection with the administration of certain training programs for veterans and for other purposes," and hearings were hurriley conducted in both the Senate and House on said bill without permitting The American Legion or other interested parties or organizations to properly present their views on this important measure or to present their experiences and recommendations of on-the-job training programs; and

Whereas, Said Act, although disguised by title, among other provisions, unjustly places a ceiling of $375 for single men and $500 for married men, including subsistence, and further limits the course of full-time training to not more than two years, and many veterans now pursuing on-the-job training programs, and other veterans who contemplated undertaking such programs, will be denied the full benefits contemplated by the original G. I. Bill in providing for such program; therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That we protest the hurried action of the Veterans Administration and the Congress in rushing through this important legislation without affording The American Legion and all other interested groups an opportunity
to be heard on important measures of this nature, and further submit that many of the abuses found to exist in the administration of on-the-job training programs could have been instantly corrected if such programs had been properly supervised by the Veterans Administration re-employment rights guaranteed by the Legion’s G. I. Bill; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the Congress to be called into special session immediately in order to immediately repeal the ceiling limitation provisions of $175 for single men and $200 for married men, and to repeal the two-year limitation of full-time training as now provided by Public Law 679 (S. 2477).

Public Employment Service

On November 15, 1946, the Public Employment Offices, by direction of Congress, are to be returned to their respective states. It is imperative that these Public Employment Offices in our states be adequately staffed so as to provide an effective job counseling and placement service for veterans as contemplated by Title IV of the Legion’s G. I. Bill.

Seven resolutions have been presented to this convention covering this subject. Your committee recommends that these seven resolutions, Nos. 792, 213, 232, 234, 379, 546 and 617, be combined with Resolution No. 702, which is recommended for adoption, and is as follows:

Whereas, The Public Employment Offices now operating as the United States Employment Service, are to be returned pursuant to the Act of Congress to the respective states by November 15, 1946; and

Whereas, It is imperative that such employment services be maintained on a high plane, free and separate from unreasonable or harmful influences and supervision it veterans and others seeking employment placement are to secure such proper service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the 28th Annual Convention of The American Legion, convened at San Francisco, California, September 30, 1946, That we urge the Governors of the respective states, in arranging for the return of the Employment Service to their states, that such service be set up within the proper state department or commission as a separate entity, with a direct channel of command to the head thereof, and that no other agency or agencies within said states, including the Unemployment Compensation Division, shall exercise control or supervision over said Employment Service; and be it therefore

Resolved, That copies hereof be sent to the Governor of each state and to each department of The American Legion.

Selective Service

The Legion has consistently insisted that the re-employment rights guaranteed by the Selective Service Act to veterans be maintained. The decision of the U. S. Supreme Court of the Fishgold case was contrary to the position of the Legion and contrary to the interpretation by the Selective Service System. Immediately following the Supreme Court’s decision the National Executive Committee, upon recommendation of the National Employment Committee, directed the Legislative Director to prepare legislation in order to meet the objections raised by the Supreme Court in the Fishgold case and to extend the re-employment rights to veterans. This dual program was supported by the veteran in service. Such a measure was introduced in the last session of the Congress and was not enacted prior to adjournment. This measure should be presented again when the new Congress convenes in January.

Seven resolutions bearing on this subject were presented to the convention, which are as follows: Nos. 620, 54, 429, 434, 569, 616, 785. Your committee recommends the adoption of Resolution No. 620 as the combined resolution covering the subject matter, which is as follows:

Whereas, The American Legion, by repeated mandates, has emphatically supported the interpretation of veterans’ re-employment rights under Section 8 of the Selective Service and Training Act of 1940, as amended, as pronounced by the Director of Selective Service in Local Board Memorandum 190A, to wit:

“A returning veteran is entitled to reinstatement in his former position or one of like seniority, status and pay, even though such reinstatement necessitates the discharge of a non-veteran with a greater seniority . . .

“A veteran who has been reinstated in his former position cannot within one year be displaced by another on the ground that the latter has greater seniority rights. To permit such displacement would be to nullify the original reinstatement and thus deprive the veteran of his re-employment rights under the Act and would be, in effect, a repeal of an Act of Congress . . .”

Whereas, The Supreme Court of the United States has recently overruled the above interpretation of the Director of Selective Service, and held that the Congress did not intend that veterans should be entitled to the full re-employment rights as thus interpreted by the Director of Selective Service, and since The American Legion desires to immediately secure such protection as formerly existed.

Resolved, by The American Legion, in convention assembled in the city of San Francisco, California, on September 30 to October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1945, That a request be made that the Congress take steps to formulate such legislation, and insure its immediate passage, to provide adequate re-employment rights of veterans, in accord with the interpretation pronounced by the Director of Selective Service in Local Board Memorandum 190A, and further provide that veterans upon reinstatement shall not be discharged without cause, for a length of time equivalent to that spent in the armed forces, instead of the present one (1) year limitation of protection; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by The American Legion, in convention assembled in the city of San Francisco, California, on September 30 to October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1945, That a request be made that the Congress take steps to formulate such legislation, and insure its immediate passage, to provide adequate re-employment rights of veterans, in accord with the interpretation pronounced by the Director of Selective Service in Local Board Memorandum 190A, and further provide that veterans upon reinstatement shall not be discharged without cause, for a length of time equivalent to the time spent in the armed forces, instead of the present one (1) year limitation of protection as formerly existed.

Seven resolutions were submitted to the convention relative to early retirement. They are as follows: Nos. 300, 138, 176, 477, 532, 745 and 750. Your committee believes that this subject should receive further study by the Standing National Employment Committee and, therefore, recom-
mands the adoption of Resolution No. 300 as the combined resolution on this matter, which is as follows:

Whereas, The national program of The American Legion provides that the National Employment Committee shall continue their cooperation in postwar planning studies to avoid mass unemployment and provide full employment in the postwar period, and have pledged the Legion's aid to all in securing job opportunities; and

Whereas, Many job opportunities would be available to veterans if the existing retirement age were lowered and adequate financial provisions made for those availing themselves of such retirement provisions; and

Whereas, Many persons over sixty (60) years of age are still employed, while over seventy-five thousand (75,000) veterans of World War II in the State of Illinois are drawing readjustment allowance for unemployment, and many others, not veterans, are also drawing unemployment compensation; therefore be it

Resolved, by The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That the National Employment Committee of The American Legion immediately investigate and present the necessary bills to Congress to provide for a lower retirement age under Social Security, Civil Service and all other forms of pension under the control of Congress.

Four resolutions were submitted urging that the Federal Government proceed at once to conduct competitive examinations in order to fill those positions now held by war service appointees. The resolutions were Nos. 333, 174, 118 and 791. We recommend the adoption of Resolution No. 333 as the combined resolution, which is as follows:

Whereas, Executive Order No. 9063 of February 16, 1942, was designed to defer the permanent filling of vacancies in Federal Civil Service while millions of our citizens were in the armed forces, which made it impossible for them to compete for positions in the Federal Civil Service; and

Whereas, Appointments made under authority of Executive Order No. 9063 were to be temporary appointments and exceed the legal duration of the war or six months thereafter; and

Whereas, On February 4, 1946, President Truman issued Executive Order No. 9631, directing the United States Civil Service Commission to return to probational appointments, and further directing that this be accomplished by the establishment of so-called Boards of United States Civil Service Examiners; and

Whereas, While this immense program is being arranged, the President has authorized agencies to fill vacancies by temporary indefinite appointments; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion registers its disapproval of the present program because—

(1) At the rate such probational examinations are being conducted, most of the War Service and Temporary appointees will die of old age before they are examined and veterans are given an opportunity to compete for jobs now held by said draft deferees;

(2) In practice, the carrying out of this program will destroy the merit system and the enforcement of the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944; and be it further

Resolved, That the following action be recommended to remedy the aforesaid situation:

(1) Sufficient funds be appropriated to have this program administered by trained and impartial employees of the United States Civil Service Commission;

(2) Re-establish and staff with qualified veterans the field offices of the United States Civil Service Commission, in order to properly serve the veterans in the administration of the Veterans' Preference Act;

(3) Appointment of a qualified resident veteran in each state to serve as Veterans' Federal Employment Representative;

(4) That the President by Executive Order expand the number of Federal positions restricted to preference eligibles;

(5) Establishment by Federal agencies of trainee positions to enable inexperienced veterans to qualify for promotions.

The following 16 resolutions covering miscellaneous subjects are recommended for adoption:

Resolution No. 809—

Whereas, The Civil Service Commission through its regional offices has given The American Legion great assistance in the administration of Public Law 339 (the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944); and

Whereas, Great assistance has been given to the several departments of The American Legion and other veterans in the employ of the Federal Government and those seeking employment and assistance in the Federal Civil Service; be it

Resolved, That The American Legion request the Civil Service Commission and members of Congress that a complete informational bulletin or pamphlet service be established to enable the individual post service officers to assist veterans in becoming employed in the Federal service; and be it further

Resolved, That we recommend to Congress that sufficient funds be appropriated to establish this service.

Resolution No. 790—

Be it Resolved, By the 28th annual convention of The American Legion convened at San Francisco, California, September 30, 1946, to October 4, 1946, that such steps as necessary be taken to cause an amendment and alteration to existing laws and regulations in the various government departments, bureaus and agencies to lower the mandatory age for public positions from the present age of twenty-one years, to such lesser as may be necessary to afford to the minor veterans of World War II an opportunity to obtain such positions; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Director of the Employment Division take such action as may be necessary to obtain the resolving clause set forth above.

Resolution No. 749—

Whereas, Veterans of World War II, who were and are Federal employees, suffer discrimination as regards credit for service in the Armed Forces toward their participation in retirement benefits now afforded Federal employees—in that they are required to pay into the retirement fund all deductions, plus accrued interest, for earnings while in the Armed Forces; and
Whereas, The Social Security Law provides credit for such services without any deductions; therefore, be it
Resolved, That The American Legion adopt as a national policy, and through its department and national legislative committees, press for inclusion in the present, and any future, retirement law, an amendment providing that all Federal employees who served in the Armed Forces of the United States be accredited full retirement benefits without deductions or refunds of any nature.
Resolution No. 744—

Efficiency ratings are required in the Federal Government service:
By law: For employees in positions subject to the Classification Act.
By administrative authority: For employees in positions which are not subject to the Classification Act.

Efficiency ratings required by law have protective features for employees which are not provided uniformly in connection with similar ratings required by administrative authority. These protective features could be termed the "efficiency rating bill of rights," including rights (1) of notice, (2) of inspection, (3) of Civil Service Commission review of penalty action based on ratings, and (4) of appeal to impartial independent board of review with opportunity for oral hearings.

Without requiring any extension of the use of efficiency ratings, and permitting latitude for different systems as required in different agencies, the protection of the "efficiency rating bill of rights" could be extended to all employees rated, by legislation substantially as follows:

A BILL
To Provide for the Uniform Administration of Efficiency Ratings
Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no employee in any civilian position in the executive branch of the Government of the United States shall be rated as to efficiency except under a system of efficiency ratings approved by the Civil Service Commission, and that the provisions of Section 9 of the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, or as may be hereafter amended, shall apply to all efficiency ratings under rating systems approved by the Civil Service Commission.

Sec. 2. The Civil Service Commission is hereby authorized to make and publish rules and regulations for the administration of the provisions of this act.

Whereas, Efficiency ratings are recognized by Congress, by the various executive departments and agencies, and by Federal employees generally, as a necessary feature of uniform personnel management; and
Whereas, Such efficiency ratings are required by law for all employees occupying positions subject to the provisions of the Classification Act of 1923, as amended; and
Whereas, Such efficiency ratings are required by administrative direction for many employees in positions not subject to the Classification Act of 1923; and
Whereas, The efficiency rating systems required by law have protective features for employees which are not provided uniformly in similar rating systems instituted by administrative authority; and
Whereas, These protective features may be specifically enumerated as follows:
(1) The right to notice of rating.
(2) The right to inspection of ratings of all employees on the same competitive level.
(3) The right to request review by the Civil Service Commission of any penalty action based upon rating.
(4) The right of appeal of rating to an impartial independent Board of Review with opportunity for oral hearing; and
Whereas, These specific rights may be termed the "Efficiency Rating Bill of Rights" which employees consider important to their security in Federal employment; and
Whereas, No efficiency ratings should be required or permitted in any agency unless the system requiring such ratings shall afford the specific protections heretofore enumerated and described as the "Efficiency Rating Bill of Rights"; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That without requiring any extension of the use of efficiency ratings, and without restricting administrative latitude for the institution of different systems as required in different agencies, but insuring protection of the "Efficiency Rating Bill of Rights," the national convention of The American Legion does hereby recommend the following legislation in the interest of its members and all other employees of the Federal government, as follows:

A BILL
To Provide for the Uniform Administration of Efficiency Ratings
Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no employee in any civilian position in the executive branch of the Government of the United States shall be rated as to efficiency except under a system of efficiency ratings approved by the Civil Service Commission, and that the provisions of Section 9 of the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, or as may be hereafter amended, shall apply to all efficiency ratings under rating systems approved by the Civil Service Commission.

Sec. 2. The Civil Service Commission is hereby authorized to make and publish rules and regulations for the administration of the provisions of this Act.
Resolution No. 743—

Whereas, The November, 1945, Executive Committee of The American Legion adopted a resolution on the Uniform Administration of Efficiency Ratings requiring the Civil Service Commission to provide for the uniform administration of efficiency reports; and
Whereas, This proposed bill was referred to the 27th national convention for approval; and
Whereas, The Congress by the adoption of Public Law 581 approved July 31, 1946, has authorized the benefit sought; and
Whereas, The only obstacle in the way of conferring on unclassified Government employees the benefits is insufficient appropriation; therefore, be it
Resolved, That the 28th national convention of
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The American Legion directs appropriate officials to exert every effort to provide adequate implementation as to both funds and personnel so that it may properly discharge its obligation in carrying out the provisions of Public Law 581.

Resolution No. 305—

Whereas, The period of time served in the armed forces of the United States by post office employees is now considered a continuation of their immediate previous employment in the U. S. post office; and

Whereas, The employe’s period of service in the armed forces of the United States is credited to him in computing his length of service when retiring from the postal service; and

Whereas, The Veterans’ Preference Act of 1944 expressed the will of Congress and of the people of the United States to prevent any veteran from being deprived of any benefits or advantages which he may have obtained in the post office had he not been absent on military leave; therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30-October 4, 1946, That immediate legislation be sought to provide that all war veterans who served prior to the surrender of the Axis forces shall receive service credit seniority for the period of time served in the armed forces; and be it further

Resolved, That such service credit for the period of time served in the U. S. armed forces shall be taken into consideration in fixing a postal employe’s entrance salary and pay increases, and in all ways in which post office service is credited to an employe.

Resolution No. 233—

Whereas, There are now individuals enlisting and being inducted into the services of our country, and thereby granting unto themselves the same rights and privileges as provided for veterans who served prior to the surrender of the Axis powers, and upon their discharge are displacing veterans of World Wars I and II in job opportunities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion at the 28th annual national convention held in San Francisco, 1946, that we urge an amendment to the Selective Service Act to provide that no persons who entered service after surrender of Japan may displace a veteran who had served prior to the surrender of the Axis forces.

Resolution No. 35—

Whereas, The American Legion advocates every assistance possible to re-establish veterans on the farm where desired, and in carrying out that purpose has advocated, and is still advocating, statutes providing for loans, on-the-job training and other activities for their benefit; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion in national convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30-October 4, 1946, that the farm problem as it affects veterans be approached more realistically and be solved in a more practical manner.

Resolution No. 175—

Whereas, The ships owned, operated by or under charter to the United States Government through the War Shipping Administration and its general agents, employ up to 90 per cent non-resident aliens as unlicensed personnel on their ships sailing under the American flag; and

Whereas, These aliens are enjoying the benefits, privileges, advantages of the United States Government, and receive wages from the Government of the United States through their general agents, and pay no income tax whatever to the United States, while other citizen crew members must pay full income tax; and

Whereas, Due to the existing system and navigation and immigration laws, thousands of tax-paying war veterans, who are fully qualified by experience and training are prevented from obtaining employment on these American vessels; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion in national convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30-October 4, 1946, recommends that Congress revise the navigation and immigration laws to remedy the situation and injustice that now exists which is a handicap to the veteran who is seeking employment on American flag vessels and also an injustice to the citizen seaman of like employment who pays taxes to the United States.

Resolution No. 303—

Whereas, Members of the armed forces are being discharged and returning in most cases to their former places of employment; and

Whereas, Other returning veterans are seeking employment who had not been employed by industry prior to their service to their country; and

Whereas, The employer who places or replaces returning veterans is just as deserving of recognition as the employer who sent men and women into service; therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, September 30-October 4, 1946, that all deserving employers be given some token or citation in recognition of their employment or re-employment of veterans; and be it further

Resolved, That such awards be made upon the recommendation and request of the local post of The American Legion, in the locality where such employer is engaged in business.

Resolution No. 456—

Resolved, That the standing National Employment and Labor Relations Committees be requested to contact the heads of industry and the various labor unions and crafts interested in the matter of apprentice training, for the purpose of jointly investigating the problems of apprentice training of veterans desiring such training; and be it further

Resolved, That said committees herein suggested make all effort to effect, as soon as possible a suitable understanding with labor regarding the ratio of journeymen and apprentices
which will be acceptable to both labor and veterans.

Resolution No. 570—

Whereas, In keeping with the thought that all veterans and especially the disabled veterans are in need of rehabilitation; and

Whereas, The United States Employment Service and the United States Army agreed to maintain a representative at Army hospitals to help men who are receiving discharges and who have employment problems; and

Whereas, The United States Employment Service has personnel specially trained in handicapped problems and better able to advise and help disabled veterans ultimately to find suitable employment; and

Whereas, Many men who have been discharged from Army or Navy hospitals return to Veterans Administration hospitals with their work problems still unsolved; and

Whereas, The responsibility of helping the disabled veteran find suitable work is very much a part of the Federal Government's and should continue while the veteran is in the Veterans Administration hospitals; and

Whereas, With efficient and cooperative action on the part of the physio and occupational therapy departments of the hospital and with the help of a representative of the United States Employment Service, there would exist a more practical method of carrying out an employment program; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion, in national convention assembled, does affirm the need for a more efficient method in handling the problem of preparing veterans leaving Veterans Administration hospitals for suitable work.

Resolution No. 709—

Resolved, By The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, California, on September 30-October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946, That it is our considered opinion that priority privileges by purchasing surplus property should be granted by the Civilian Production Administration to permit veterans of World War II to procure necessary equipment and stock to enable them to establish their own business.

Resolution No. 624—

Be it Resolved, That we, The American Legion, in convention assembled at San Francisco, California, on September 30-October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946, do not condone the practice of a small number of veterans who are abusing their priority privileges by purchasing surplus property and immediately turning it to others for bonuses or other considerations, and that the War Assets Administration be requested to investigate such transactions and that the penalty of the law be invoked in such cases by the Department of Justice.

Resolution No. 525—

Whereas, The demand of The American Legion for preference for veterans in the purchase of Government surplus property has resulted in establishing prior preferences for veterans over dealers in buying from surplus Government stock; and

Whereas, The War Assets Corporation has been designated to act as agent for the veterans; and

Whereas, The Surplus Property Administration under the regulations has compiled a list of seven steps, replete with "red tape" woven about the skeins of a certificate of eligibility; and

Whereas, Disposal agencies resort to Fixed Price Sales and found lot sales obviously impractical for the normal small lot purchaser, which is the position of the usual veteran by an large, such methods having for their obvious purpose the circumventing of veterans' preferential purchases; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this 28th annual national convention of The American Legion, in convention assembled on September 30, October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946, at San Francisco, California, does hereby request that the machinery of the National Legion investigate and expose publicly indiscriminate sales which are being made without carrying out the wishes of the people for a square deal for war veterans; and that the field representatives of the Legion investigate all complaints of inelegibility of veterans as purchasers of government surplus property.

Resolution No. 236—

Whereas, We protest the unequal treatment of veterans living in the less-populated districts in respect to the administration of the Surplus Commodities Act; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion at its 28th annual national convention held in San Francisco, California, 1946, that those who are charged with the administration of the Surplus Commodities Act be charged with seeing to it that veterans in the rural communities be given consideration as to the time factor in mailing of notices of sale, granting of eligibility certificates, etc., to the end that the veteran is able to obtain the war surplus commodity he is lawfully entitled to; and be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion institute whatever means it deems necessary to accomplish the above request.

Resolutions Nos. 296, 447, 713 and 746 protesting discrimination in employment because of race, creed, national origin or religion were recommended. We recommend the adoption of No. 296 and consider the other resolutions as being combined therein. This resolution as amended is as follows:

Whereas, Discrimination has been encountered by veterans of minority groups who are qualified applicants for employment;

Whereas, Such practices are contrary to the principles of Democracy.

Whereas, Our unity and brotherhood in the armed forces on land, sea and air enabled us to defeat Fascism and Nazism on the battlefield where thousands of lives were sacrificed in this recent war in a struggle for human rights; therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30-October 4, 1946, that this convention go on record as opposing any type of discrimination for jobs because of race, creed, color, national origin or religion.

Housing

Unquestionably one of the most pressing situations facing veterans today is that of lack of proper housing. The Legion certainly cannot assume the attitude of satisfaction on the accom-
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plications of the program now operating. It is too
common a sight in virtually every community to
see the construction of veterans' housing stopped
before completion due to the lack of critical ma-
terial. Our nation in wartime secured, whenever
needed, the critical materials for war production.
Why the same nation in peacetime cannot secure
the same materials for veterans housing is beyond
comprehension or proper explanation. Certainly
all necessary powers have been vested by the Con-
gress for the National Housing Expeditor and the
results so far fall short of what the veteran is
entitled to.

Two things are very evident. One is that the
veteran is not receiving the housing expected and
promised; and the other that the veteran is re-
ceiving the onus for non-veterans not receiving
the housing they, too, are seeking.

The Legion, in the judgment of the National
Employment Committee, should examine carefully
any program on public housing which is being
advanced and merely uses the veteran as a sub-
terfuge in securing the enactment of such meas-
ures.

The fact that 31 separate resolutions on housing
were presented to this convention and considered
by your committee indicates that this matter can-
not be passed upon lightly by either your con-
vention committee or this convention, and that a
thorough study of all phases should be made by
a proper committee and their conclusions and
recommendations for a constructive program sub-
mitted to the National Executive Committee at
the November meeting so that a definite program
can be established by the Legion following such in-
vestigation and if legislation is needed to imple-
ment any such program it can be presented to the
Congress when it convenes in January.

We, therefore, recommend the adoption of Reso-
rution No. 752, which provides for the immediate
appointment of a special committee to study this
matter and to report the program to the National
Executive Committee at the November meeting;
and that the 30 other housing resolutions be re-
ferred to that committee. These resolutions are
Nos. 45, 53, 55, 85, 139, 212, 235, 253, 255,
358, 380, 431, 432, 433, 448, 501, 527, 568,
589, 623, 625, 626, 688, 704, 711, 712, 753 and 786.
Resolution No. 752, recommended for adop-
tion, is as follows:

Whereas, There has developed throughout the
country a serious shortage in housing with the
result that many veterans are unable to find
housing adequate to their needs; and

Whereas, There is a wide difference of opinion
as to why this shortage is not being more quick-
ly overcome and many contradictory statements,
claims and explanations are being made rela-
tive to the construction of homes for veterans;
and

Whereas, These statements and counter-state-
ments are so conflicting and confusing as to
make it impracticable for The American Leg-
ion, at this convention, to adopt a firm policy
position until it has had an opportunity to as-
certain all the facts on the status of the pre-
cent program of constructing veterans' homes;

now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the 28th annual national conve-
ton of The American Legion in national conven-
tion assembled that:

This convention recommends that the Nation-
al Commander appoint special Committee on
Housing to conduct such investigation as may
be necessary and that said committee is author-
ized to hold such hearings and make such in-
vestigations as it may determine to be proper
to carry out the purposes herein sought to be
accomplished in order that a report recommend-
ing the position and policy The American Legion
should adopt may be made to the National
Executive Committee in November for their ac-
tion; and be it further

Resolved, That no other action be taken by
The American Legion pending the decision of
the National Executive Committee and their
recommendations.

National Employment Program

It is the obligation of the National Convention
Employment Committee to recommend to the con-
vention a program to be followed for the ensu-
ing year. In arriving at the following program,
which is recommended to the convention for ap-
proval, your committee has considered the re-
ports of the Standing National Employment Com-
mittee and the Veterans' Preference Committee,

1946-1947
National Convention Employment Committee

Resolutions

National Employment Program

Whereas, It is the responsibility of each national
convention of The American Legion, upon recom-
mandation of the National Employment Com-
mittee, to adopt a program to be followed by the
Standing National Employment Committee and
Veterans' Preference Committee for the ensuing
year; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion in national
convention assembled in San Francisco, California,
September 30 to October 4, 1946, as follows:

That the following program be and the same is
hereby mandated by the National Employment
Program of The American Legion and is to be fol-
lowed by the National Employment Committee, the
Veterans' Preference Committee, and the Legisla-
tive Committee, where legislative action is re-
quired:

1. Aggressively press fulfillment of the Legion's
maximum employment and veterans' employ-
ment programs and policies.

2. Establish Veterans' Employment Committees
in every community.

3. Secure preferential consideration for disabled
veterans in re-employment and new employ-
ment.

4. Continue to resist all efforts to weaken re-
employment rights guaranteed by the nation
to veterans under the Selective Service Act.

5. Insist upon sympathetic administration of the
Legion's G. I. Bill with corrective amend-
ments when experience shows such are neces-

6. Demand that veterans' preference provisions in
Federal Civil Service laws be liberally in-
terpreted and strictly enforced in accord with
the letter and spirit of such laws.

7. Accord to veterans preferential consideration
in private employment, with full credit ex-
tended for military service.
8. Expand and broaden governmental policies and agencies by providing proper opportunities and facilities to assure that veterans will not be penalized because of their war service.

9. Urge the extension and improvement of unemployment coverage and benefits; oppose its federalization; support experience rating and employment stabilization; urge that the policies of government, of management and of labor affecting wages and working conditions, be directed to maintaining and constantly improving the American standard of living, with collective bargaining and our competitive system of free enterprise recognized as essential factors in our American way of life.

10. The full resources of The American Legion are pledged in support of this national employment program and our cooperation tendered to all others similarly interested, to the end that every veteran will be aided in attaining that position in civil life, upon honorable separation, which they would have achieved if war service had not interrupted their career, and in recognition that a prosperous America, providing maximum employment for all who are willing and able to work, is possible only if we, in peace, work as a team as we did in war on the production and on the fighting fronts.

The foregoing report is unanimously recommended for adoption by your Convention Employment Committee.

The report was adopted.

THE LEGION'S VIEW ON ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Remarks by National Commander John Stelle

In my report last Monday on my stewardship to the annual convention of The American Legion, I said that the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs had broken faith not only with the returning veteran, but with labor and management as well. All these persons had accepted the original G. I. Bill in good faith. An estimated 800,000 veterans entered on-the-job training under the bill, preparatory to establishing or reestablishing themselves in the civilian economy after war service. Labor and management spent their time and money setting up training facilities and machinery to carry out the provisions of the GI Bill.

I say again:

The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs has broken faith with the returning veteran and others when he admits assistance in imposing a ceiling on the on-the-job training program and limitations in training.

When I, as convention chairman, invited the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to address this assembly, it was expected that this convention would hear, at least in part, an accounting of the functions of the Veterans Administration during the past year. After all, The American Legion primarily was responsible for the creation of this governmental bureau.

Instead, the national convention was treated to a refutation of remarks made here that the Administration of Veterans' Affairs has failed the veteran in respect to on-the-job training.

The convention has yet to hear from the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs what progress he has made during the course of the last year, although I cited improvements in the program for readjustment of veterans as effected by the Veterans Administration, as stated by the American Legion, in my report to this convention on the opening day of the session.

It is regrettable that personalities have entered into this situation. Such an action does not contribute to the welfare of the veteran, of the community, of the state, of the nation, which is the objective of The American Legion with its three and a third million members.

An issue, however, remains to be resolved. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs admits participation in the deal putting a ceiling on payments available under the program for on-the-job training and limiting training. He gave as his reason for this action the fact that there have been abuses of the training privileges of the returning veteran, in respect to on-the-job training and limitations in training. He gave as his reason for this action the fact that there have been abuses of the training privileges under the bill.

The course of correction he elected to take was an expediency. It hurt and is hurting veterans. It confounded labor and management who accepted the original program. As it all so often happens when a governmental bureau becomes arbitrary in its attitude toward those whom it serves, the constituents again have been betrayed.

I had nothing but kindness in my heart when I invited the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to speak here. He spoke with utter candor. I like that. I admire frankness. It helps ironing out differences. We all like that, for The American Legion is a fighting organization. The members of our organization like a stout campaign. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs failed to justify his action here, so we take up the challenge, willingly and eagerly. The American Legion asks:

1. Why did the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs ask for legislation imposing a ceiling on on-the-job training and limitations in training in the closing days of the last congressional session? Though first broached in February of 1946, Congress did not receive the matter for consideration until four months later. Was the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs directed to withhold introduction of his plan for a ceiling on on-the-job training and limitations in training until the closing days of the congressional session in order to escape public scrutiny of his plan? Even congressmen admit that legislation deserving close examination oft-times receives inappropiate and hasty attention when Congress is in a rush to adjourn. Important legislation ordinarily is subject to the democratic process of debate. It took The American Legion six months to win approval of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (the GI Bill of Rights) after lengthy hearings, and almost an equal amount of time for amendments to the bill in 1946. The American Legion had nothing to conceal when it sponsored legislation. Did the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs submit his recommendations and request for a ceiling on on-the-job training to Congress prior to the session as to forestall debate? Was it a deliberate effort to deny veterans' organization...
and others concerned an opportunity to present their views? Was not the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs breaching the rules of good conduct? And was not his conduct when he became a party to “sneak” legislation?

2. The American Legion estimates approximately 100,000 veterans are concerned by the ceiling on on-the-job training and limitations in training which the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs induced Congress to impose. The house committee which received the proposal for curtailing this program was told that as a result of a hasty spot check by the VA about no more than six per cent of the veterans or employers engaging in the program could be affected by the new law. Why was legislation introduced aimed at restricting a few at the expense of thousands of veterans engaged in bona fide training? I ask the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs: Did he burn the whole barn just to get rid of one rat?

3. The Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs would have you believe that $200 is sufficient to accommodate a veteran and his family, while the veteran is in training for livelihood. In these inflationary times? When the government is guilty of failing to provide houses for its returning veterans, and as the result of this short-age the cost of housing and rental quarters are extraordinarily high? When the Veterans Administration has been urging veterans to retain or convert their national service life insurance, I turn to the VA to readjust the veteran.

4. The American Legion is not unfamiliar with the subject of on-the-job training and its ramifications. Recently, The American Legion polled the governors of the states of this union and asked their opinion as to the operations of the on-the-job training program within their respective provinces. The replies were astounding. Only one governor reported knowledge of a flagrant abuse of the on-the-job training program and he gave assurances that the existing evils were corrected promptly. All other governors asserted the program was not controlled by abuses, as contended by the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs when he went before a committee of Congress to urge a ceiling.

5. Execution of the on-the-job training program has been a responsibility of the Veterans Administration. If there have been defects and abuses within the program, who but the Veterans Administration approved participants in, and conduct of, the on-the-job training program. The Veterans Administration could have thwarted abuses had it been efficient in administration of the program, and there would have been no reason for imposing a ceiling on veterans or limitations in training. The Veterans Administration had the power under the original act to correct abuses without any amendatory legislation.

6. The Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs told this convention that your national commander has not extended a sincere offer of help to the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs once during the entire past year. There are many people present in this auditorium who are acquainted with the situation and can brush aside that assertion as fantastic. In February of this year, a committee of The American Legion, of which I was a member, conferred with the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs for two hours and forty minutes, and we assured the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs that the legislation was not correct, that the $200 ceiling was not a governmental agency, will make the decision as to the justice of the action. I further advise the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs that the legislation will be open for public inspection and will not be invoked without the confines of an executive session of Congress as managed by the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs when he asked Congress to impose the ceiling and training limitations and I further state that I hope the revised legislation will bear unmistakable language which will compel the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs to efficiently supervise the on-the-job training program with as much more than the re-employees. Then we will not have abuses of the program, or a need for ceiling, or for limitations of training.

REMARKS BY PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
HARRY W. COLMERY, OF TOPEKA,
KANSAS, ON ON-THE-JOB TRAINING
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HARRY
COLMERY: Mr. Commander, My Comrades of the convention: I rise to speak as a duly elected delegate from the Department of Kansas in support of the resolution. I invite your attention to the fact that it raises these ques-
We didn't place a ceiling on the amendment. We thought the act was the ceiling. We hoped and we knew that the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs was given ample authority under the act to survey the situation as to the economy of America, to work out the classifications and the types and the grades and the benefits, and that the action served would fit according to the place and the status from which they went. That was a responsibility of administration. It is not so important as to whether our judgment and that of Congress at the time was correct, but it is very important that it should not be changed without having given us a notice and an opportunity to be heard and to reflect the experience and the understanding of The American Legion as to the great rehabilitation organization which extends into every county in the United States. So I think it was ill-advised to have followed that course of action. I think it was unfair. I think it was in violation of the custom and the code which has grown up in connection with veterans' legislation. Since Mr. Kraabel and the Rehabilitation Division have been cooperating closely with the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs and his staff, I think the action taken lacked the candor and the square dealing which The American Legion and its staff had a right to expect.

I am not interested in the personnel anti-paties if they exist. You can judge that for yourselves as between the national commander and General Bradley. I do rise though, as a Legionnaire to sort of set the record straight as to the great rehabilitation service which we rendered to the veteran might be carried on more efficiently and more effectively.

I am not so sure that General Bradley is on a sound base when he makes a special point of the fact that the national commander is protecting a profiting minority and that he, the administrator, stands as the protector and guardian of the great mass of veterans and of the general welfare of the American people. I think he is wrong about it. I think his argument in that respect was spacious and captious.

You don't destroy an automobile because you run out of gasoline. We never destroyed the institution of marriage, sacred as it is, because people now and then commit adultery. It has never been sound to abandon a sound program or a sound policy because here and there was discovered abuse or abuses of it. In this instance to the end that the unselfish service which we rendered to the veteran might be carried on more efficiently and more effectively.

The opportunity was to be made available to those who were called upon to leave their homes and their educations and their pursuits in life through these benefits to come back and have a chance to attain as nearly as possible the place which they would have attained had they not been called upon to make that sacrifice. Now then, to have the bill amended without a hearing, without a notice, I think wasn't playing the game in accordance with the American system; the most fundamental phase of which is an opportunity to protect a right. If The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans, in the course of 25 or 26 or 27 years had not stood up for the veterans of America's wars, I don't know who would have!
fixes as the value of the job. In all those instances the result is that they are merely taking away, not from the employer, but taking the granting of benefits and applying them to the economy of the United States of America.

Now, this really isn't any of my business except to a great extent the national commander of the Legion and you in the Legion and the Legion organization are inseparable. After all, he is merely chosen as our leader for a year and is charged with the responsibility of carrying into execution the policy of the Legion which is made here in the national convention. His is an administrative job. So that in consideration was put on a 'brass-tacks' basis of the fact that national commander was so unfair to Congress and points, in interrogatory form and asked why he didn't do this and why he didn't do that.

Let me call your attention to the fact that he said, "That the national commander did not mention that Congress has authorized an eight hundred million dollar hospital construction program for the care of your sick and wounded comrades." The best I can say is that is a half statement calculated to convey an untruth and misrepresentation, because if you will turn to the right hand column on Page 6 of the commander's report, he tells you about the passage of Public Law 419, dated June 21, 1946, providing not an authorization of eight hundred million dollars, but providing for 441 million dollars for hospital construction and then there are some other things in the report about hospital construction. There is a difference in the two amounts. I do not consider that material in the light of that kind of an accusation.

He did not tell you, "Congress has provided a flat 20 per cent increase in disability pension payment to more than 3,000,000 veterans." That statement is not true, for in the left hand column on page 6 in the 5th paragraph down, you will find the statement: "The President on August 8, 1946, signed H.R-6811 thereby bringing to a successful conclusion The American Legion legislative effort to secure a 20 per cent cost of living increase in the compensation and pension payments for disabled veterans and their next of kin, and to restore disabled hospitalized veterans their fully enlisted compensation."

General Bradley also states, "He did not indicate that Congress had liberalized veterans' insurance and had put it on a per-time basis." That statement is not true, for in the right hand column of page 6 in the 2nd paragraph, you will find this statement: "On August 8, 1946, signed H.R-6811 thereby bringing to a successful conclusion The American Legion legislative effort to secure a 20 per cent cost of living increase in the compensation and pension payments for disabled veterans and their next of kin, and to restore disabled hospitalized veterans their fully enlisted compensation."

General Bradley and his associate stated at the House committee were involved in the abuses. The thing turns around the other way. The responsibility was put to you. In the abuses and eliminate the unscrupulous actions by getting down to brass tacks and figuring out what the responsibility was as presented by the granting of benefits and applying to the economy of the United States of America.

I understand General Bradley and his associate fixes as the value of the job. In all those instances the result is that they are merely taking the granting of benefits and applying them to the economy of the United States of America.

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I will not go further with those three illustrations, except to call your attention to the fact that at the end of the part of these proceedings there is printed in bound form, generally about half inch to three-quarters of an inch thick, a volume which contains the reports of the standing committees of The American Legion to this convention. They are available to everybody and are really a part of the proceedings of the convention, and I'll bet you a dollar to a doughnut that everything the General says has not been reported is in those reports and a lot more. I know the Rehabilitation Committee never overlooks getting in there any accomplishment on behalf of the veteran.

The function of the national commander's report is not to outline with great detail everything that happened in the administration. Its only purpose is to carry to you the highlights and call your attention to the things that have been accomplished and to arouse your interest to the jobs which remain yet to be accomplished. Therefore, it is unfair and of course one who isn't acquainted with the actions and the activities of veterans as distinguished from soldiers—and there is a lot of difference—probably couldn't be expected to understand that the commander's report does not cover everything that is conveyed as the record of the year's administration to the members of the organization.

I heard the commander speak in answer to the accusation that he had never sincerely offered help. It is true as I stated that a committee was appointed to sort of move into the breach, if you will understand me at the time of another fracas, and it fell my lot to be chairman of that committee. It would be unfair if I did not state that National Commander Stelle left his chair and made the motion asking that the committee be appointed to accompany him to Washington to confer with General Bradley. That conference lasted two hours and forty-five minutes. We came out of it with an agreed statement of our meeting and of our policy. I know from what has been conveyed to me both from the Legion and from the Veterans Administration that it was considered to have been very cooperative and very helpful and very constructive.

Later on, at the meeting of the Executive Committee in June in Indianapolis, my same committee gathered again and at our suggestion, General Bradley being there to attend the banquet, I personally arranged with him to meet with him at the close of the banquet, sit around the table up in a private room and discuss the things which had been presented but which had not been corrected, and confer about our mutual responsibility in connection with veterans' affairs. We met there for two hours or more until after midnight, National Commander Stelle being present at that conference, but whatever my committee did, seven of us believe, we were only the spokesmen of the national commander and the National Executive Committee. A leader of this great organization couldn't be expected to handle all of the detail in every whip-stitch that arises. I did
a job for him last night because it was urgent, but he did it. He just asked me to do it. Therefore, it was done by him through me, acting as his instrumentality, just as we did in these meetings with General Bradley.

At that last meeting you might be interested to know that as I took up these things point by point and then called upon Kraabel and Dr. Shapiro, they came out with the names of hospitals and what had happened, where the administration was wrong, where they botched things up, every instance just as fast as they were asked. They supported the items which incidentally are also set forth in the national commander's report under six items on some page. Look it up. He said, point three, this is what happened to it. Point 4, this is what happened to it. The other three are the type and character that you couldn't correct by just one piece of activity.

Referring to the national commander's report, there is the statement that there has been no effort to cooperate and that the progress has been impaired. I will call your attention to page 7 on the commander's report and he says in the Conclusion of General Bradley: "Our conference with General Bradley was held in a spirit of amity and cooperation. Since then, there have been many other conferences between Veterans Administration officials and rehabilitation members of The American Legion. I am happy to report that this spirit of cooperation continues to this date." Again, on the same page, "A review of the changes in the Veterans Administration between February 1 and July 31, 1946, indicate that progress and improvements were made as follows:" and then it catalogs 24 separate paragraphs, each covering a specific thing in which the national commander gives credit to the Veterans Administration for having made progress and improvements in the handling of veterans' affairs. Again, on page 3: "As to shortcomings that still prevail, I wish to report," and then he goes on and talks about the special committee, and the six points. Then again on page 3, "The American Legion will cooperate with the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs pending the consideration of needed changes and improvements. The American Legion knows the field of rehabilitation; it has dealt with veterans' problems for 28 years. It has more than 30,000 service offices throughout the nation on the job, constantly reporting on service to veterans. It welcomes the spirit of cooperation that is now manifested in its relations with General Bradley and his staff." Therefore, I don't understand, unless made in a fit of anger, the statement that was made somewhere along the line that "Not once, during the entire year has your national commander come to me with a sincere offer of help."

That is a general point and I think it should not go by unnoticed. With a few more observations, I'll be through.

It has been customary at a national convention of The American Legion that the Administration of Veterans Affairs has an honored place on our program, and he has always taken advantage of that opportunity, unofficially of course, to give to us a narrative of his stewardship. I did not say "account," he doesn't need to account to us; and secondly, to suggest policies and ideals that he and his staff have in mind in connection with our mutual responsibilities. I think you will agree that General Bradley was here, but I want to speak to him as if he were.

General Bradley, you came here and apparently at a time of ill temper, forgot about making a constructive contribution to our program, but on the contrary, took all of your time in what sounded to me sitting back there in my delegation as the carrying on of a personal feud between you and the national commander, without reference to the great responsibility and the trust which is yours as to veterans.

In the interest of the veterans and the nation, we hoped that you would tell us of the progress and of your problems and send us home with an inspiration to cooperate in their solution.

I trust that that is not an indication that we must again expect a repetition of the passage of Public Law 679.

You were careful to refer to "My Host, Your Commander." This is a convention of The American Legion, of the duly elected delegates here to translate into performance the hopes and the aims and the ambitions of the veterans back home in the posts who are their chosen instrumentality. The national commander is merely the presiding officer of this convention. It is our convention; not his. You were invited here as our guest not his. If the invitation was extended to you in his name, he merely acted as our chosen instrumentality. I am sure that you know this. And if you do not know it, you should. There is no doubt in my mind that if you did not know it because the first sentence of your speech said, "48 hours ago, while I was en route to your convention as a guest of The American Legion." I would like to ask General Bradley myself, as a Legionnaire, that if the national commander has impugned your motives, if he has deliberately obstructed your effort, a fact I do not think you can sustain; if he has impaired your progress and misinterpreted your objectives and other factors, a fact which I do not think you can sustain, why did you wait until 3:15 on yesterday afternoon? These things must have existed during the year. At least you complain about them back during the year, and since the basis for the statements of that character were not now, what was the motive in waiting until 3:15 p.m.? Do you think it served the cause of the veteran? Do you think it was becoming of you as our guest?

I honor you for protecting your personal integrity and for protecting the integrity of the Administration of Veterans' Affairs and of your staff, at the proper time, at the proper place, and in the proper manner; but under the circumstances I consider that you performed but on the contrary, took all of your time in what sounded to me sitting back there in my delegation as the carrying on of a personal feud between you and the national commander, without reference to the great responsibility and the trust which is yours as to veterans.

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pruning knife. In other years after we had built a structure of veterans' benefits over a period of 14 to 15 years, all of a sudden, it was wrecked in an avalanche of economy and depression. Amputation cases, battle casualties, shell-shocked veterans, tubercular cases had their compensation cut off and those that still remained on the rolls cut down an average of $44 to $22 per month. A hundred thousand service-connected cases in a group were thrown off the roll. Service-connected cases renounced by their government, whose cause they had fought to defend, were forced with despondency, were shell-shocked veterans, tubercular cases had their compensation cut off and those that still remained on the rolls cut down an average of $44 to $22 per month. A hundred thousand service-connected cases in a group were thrown off the roll. Service-connected cases renounced by their government, whose cause they had fought to defend, were forced with despondency. Amputation cases, battle casualties, shell-shocked veterans, tubercular cases had their compensation cut off and those that still remained on the rolls cut down an average of $44 to $22 per month. A hundred thousand service-connected cases in a group were thrown off the roll. Service-connected cases renounced by their government, whose cause they had fought to defend, were forced with despondency. Amputation cases, battle casualties, shell-shocked veterans, tubercular cases had their compensation cut off and those that still remained on the rolls cut down an average of $44 to $22 per month. A hundred thousand service-connected cases in a group were thrown off the roll. Service-connected cases renounced by their government, whose cause they had fought to defend, were forced with despondency.

We learned back there to call a halt in hastily decorating with a distinguished cross for valor in action those who had taken $169,000,000 a year away from the battle casualties of World War I. We took it then with our chin up, and we can take this, your speech, or any attempt against which the national commander warned, again and we will take it with our chin up.

After all, General Bradley, we are citizens of the United States organized into a voluntary group of veterans. You are one of the persons in Washington, D. C., who work for us citizens. Your job is a civilian job. It does not call for talking down to us in a field of endeavor in which our record of activity and accomplishment is so much greater than is yours.

You must accept criticism where The American Legion deems that the interest of the veterans requires it. We have always endeavored to be sincere and constructive in that criticism.

We will continue to follow along that pattern and nothing will avert us from an unbalanced temper which will cause us to lose sight of our primary objective of unselfish service for God and country through service to the veteran of the American wars.

Regrettably as it is, it is unfortunate in my judgment that the incident has arisen. I hope that we may clear away some of the brush and the obfuscations and get down to a basis of understanding in the future and cast aside pettiness or pride of either position or opinion and work together with the Veterans Administration and General Bradley as Administrator of Veterans' Affairs and working together cooperatively, looking upward and not downward, to the end we may keep our minds and our eyes glued on one star of accomplishment—mutual responsibility to protect those who unfortunately are not able to adequately protect themselves. Thank you.

... The audience arose and applauded.

MR. FENLON: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the delegations in this convention have been fully informed as to the resolution that was presented to you and the motion that I made was unanimous recommendation of the convention Employment Committee that the resolution be adopted. I hope this convention will adopt it unanimously and I therefore move you the previous question.

VICE-COMMANDER HUNTINGTON: Ready for the question? All those in favor signify by saying "Aye"; contrary, "No." The motion is unanimously approved.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HUNTINGTON: Delegates to the convention: An Army heritage and twenty-four years of regular Army service qualified our next speaker to bring troops through fire in the world's worst war. He commanded the famed 82nd Airborne Division in the invasions of Sicily and Normandy. He won the Distinguished Service Cross and an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second award for extraordinary heroism in each campaign. Later he commanded the 18th (Airborne) Corps in battle from the Belgian Bulge to the Baltic Sea. When the Pacific war ended, he was already in the Philippines, preparing for the invasion of the Japanese Islands. In January, 1946, he was named representative of General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower on the Military Staff Committee, United Nations. He is also the senior United States delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board. I am proud to present a soldier of war and peace—Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgeway.

ADDRESS OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL M. B. RIDGEWAY

Representative of the U. S. Chief of Staff to the United Nations

I am honored and glad to be here, and particularly gratified above all other considerations because of your indicated interest in the United Nations.

My remarks will be focused upon certain aspects of the relationship of the United Nations to the United States. These remarks derive largely from personal experience as General Eisenhower's representative on the Military Committee of the United Nations, to which I have been assigned since its creation in London last February.

It is my hope to stimulate your thought, and what is of far more importance, to so present...
some salient facts that when you have given them your thoughtful consideration, you may translate your convictions into effective action helpful to this country and to the world.

Human activities with few exceptions reduce, under analysis, to some form of educative process. Eliminating the static and inert whose contribution to human progress is virtually negligible, all intelligent thinking beings offer their contribution in life through influence they exert in moulding the thought processes of others, in adding their individual increments which collectively constitute public opinion.

Writing in the July 27th issue of the magazine section of the New York Sunday Times, Allan Nevins, professor of American history at Columbia University, discusses public opinion, and suggests classifying citizens into three very definite groups, the first comprising those "aggressive citizens who think only of selfish gain and strive to promote the interest of localities, industrial units and special classes;" a second "made up of those who realize clearly the dollar and cents implications of most legislation, but who study issues and problems separately and who strive to take broad national views, insisting on a just national balance, without special privileges or special disabilities;" and the third, "the unthinking mass."

"The central task of democracy," states Professor Nevins, "is to educate as many of the unthinking as possible to a point where they will become members of the second group, and act with keen anxiety for the general welfare." It seems to me that never in their history have our citizens faced a greater need for sober examination of major national questions, nor a more urgent requirement for giving effect to the sober convictions to which their judgments may lead them. Beyond any shadow of a doubt, the time factor has never been so compelling.

I am going to speak first of the Military Staff Committee and the Security Council, and then of the Atomic Energy Commission, seeking to place before you a few brief facts concerning their functions and current activities, and secondly, to emphasize the implications to the United States of some of the major issues with which those agencies are now dealing.

I shall begin with the Security Council, whose present active United States member is our distinguished former Ambassador to Sweden, Herschel V. Johnson, and on which we shall later be represented by that eminent American statesman, Senator Warren H. Austin of Vermont. The member states of the United Nations have conferred on the Security Council "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security." They have expressed their determination to maintain peace and security throughout the world. They have implemented this determination to date by authorizing the Security Council under certain conditions to employ armed force to maintain peace. They have created a Military Staff Committee comprising delegations of the Big Five and charged it with the responsibility for assisting the Security Council in making "plans for the application of armed force" and "to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security."

If these plans and intentions were now in effective operation, the anxieties which beset our people and the world would be enormously reduced. Actually, not even the manner in which they may be put into operation has been agreed upon, and when that has been done, the machinery for doing it will have many tests to pass before it can even begin to function.

Perhaps some of you visualize the United Nations as a superstate, exercising world government and have been watching news reports for indications of the emergence of a permanent international police force. No such force is now in prospect and no world government exists. The present intention is to have the member states designate contingents of armed forces to be available on call by the Security Council in case it requires them to meet international emergencies.

The designation of these contingents, their limitation of their composition and overall strength, and the specification and provision for supporting facilities now engage our attention. The task involves several steps. The Security Council must conclude a series of agreements with members of the United Nations. These agreements must specify the forces or facilities each nation should hold available for use if called upon. Logically, such contributions would be in proportion to the military potential of each member. Some of the smaller nations may furnish no armed forces, confining their contributions to bases, rights of passage over their territory, and other necessary facilities.

Once these agreements have been signed, it will be the responsibility of the Military Staff Committee to make and recommend to the Security Council plans for the use of these United Nations Forces, and, under the Security Council, to exercise strategic direction of their operations.

It should be profitable here to examine the limitations on the use of such forces. They can not be used against any of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, because any one of the five, China, France, Britain, America or Russia, could block such use by the exercise of its veto power granted it by the Charter. The field of action by the United Nations armed forces will, therefore, be strictly limited.

Simple and obvious as this fact is, I wish to do everything in my power to disabuse the minds of those Americans who harbor the utterly false notion which too many appear to embrace, that the United Nations is already firmly established as the guarantor of world peace and that we can now rely on it for our own security.

No belief could be more dangerously fallacious at this time. We believe this can be done in the future. We have pledged our contingents the accomplishment to accomplish it. We are devoting our unsainted time, energies and resources to bring about that accomplishment in the shortest possible time.

We have little patience with the cynic who holds that war is inevitable. We have even less with the person whether sincerely misguided or maliciously motivated who holds that war can not recur, who conceives of the United Nations as already an effective guarantor of world peace, who would counsel our people to relax from their defensive posture, or relinquish their capabilities for self-protection and national survival, until such time as reciprocal
measures offering reasonable guarantees shall have come into effective international operation.

The lofty objectives of the United Nations and its severely restricted present capabilities must be recognized. It is the clear obligation of every one here to make his full contribution to dispel from the minds of his brother Americans any misconceptions that tend to weaken the already none too strong security consciousness of the United States.

Membership in the United Nations, in itself a revolutionary step in American foreign policy, is a magnificent expression of the idealism of our people. But throughout our history, the American people have demonstrated that they possess another invaluable attribute in remarkable degree, and that is realism. We are firm followers of the Missouri habit of having to be shown.

It now seems appropriate to pass to the tasks of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, on which the United States is ably represented by its most eminent elder statesman, Bernard M. Baruch, assisted by a small advisory group of distinguished physicists.

This commission, created by international action with the full approval of our government, was instructed by the General Assembly of the United Nations to "proceed with the utmost dispatch and inquire into all phases of the problems of the control of atomic energy and to make such recommendations from time to time with respect to them as it finds possible." In particular, the commission is to "make specific proposals for effective safeguards, by way of inspection and other means, to protect complying states against the hazards of violations and evasions."

I earnestly commend to your attention the memorable address delivered by the Honorable Bernard M. Baruch to the opening session of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission in New York on June 14 last.

In that now historic document the United States offers to entrust all phases of the development and use of atomic energy to an INTERNATIONAL authority to be created by treaty among all nations.

This time we want a different treaty—one with dependable proofs of good behavior and prompt condign punishments for bad. Millions of dead lie buried under broken treaties which relied solely on promises.

We will agree by treaty to share our knowledge, to cease making atomic bombs, and to dispose of those in existence. BUT under two broad simple conditions. You must understand them. You must not misunderstand them.

The first is the progressive sharing of our unique knowledge by stages, each stage to be in demonstrated effective operation before the next is begun. To insure this we insist upon an international body clothed with full authority of access at all times to all sources of fissionable materials and production facilities. Without such access there will be no confidence in the world that the treaty is being kept. No system relying upon purely national, as opposed to international, jurisdiction over inspection and supervision, and the Imposition of punishments, would constitute a clear and effective guarantee of compliance with treaty commitments.

The second is that there must be no veto to protect those who violate their solemn agreements not to develop or use atomic energy for destructive purposes.

The principle of the veto is intended to be an instrument for the protection of nations, not a shield which deception and criminal acts can be performed with impunity. This in no way impairs the doctrine of unanimity. No state need be an unwilling party to the treaty. But every state which freely and willingly becomes a party, by this act, solemnly and firmly binds itself to abide by its undertakings. Such undertakings would become illusory, if the guarantee against their breach resided solely in the conscience of the one who commits the breach.

Speaking of the veto power, Mr. Baruch was most emphatic: "I want to make very plain that I am concerned here with the veto power only as it affects this particular problem. There must be no veto to prevent a resolution. I have swept solemn agreements not to develop or use atomic energy for destructive purposes."

In brief, the United States proposes no amendment to the United Nations Charter, no change in the veto power provisions vested in each Big Five representative on the Security Council. It proposes that the nations of the world recognize the indisputable fact that the control and development of atomic energy was neither considered nor dealt with in the framing of the Charter of the United Nations; that they shall not permit this circumstance to prevent bringing within the framework of the United Nations a matter of such vital concern to all; and that they will voluntarily enter into a new agreement by treaty providing for the formation of an international Atomic Development Authority.

Voluntary relinquishment of the veto on questions relating to a specific weapon previously outlawed by unanimous agreement because of its uniquely destructive character, in no wise involves any compromise of the principle of unanimity of action as applied to general problems, or to particular situations not foreseeable and therefore not susceptible of advance unanimous agreement.

The United States in June voiced the belief that no honest thinking people would have faith in a mere treaty to outlaw possession or use of the bomb, and that all honest thinking men and women will "demand a program not merely of pious utterances but of world wide rights of inspection and enforceable sanctions."

Since then, the constant deliberations and studies of those in charge of this vital work have brought two issues into sharp relief—international vs. national jurisdiction over inspection and sanctions, and second, the veto. Both have been frequently discussed in the press, both will continue to receive the earnest efforts of all United States personnel concerned in finding a solution. I have dwelt upon them at some length in the hope of making clearer to you gentlemen the incontrovertible facts and the overwhelming logic which support the United States proposals.

I have sought to clarify for you busy men and women of established integrity and proven patriotism, a few of the most basic, most vital, most perplexing problems, with which we or any other people have been confronted. I have sought to focus your attention upon not only their importance, but the great urgency of their importance. The time factor has dwindled in duration as it has increased in magnitude. The
To the Twenty-Eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, Calif., September 30, October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946.

Forty-six members of your Committee on Foreign Relations met September 30, 1946, at 5:00 p.m., in Room 313, Veterans' Memorial Building, and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

John J. Wicker, Jr., of the Department of Virginia and Calvin W. Verity, Jr., of the Department of Ohio were elected chairman and secretary, respectively. The membership roster of the committee is attached as a part of this report.

There was discussion of the department resolutions referred to the committee for consideration and action. After such discussion upon authority of the committee, the chairman then appointed a subcommittee to draft a report for the consideration of the whole committee; namely:

Ray Murphy, Iowa, chairman
William Coniff, Washington
Louis Johnson, West Virginia
Clarence Simpson, Canada
Thomas W. Miller, Nevada
Roane Waring, Tennessee
Henry Hanna, Kansas
John Bell, Georgia
Calvin W. Verity, Jr.

Mr. Verity has acted as secretary of the drafting committee.

Subsequently the full committee met at 4:00 p.m., October 2, 1946, in Committee Room 313 in the Veterans Memorial Building, San Francisco, California.

All resolutions received and considered by the full committee and the drafting committee are embodied in or superseded by the following report, which your Committee on Foreign Relations adopted unanimously and now presents to this convention, as follows:

Considering that there is now in progress an obvious totalitarian attempt to seize territory, to establish empire and to achieve world conquest under an ideological cloak and that this attempt gravely endangers the attainment of peace, and the objectives for which America fought;

Resolved That:

1. This nation has a specific responsibility and duty to itself and to all mankind to contribute as effectively to the achievement and maintenance of peace as it did to the prosecution, and successful conclusion of the war.

2. We strongly endorse and support the positive foreign policy of the government of the United States, as expressed by Secretary of State Byrnes, Senator Vandenberg and Senator Connally. We demand that our foreign policy be kept above the level of partisan politics and we condemn those who have used or who shall use the vehicle of foreign policy for any partisan political purpose.

We urge the continuation of a foreign policy which is neither hostile nor subservient to any power on earth—and which scorns appeasement.

Report of Committee on Foreign Relations

John J. Wicker, Jr., chairman of Virginia, reported as follows:

Period of grace has shrunk. The time given to an unprepared selected victim by a potential aggressor may in the future be measured not in years, not in months, but in days. I hope that the word 'unprepared' may strike every American brain with the impact of a blow.

We know only too well the enormous collective desire of our people for peace. We know its innate repugnance to war. We know that in its hatred of international violence, it builds up a tremendous inertia opposed to entry into armed conflict. We know that in the past only the impact of great forces over extended periods made the issue between right and wrong so clear that even the blind could read it and so consolidated public opinion that inertia was overcome and the nation put into motion. The impact of Pearl Harbor still reverberates in the brains of thinking men and those same men recall the humiliating travail of this nation through the many months we still required before we were capable of expressing our righteous wrath in major offensive action.

This is a different epoch. The tide floods on.

We emerged from a great war, strong in our pride and free. Forces of this nation, armed and unarmed, abroad and at home, achieved this result by their united and mighty efforts. It was teamwork on the greatest American scale.

Today that teamwork is menaced, in part by factors inherent in democracy, in part by the exploitation by hostile elements of our freedom of the press to confuse the issues, divide our counsels, and destroy the team.

The work in which we are now engaged on the United Nations, including the Atomic Energy Commission, demands incomparably the greatest united team effort that this nation in peace has ever been asked to exert. It calls for the best each of us can contribute, not only in individual effort, but in the education of those who by faulty reasoning or for other causes do not see the issues as they are. It calls for painstaking analysis to detect the specious and hostile in the arguments in press and radio. It calls for self-dedication to the task of education in things American. It calls for selfless devotion to the task of destroying in this nation things un-American.

The great majority of you have seen war at work, you know its past devastation, and you can imagine its possible future horrors. The American people by and large have neither seen the one nor visualize the other. It is up to us to educate them to face the issues and to adopt the measures which will insure that neither they nor their children's children will ever know what these horrors can be, neither abroad nor in this land, we so dearly love.

When the story of our development of atomic energy is told, you will learn of the most stupendous teamwork any people has ever achieved. The drama of that epic accomplishment of American genius has left an inspiration for our future. We need that inspiration—we must have it—if we are to succeed in the task in which the United Nations is now engaged.

My faith is unshakable that we can succeed.
We are determined to convince the rest of the world that we say what we mean and mean what we say.

3. The American Legion again asserts its fidelity to the United Nations, but we urge that its Charter be strengthened in the immediate future so as to make it more effective in seeking and keeping the peace. We urge that active representation of The American Legion be maintained at all United Nations meetings.

4. Due to the ferment resulting from World War II, mankind faces a post-war life of uncertainty and dread. To the confusion has been added the conflict of two opposing philosophies, on one side Communism—on the other side Democracy. The United States, as one of the great democracies, recognizes the right of the people of every nation to determine fairly their own form of government within their own boundaries. Nonetheless, we must resist at home and abroad, outside such boundaries, the spreading of tyrannical and totalitarian ideologies—and we deplore and condemn such intervention in the affairs of nations as has already made some nations, once proud and independent, the puppets of a Communist power.

5. We deplore and condemn the unwarranted attacks upon friendly and unarmed United States aircraft and the premeditated murder of American airmen by the air forces of Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia. Through these vicious and warlike acts Marshal Tito has demonstrated gross ingratitude for the help and assistance freely given and sacrifices freely made by the American people in aid and succor of the Yugoslav people. The United States should immediately cease to provide to the present Yugoslavian government any supplies of foods and materials.

6. We believe the members of our armed services stationed in foreign countries can become more able ambassadors of the American way of life through the early development of an intensified program of army and navy education, providing instruction in the advantages of our democratic form of government over totalitarian forms of government, the history of aggression of former enemies, and the importance of maintaining and furthering United Nations unity.

7. That hemispheric solidarity may become a reality, we urge further and continued development of mutual understanding between all the peoples of the Americas.

8. We recommend that the Quota Force Plan for strengthening the United Nations by three amendments to its Charter—which plan has been unanimously endorsed by the Department of Ohio and Kansas and by a caucus of World War II veterans at this national convention—be given serious consideration and that it be hereby referred to the standing Committee on Foreign Relations for such consideration, and for full study, and that the recommendations of that committee with respect to such plan be made to the National Executive Committee at its November, 1946, meeting; and we respectfully urge that such departments and all others properly interested be given full opportunity to present their views with respect to such plan to the standing Committee on Foreign Relations.

9. We recommend that the incoming National Commander be authorized and directed to appoint immediately a special committee to study, consider and make recommendations concerning the admittance of citizens of the Philippine Republic into membership in The American Legion, and that the findings of this special committee with respect to this matter and all correlated questions be reported to the November, 1946, meeting of the National Executive Committee for such action and determination as that body deems advisable and necessary.

10. We urgently recommend that the standing Committee on Foreign Relations be strengthened to the end that members of The American Legion and the public may be more fully informed through American Legion sources on matters of international relations, and that the National Commander and National Executive Committee be hereby directed to increase the standing Committee on Foreign Relations to nine (9) members, and that adequate appropriations be made available to carry on the vitally important work of that committee.

11. And finally, The American Legion reaffirms its pledge to do all within its power to bring about and insure a lasting peace.

The report was adopted.
ADDRESS OF MRS. PEARL A. WANAMAKER
President of the National Education Association

Commander Stelle, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen of The American Legion—as a member of The American Legion Auxiliary and president of the National Education Association, it is a privilege to meet here with you today. I stand humbly in the presence of history to bring you the greetings, the affectionate greetings, of another great organization—the National Education Association.

I speak as the representative of the nation’s teachers—the men and women who taught many of you in school and who will teach your children in school, I am confident, with the same inspiring results.

I say that today I stand in the presence of history. More accurately, I might say that I stand in the presence of the authors of history—those who wrote this history with blood for ink and bayonets for pens.

The history you wrote is reflected in the campaign slogans your Great Commanders roared and the scars you bear. It is likewise reflected in your determination that the principles for which you fought shall endure. Your determination to preserve these ideals is shared by the National Education Association.

The American Legion and the National Education Association are affiliated organizations linked by common bonds to a common purpose.

It is my prayer, and I know it must be yours, that the history you wrote shall never be repeated—that it will never have to be written again by your sons.

We are now in the midst of a great national debate over the best way to avert such a tragedy. We are in the throes of decision. We are attempting to choose the path that will lead us most quickly to the goal we seek—the destination you fought to make secure.

The policy of the National Education Association is best expressed by the resolution passed by the Representative Assembly at Buffalo last July: “The National Education Association believes in adequate preparedness for the preservation of our national security. Such security rests upon the physical vigor, scientific knowledge, technical skill, civic responsibility, and military competence that reside in our citizens. To this end the Association urges the continuation and expansion of educational programs in these areas, and it calls upon the Congress to take immediate steps to determine the security needs of our nation and to adopt such measures as will properly satisfy these needs. The intent of this resolution shall be the accepted policy of the National Education Association.”

Security today is not entirely military, as the last war proved. On the stamina and fortitude of civilian populations, the outcome depended. Never before were civilian populations the subject of such consistent and horrible attacks. That has become the pattern of modern war because the military strategists have learned that when the home front crumbles, the battle front crumbles, too.

Therefore, any future war probably will start with attacks not on military fortifications or troop concentrations but on cities. The civilian population will feel the baptism of fire. And if the civilian population becomes panic-stricken, the war is lost before the clash of arms begins.

A well-informed and healthy population will withstand the ordeal while an ignorant, unhealthy people will scream in terror and throw up their hands in surrender.

I recall that it finally took only two atomic bombs to convince the Japanese people that they had lost the war. They couldn’t take any more. They collapsed in terror before our invasion fleet neared their shores.

Certainly the Japanese people are not an educated people. If they had been, they never would have started the war. They would have known that our resources eventually would overpower them. But they were propagandized into war. And they were kept in ignorance until the white heat of truth burst on them over Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Last January, General MacArthur invited an educational mission to Japan for the express purpose of examining the program of education and making recommendations for its democratization. It was my privilege to serve as one of the members of this mission. General MacArthur has said that education is the most powerful instrument for peace. He believes what he says.

In my discussion of these things, please do not think that I am assuming to pose as a military expert or strategist. Nor am I trying to tell you, who won two wars, how we should win a third. I am merely expressing my conviction, based on the facts you have presented in combat, that our organization can help yours prepare, not for—but against—another war.

In the preamble to the UNESCO Constitution, it says “That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” These defenses rest on education—military, scientific, social and economic. All phases of education must be enlisted to make this nation intelligent enough to avert war and to develop international understanding so that we may achieve the goal of the Constitution of UNESCO “that peoples shall speak to peoples across national boundaries.”

The fate of this country depends more on preventing another war than it does on winning it. Once another war starts, none can escape its ravages. The nation that wins will have brought an empty victory to a land of desolation.

Of course, the education of one nation, standing alone in a wilderness of ignorance, cannot avert the catastrophe of war. It is not sufficient for the United States to have high standards of education while other nations grope in darkness. The standards of other nations of the world must be raised if we are to escape the constant peril that lurks in foreign minds unable to comprehend that advancement comes through the open mind rather than the closed fist.

Happily, I can report to you that the National Education Association has undertaken such a program. A world conference on education and making recommendations for its democratization was held recently under the auspices of the National Education Association at Endicott, New York. Teachers from twenty-eight nations were present. Their energy and sincerity were inspiring.

In a two-week session they laid plans for exchanges in education, science and culture that will contribute immeasurably to world cooperation,
achieved through mutual understanding and united effort. They created a permanent organization to work with the United Nations, which, despite its imperfections and misunderstandings, is the best hope of mankind for peace.

I know that when I speak of education I strike a chord of sympathy in The American Legion. Your organization always has been dedicated to education.

American Education Week first was proposed by the American Legion in 1920 to focus the attention of the American people on the aims and achievements of our public school system, which shines as a beacon to the world. American Education Week now is observed each year in almost four thousand American communities. Last year it brought approximately ten million adults to visit their schools.

I commend the American Legion for that. Your activities in the field of child welfare, in your program of sports, in the project which you call Boys State, in your citizenship awards, in your oratorical contests, offer a valuable supplement to the work of the schools.

The restoration of educational opportunities interrupted by the war has been a major concern of our Association. Representatives of the National Education Association gave their support to the passage of the GI Bill of Rights which is familiar to all of you. This measure made it possible for more than one million young veterans to resume their high school and college educations. But with these opportunities, there needs to be insistence by all veterans and citizens that these rights be protected and preserved for the improvement of the occupational status of the veterans.

From the ranks of these men who know war will come the leaders who also will know peace and will be prepared to protect it with their minds as well as they did with their bodies.

The most deadly assaults on our form of government are coming today in the perversion of men's minds. The brutal ideologies of Communism and Fascism would destroy the nation you have fought to preserve. They would destroy the liberties won at Valley Forge, secured at Antietam, expanded in the Argonne and sanctified at Anzio and Iwo Jima.

The sacrifice of all the men who have marched off into the shadows are repudiated by the doctrines of Fascism and Communism.

The most effective defense—I believe the only defense—against both of these is education. Men who understand what liberty means, who realize the sword. It doesn't dig deep enough.

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with such competition, we won't be able to fulfill our obligations.

I say it is unfair competition because those who lure our teachers away with higher pay refuse to permit us to pay our teachers enough to keep them. They say it increases their taxes. Well, Communism and Fascism will do more than increase their taxes. They won't leave them anything to pay taxes on.

To be effective, our school system must be adequately staffed with competent people. It must reach all the children. It must give equality of education.

Today there is no equality of education. In the first place, there are two million children of school age who are not in school. If they were, we would need far more than one hundred sixty thousand new teachers. But those who lure our teachers from school also lure our children. That keeps their taxes down. They go to work in a factory where they find their teacher is a foreman. He teaches them there. But he doesn't educate them.

In 1940, we had ten million adults in the United States who were functionally illiterate and who for that reason were unable to serve their country efficiently in war, either on the home front or the battle front.

Illiterate men are not good soldiers or good workers.

I say there is no educational equality when in one state 36 per cent of the adult population is for all practical purposes illiterate, while in another only four per cent is in that condition. And there is no educational equality when one community spends sixty times as much to operate a single classroom as another community.

If we are to have the kind of nation we want and the kind of nation we must have if we are to defeat Communism and Fascism at home and build the peace, we must turn some intelligent attention to the coming generation.

This the American Legion can do if every post will turn its energy actively to the problems of education. It can do this if your national organization will continue to actively support the National Education Association in its drive for Federal aid for education without Federal control. Your Executive Committee has previously endorsed the program.

The American Legion of Washington under the leadership of Past Commander, James Green, has given evidence of its great interest in teacher recruitment by offering this year one hundred scholarships of two hundred fifty dollars each to students who will enter the elementary teacher-training institutions. However, only seventy-six applications were received, and all seventy-six are in institutions this fall training to be elementary teachers. This has meant much additional work for the Department Adjutant, Fred Fueker, and his busy staff, but the contribution that is being made to this training to be elementary teachers is such that it will be worth that extra effort.

With the help of The American Legion, the National Education Association can do these things. It can fill our classrooms with able teachers. It can establish educational equality at a higher standard than we have ever had before.

It can equip the next generation to solve problems that the last two generations could not solve.

And unless this third generation can solve those problems, there may be no fourth generation.

The torch, from failing hands, has been thrown to us. Be ours to hold it high.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MURPHY: Reduction of crime and subversive activities has always been close to the heart of The American Legion. It is our good fortune to have as the next speaker the man who is today sparking a national-wide offensive against these blood-suckers of democracy. A native Texan, a veteran of the first World War, he has devoted a decade of service in the Department of Justice to smoking out and prosecuting lawlessness of every kind through the efforts of The American Legion. As Assistant General in July, 1945, he came out swinging with announcement of Department of Justice procedure for the removal and repatriation of alien enemies. His work on juvenile delinquency, another pet concern of The American Legion, has been especially telling. I am privileged to present to you the Attorney General of the United States, and a Legionnaire, the Honorable Tom C. Clark.

ADDRESS BY HONORABLE TOM C. CLARK

Attorney General of the United States

I am happy to have this opportunity to address the defenders of our liberties.

I am especially glad of the chance to speak to those recently returned from the far-flung battle places of the world.

I wish there were sufficient time to pay adequate tribute to the many activities through which The American Legion is contributing to the building of a greater and better America.

The Preamble to the Constitution of the Legion: "To maintain law and order, To foster and perpetuate 100 per cent Americanism, To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to community, state and nation, To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy"—has always had deep meaning for me. It has taken on added meaning since I became Attorney General.

This Preamble is the expression of a beautiful ideal.

It is easy to state an ideal, but it is not so easy to make that ideal a reality.

Because profession and performance do not always go together, it is inspiring, indeed, to know that through the efforts of the Americanism, Child Welfare, Law and Order, and other committees of the Legion, the ideal of the Preamble is being translated into action in practically every part of the nation.

As a Legionnaire, I am glad to be able to tell you of the identity of purpose which some of the programs of the Department of Justice have with some of those of the Legion.

In the field of juvenile delinquency, the Legion's work—specially needed now during the rising tide of delinquency—has been sound, carefully planned and splendidly carried out.

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Twentieth Annual National Convention

The boys and girls of America are worth our attention.

To neglect their needs—whatever they may be—is to weaken the citizenship of the future.

The youth of today holds forth the promise of a better America tomorrow.

The welfare of our children is more precious than money.

In my capacity as Attorney General I have immediate responsibility for those juveniles who violate the federal laws.

But the federal problem cannot be isolated from the general juvenile problem, nor from the problem of the individual community—even the remotest community.

Federal juveniles come from all parts of the country.

They are the victims of community failures.

Therefore, I called together in February of this year a panel of leaders from the patriotic, civic, educational, religious and social work fields to serve as an advisory body on the juvenile delinquency problem.

I wished to get an appraisal of the problem; to hear the views of these authorities; and to focus the attention of American communities upon the very serious character of the situation.

I wanted, especially, to have consideration given to ways of mobilizing and developing community resources.

During a two-day meeting, the panel arrived at some general findings.

These findings are to be given further consideration and implementation in a larger conference of about 1,000 people to be held in Washington on October 21, 22, 23 of this year.

This conference will consider and recommend programs of specific action.

I am pleased to report that the President of the United States has extended his support in this effort to combat juvenile delinquency.

In the building of good citizenship, I have watched with real interest what the Legion has been doing.

The Legion in its sponsorship of character building programs for youth such as Boy Scouts, National High School Oratorical and Essay Contests, National Junior Baseball Championship, Boys' State and a host of other activities, is making an invaluable contribution to the youth of America.

The Boys' State, for example, as well as the Girls' State—designed to inculcate, in a selected group of young citizens, individual responsibility to community, state and nation through self-imposed lessons and practice in objective citizenship, is a great project to help prepare youth for the responsibilities of the future.

In years to come the key positions in the land will be in the hands of those who are the youth of today.

In assisting the foreign-born to become citizens and to understand the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, the work of the Legion is commendable.

In this field, too, I have a vital interest, both as a Legionnaire and as Attorney General.

However, at this point, I should like to make it crystal clear that former-criminals, near-criminals, and other more or less undesirable persons from foreign countries will be kept out of the United States.

They should be kept out—and they will be kept out.

Those of good quality will fill the immigrant quotas, those of bad quality will be excluded.

American citizenship is the most precious possession this country has to offer.

Its significance cannot be too strongly emphasized to those who seek it.

Emphasis upon the rights and responsibilities of citizenship must be a continuous process. It must not be left to chance.

For the reason, I have recently initiated a comprehensive program to stress the worth and meaning of citizenship from the time of entry of a potential citizen to the moment when citizenship is granted him by the court and even beyond that.

Some of the steps to be taken in this program are:

To instruct all representatives of the Department of Justice who have contact with those coming to our shores regarding the spirit in which they are to be received;

To put into the hands of those newcomers—whether potential citizens or visitors—a booklet written in their native language, which will both give significant facts about our country and convey a welcome;

To give to the new citizen, at the time of his induction into citizenship, a small brochure which will serve as a concrete symbol of the significance of the occasion and as a reminder of his responsibilities to his adopted country;

To develop cooperative relationships in carrying out the program with members of the Bench and Bar, and educational authorities and patriotic organizations; and

To have a National Advisory Committee to help in bringing about a wider application of the philosophy, ideas and practices of this program.

In all of this "The American Legion can be of great assistance.

The Legion can take just pride in what it has done to bring about nation-wide recognition, observance and commemoration of American citizenship.

It was one of the first sponsors of National Citizenship Recognition Day, now generally known as 'I Am an American Day.'

This day is regarded as an occasion for a rededication of all Americans to the ideals and principles of the American way of life.

It gives special honor to those from other lands who have been recently naturalized and to those young citizens of native birth who have just reached their maturity.

I have both a personal and official interest in this day—as a Legionnaire, and as Attorney General responsible for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

We must never forget the millions from other lands who have given their lives and labors to the building of America.

Throughout all the wars of our history, foreign-born Americans have fought by the side of other Americans.

During the recent war, approximately fourteen
It was a struggle against a philosophy that recognized no inalienable rights and made the individual a slave of the sovereign state, that crushed initiative, blocked social and cultural progress, and killed the joy of living.

Although vanquished on the field of battle, totalitarianism—tyranny over the mind and body of man—is not yet dead.

The seeds that have been sown are germinating; they can grow into a real threat to the freedom of mankind.

We would be untrue to ourselves, and false to mankind, if we minimized the issue—the clash between two ideologies, the democratic concept and the totalitarian idea.

We in America hold to the democratic concept.

The good American believes in the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. He respects the worth and dignity of human personality and has faith in his fellow man.

He believes in the dignity of work and in the equality of opportunity.

He concerns himself about the welfare of all the people and recognizes that the happiness of each is bound to the happiness of all.

He does his part to make democracy work for all instead of expecting it to work for him alone. He recognizes the right of every citizen to participate in the affairs of democracy.

He subscribes to the other ideals of democracy, cherishes democratic values and makes them a part of his life.

In peace time, however, some Americans fail to practice and defend the ways of democracy.

All too frequently we go to war to fight the enemy on foreign soil but, when the war is over, disregard the enemies of democracy within our borders.

It is easy to be patriotic and to work unselfishly and unceasingly for our country in war time. It is less easy to do so in peace time.

If we are willing to die for American principles in war we should be willing to live for these same principles in peace.

Our democracy is on trial today, perhaps on an even greater scale than ever before.

To oppressed peoples everywhere, America must stand out as a shining example of preachment and practice.

The ideal of democracy and the actual living of it must be brought into harmony.

The ideal is of little worth unless it becomes a living fact.

With all of our glorious history America is not perfect.

Many inadequacies still exist in our American way of life.

A good American can become a better America. Bringing the American ideal to fruition is a challenge to every citizen.

Lip loyalty is not sufficient. Repeating creeds, or pledging allegiance to the flag, or singing patriotic songs become empty forms unless followed by activities that add to the happiness of our people and to the strength of the nation.

We must be concerned with the problem of meeting the basic human needs throughout our land.

We must guide the blind, give strength to the weak, offer a shield to the defenseless, help raise the fallen, and provide for the hungry.

We must help lift the burdens from the shoulders of the forgotten people and make possible some of the good things of life to those who have too little.

The American who is well-fed, well-clothed,
and well-sheltered will have no part of commun-
ism or any other "ism."
When basic needs, spiritual as well as physical, are met, no foreign ideology will ever raise its
head in this country.
Failure to meet these human needs, however, can bring distress upon the land and pave the way
for the emergence of a dictator in the guise of a
protector, who with a siren voice leads a disturbed
people away from democracy.
This has happened in other countries, it must never happen here.
Our way of life must be such as to deserve the loyalty of the individual.
The philosophy underlying democracy is eternal. These responsible for carrying out the phil-
osophy, however, often fail. They fail democracy.
Democracy does not fail them.
Hate, prejudice and bigotry found no place in third fast of Americans during the crisis of war.
These destroyers of democracy must find no hiding place in the hearts of our citizens in the
days of peace.
Good will, understanding, and friendship were never meant for war alone.
Breeders, carriers and spreaders of hate, whether racial or religious, are un-American and strike at the very heart of the institutions upon which our liberties rest.
Those recently returned from the battle field of freedom learned that no artificial barriers—racial, religious or economic—separated the men of the fighting front.
All artificial barriers were wrong in principle and should be made impossible in fact in the life of
our people.
Those who would deny to others the rights that they themselves enjoy under the fundamental law of the land, strike at the very vitals of the Constit-
tution itself which guarantees rights and liber-
ties to all of us.
They endanger their own liberty of action when they trample upon the rights of their fellow
Americans.
The organization or group that turns the hand of one man against another because of differences in
race, color or creed delivers a grievous if not fatal blow, to the workings of democracy.
We must not stand by idly and see this happen.
I wish to state emphatically, here and now, that I expect to use all the laws at my command, and all that the Congress deems fit to give me in the future, to stamp out any movement that aims at the extermination of our priceless civil liberties.
In the last analysis, however, the preservation of our basic freedoms rests in the power of pub-
lic opinion.
It is therefore the duty of every American to stand fast and to make his voice heard in defense of these freedoms.
Veterans truly have a rendezvous with destiny! In America opportunity is not dead.
A babe of today nurtured in struggle, may be-
come the leader of tomorrow.
Every individual has the chance to play an important part, either as a leader, or in a simpler
though not less essential role, because democracy releases the energies of every human being.
In the political, economic and social life of our country, veterans are already playing an impor-
tant part.
They are destined to play a still more vital role.
Fifty per cent of all the males now holding Federal positions are veterans.
In the not distant future, it is estimated, this percentage will be increased to at least 75 per cent.
Incidentally, calumniating insinuations about subversive activities in our government should cause no worry. Neither communism nor any other kind of "ism" will find a lodging place among the veterans, who have learned the defense of liberty the hard way.
Likewise, in the not distant future, the majority of the appointive and elective offices in the state and local governments will be held by those who fought a war to defend the American way of life. Further, all of those who operate the political machinery of the nation must pass through the crucible of democratic selection.
In the voice of the people, millions of veterans will be heard—a great opportunity, indeed, that of voting citizens.
At this time, it might be well to recall the words of Carl Schurz. No citizen loved or under-
stood this country better.
America's finest concept of patriotism may be found in his immortal words:
"My country, right or wrong. If right, to be kept right.
If wrong, to be set right."
Let us support that which is right, and change that which is wrong.
But let us proceed to change it in the American way.
Ours is a government of Law and Order.
It is a government of officials chosen by the people.
If the officials carry out the will of the people, we should support them.
If they fail in this duty, we should turn them out.
We should, however, turn them out by ballots, not by bullets.
Bullet cut a dangerous pattern.
When things go wrong, let us see them right by peaceful exercise of our elective rights.
In this, and in all other actions affecting the interests of our community, state and nation, let us proceed, not as "GI's" but as American citizens.
May I repeat, a great opportunity unfolds before us, and a serious responsibility rests upon us.
Today, the sight of the flag brings us remem-
brance.
It bears silent witness of Americans who have given their lives that freedom shall not perish from the earth.
But more than remembrance is necessary.
We must be conscious of our great heritage, and hold high the torch that has been placed in
our hands.
We must do our part to give substance to the principles cherished by mankind since the dawn of history, and for which our comrades in arms gave their last full measure of devotion.
In the words of Franklin K. Lane, the flag speaks to us:
"I am whatever you make me—nothing more.
But always I am all that you hope to be and have the courage to try for.
"
"I am song and fear, struggle and panic and ennobling hope."

"I am the day's work of the weakest man, and the largest dream of the most daring."

"I am the Constitution and the courts statutes and the law makers, soldier and dreadnaught, drayman and street sweep, cook, counselor, and clerk.

"I am no more than what you believe me to be."

"My stars and my stripes are your dreams and your labors."

"For you are the makers of the flag, and it is well that you glory in the making."

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION BUREAU**

David N. Harsh, chairman, of Tennessee, reports as follows:

At the 27th annual convention held in Chicago in November, 1945, the Department of California, invited The American Legion to meet in the city of San Francisco to hold its 28th national convention. The invitation was received with appreciation, but due to the fact that your National Convention Bureau did not have on hand assurances that the convention could be housed and financed, it was obliged to recommend to the 27th national convention that the matter of selecting a convention city for 1946 be referred to the National Executive Committee.

At the National Executive Committee meeting held in November, 1945, proof that minimum housing and financial requirements would be met was still lacking and the National Executive Committee deferred selection of the 1946 convention city until a later date, and delegated to the National Commander and the National Convention Bureau the authority to proceed with arrangements subject to mail vote approval of the National Executive Committee.

The National Convention Bureau met in San Francisco, California, January 7, 8 and 9 to investigate financial and physical arrangements offered by the city of San Francisco for holding the convention. The city of San Francisco pledged the Legion the sum of $70,000 as an underwrite for holding the convention, and the Hotel Association of the Bay Area pledged 7,600 rooms and free use of all publicly-owned meeting halls. The National Commander and the National Convention Bureau recommended acceptance of this offer and the Executive Committee by mail vote unanimously confirmed it.

The money pledged by the city of San Francisco has been paid into the National treasury and the Legion appropriated a like sum for holding this convention. The hotel men of this city have cooperated with the Legion in every way possible, and although the maximum number of rooms promised could not be obtained, the convention has been housed through accommodations made available. The city of San Francisco, the hotels and business men of this great western metropolis, have cooperated to make this convention the success that it is. The National Convention Bureau on behalf of The American Legion hereby acknowledges this cooperation and publicly thanks the people of San Francisco for their genial hospitality.

Attendance at this convention will not break all previous records of prewar days, but the convention was well attended, with every department of the convention represented; and although the "big parade" was not as large this year as it has been in the past, this is understandable when the shortage of postwar housing and transportation conditions now existent is taken into consideration. Legion musical units have not yet had the time nor material to reorganize since the end of the war, and housing, transportation, and the distance involved naturally tended to retard huge attendance. This under the circumstances was desirable. While the Legion, with its tremendous membership would prefer to hold conventions attended by 200,000 or more Legionnaires, there just isn't this quantity of hotel rooms available to house them.

The prospects for a successful financial 28th national convention are excellent. Under the terms of the Legion's contract with the city of San Francisco, of revenue received from this convention, all monies spent from the National treasury of The American Legion will be first paid back in full and any subsequent revenues received will be applied as a refund against the $70,000 underwrite given the Legion by the city of San Francisco. The National Convention Bureau now reports that the 28th national convention held this year in San Francisco will be held without cost whatsoever to The American Legion and present indications are that the city of San Francisco will receive a substantial refund on monies paid the Legion to help underwrite the expense of holding the convention.

Again the Legion is assembled in convention session without any financial aid from any city or department of the Legion for holding the 28th national convention. This leaves your National Convention Bureau with no option as to its recommendation to the 27th national convention. We, therefore, recommend that the 28th national convention delegate to the National Executive Committee the authority to fix the time and place and the conditions under which the 28th national convention of the Legion will be held.

We wish again to thank the people of San Francisco for the fine hospitality afforded. We wish to thank the convention chairman, Edward Sharkley, and all members of the National Convention Bureau and the chairman and members of all convention subcommittees for their work which contributed to the success of this convention.

The report was adopted.

**PAST COMMANDER JOHNSON:** This is a pleasure indeed to present the next speaker, a friend of long standing, a college mate. He comes from the Volunteer State, the home of Cordell Hull, and one of our great Past National Commanders, Roane Waring. He worked his way through college and through a law school and started practicing law on less than a shoestring, and through his own initiative and ability and enterprise, has now reached the position of one of the outstanding citizens of Boston, Massachusetts. His story is typical of an American boy after graduating from college. He became United States District Attorney for Panama. He served as a captain in the Army in World War I. He mar-
ADDRESS BY WILLIAM K. JACKSON
President, Chamber of Commerce of the United States

I am honored by this opportunity to convey to you and through you to all veterans of the two World Wars, the sense of gratitude and comradeship felt by the United States Chamber of Commerce. I know that those sentiments are shared by all other business men. We are all deeply aware of the contribution you have made and continue to make toward safeguarding cherished American values, and are eager to work with you in that common task.

Many National Chamber members are themselves veterans. Many also are Legionnaires. I trust I am within bounds, therefore, in saying that I can talk to you here today not as an outsider bringing a message, but as a member of the family discussing common interests and problems.

When we deal with those basic freedoms for which we have repeatedly paid in blood and substance, we are no longer business men and workers, veterans and non-veterans. We are Americans—the simplest, proudest and noblest designation in the world.

I know that in this hardboiled age it is not quite fashionable to speak in such terms of rock-bottom patriotism. Its more stylish to be wisecracking and a bit cynical. But I dare to be old-fashioned in this respect. I happen to believe that the time is ripe for reviving the fashion of simple and uninhibited love of country. I am convinced that we must return to the headwaters of American history for a refreshing draught of those traditions of liberty and self-reliance and dedication to high purpose which made our nation what it is.

This is particularly urgent today, when so many in our midst divide and subdivide us endlessly into classes and races and special-interest groups. I am not concerned with their motives. I am very much concerned with the effects of their preachments of class struggle and government by agents of foreign movements, their activities are equally pernicious.

Our duty, it seems to me, is entirely clear. It is to continue in the future, as in the past, to think and feel and act as a united people. It is to exorcise and oppose divisive propagandas and organizations. It is, above all, to foster and recognize the loyalty to America, its precepts of freedom and its institutions of political and economic democracy.

Common sense demands that we face the peril of this juncture in world history with open eyes and clear minds. Only incurable pollyannas can ignore the tensions that are rising up throughout the world in this troubled aftermath of victory. Only the muddle-headed would risk relaxing our national vigilance or dropping our military defenses at this time.

The democracies have won the war. They have yet to win the peace. And one thing is certain: they will lose the peace, lose it beyond the hope of redemption, unless they confront the tasks of this critical period with the same concentration of purpose and the same realism they brought to the tasks of war.

We gain nothing by kidding ourselves. The present leaders of totalitarianism have no scruples about reviling us as a nation, distorting our motives and attacking our way of life. They are giving their helpless subjects and captive peoples behind their walls of censorship a fantastically false picture of our country, our people and our peaceful purposes.

We cannot bring the truth about America to the Russian people, but at least we can bring the truth about Russia to Americans. There's no longer any reason to pretend that there is a world in which there is no talk on that subject. The Soviet regime was "oversold" to us during the war, and it is high time that we undid the mischief. The late President Roosevelt was right when he told us in 1940 that Russia was a dictatorship no less than Nazi Germany. We admire and honor the Russian people for their valor and their sacrifices. But we neither admire nor honor the dictatorship that's enthroned on their bent backs.

The tragic truth is that because of the high-handed methods of that dictatorship we have already lost much of the fruit of our dearly-bought victory. In many parts of the globe the war for liberation has only brought a new enslavement.

Tens of millions of our fellowmen who looked forward to a chance for freedom may get only a change of masters. In country after country the principles for which we went into battle—as summed up in the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms and other documents—are being turned into a mockery.

We cannot evade our portion of the guilt for this situation. In the measure that we have consented to injustice in the name of expediency, we have betrayed our conscience. We shall be compounding that guilt a hundredfold unless we call a halt to appeasement and begin to stand up like men for the rights of humanity.

It is tempting to pretend that we live in the "one world" that figured in wartime oratory. Those without the moral stamina to look at a fact in the eye yield to that temptation. The rest of us have no alternative but to face the fact that the globe has been cut into two segments.

It is a fact that cannot be wished away with bedtime stories about "Soviet democracy." It cannot be escaped by retreating into a new isolationism. Twice before in our generation we sowed illusions about our country's disinterest in world affairs and each time we reaped disillusionment in a world holocaust. We must not, we dare not, make that blunder a third time.

Yes, there are two distinct worlds. One of them is predicated on the supremacy of the individual human being, his freedom, his dignity, his immortal soul. The other is predicated on the supremacy of the state, which uses and abuses human beings, shoving them around or killing them off, as best suits its purpose.

One of these worlds derives from the Bible,
the Rights of Man, the Declaration of Independence and the American Bill of Rights. The other derives from Machiavelli and Marx's theory of perpetual class war; from Hitler's Mein Kampf and Stalin's Problems of Leninism.

There are those who contend that the two worlds can meet and merge on some common ground in the middle. They are deceiving themselves with fairy tales. You can't average up freedom and despotism, free trade unions and forced labor, free speech and iron curtaila. You can't reconcile the free individual and the super-state. It is about as futile to look for a common denominator between democracy and Soviet Communism as between democracy and Fascism or Nazism.

Even if such an in-between system of life were possible, we Americans would have none of it. It happens that we want our freedom and our human dignity and our democratic privileges undiluted. We can yield to no compromises on the plan of human and spiritual values. We have not fought and won a war in order to surrender any part of our heritage of liberty to please yesterday's allies.

Mind you, I am not asserting that these two worlds cannot exist simultaneously. There have been other periods in history—in the transition from feudalism to free economy, for instance—when two or more irreconcilable systems held sway at the same time.

But they will remain alien worlds, conscious at all times of their unending duel for the soul of mankind. In that duel we shall lose by default if we become indifferent to the outcome, if we relax our vigilance, if we permit fifth columns to corrupt our loyalties to America.

There are, as I said, Americans who peddle fables about a middle ground between Sovietism and democracy. But the Soviet leaders do not indulge in such make-believe. During the war they gave lip service to the freedoms set up as shining goals for all the Allies. But we know now that this was not a change of heart. It was just a temporary change of tactics. We know now that the basic Communist strategy, as outlined a thousand times by Lenin and Stalin, was never abandoned.

If any of us have doubts on this matter, it is surely no fault of the Kremlin. They have been frank. They have not bothered to conceal their purposes. In their Soviet home land and in our own country they have announced a postwar 'party line' candidly directed to the abolition of our way.

In his speech of last February 9th, announcing a 15-year plan for militarising his country, Generalissimo Stalin blamed the last war on "monopoly capitalism," meaning us. He insisted that other such wars are inevitable as long as that "monopoly capitalism" remains in existence.

That's a most unpleasant picture, but again I say: we cannot afford to kid ourselves that Stalin doesn't mean it. Had we taken Hitler at his own word, World War II might have been avoided. If we listen carefully to Stalin, and take him at his own word, the greater catastrophe of World War III can be avoided.

We Americans do not share his conviction that another war is inevitable. We believe we can prevent it by being strong, self-reliant and realistic—by resisting totalitarian expansion now, before it grows too great and too confident to be headed off.

Whether we like it or not, the United States has become the heart and hub of the democratic world, just as the Soviet Union is the heart and hub of the world of dictatorship. We have the same profound interest in extending the area of freedom that the Kremlin has in extending the area of totalitarianism. A defeat for democracy anywhere, whether in China or Poland, in Latin America or Italy, in Korea or the Near East, is a defeat for our world.

The record is clear. We have concealed and compromised in our anxiety to live and let live. In the process we have learned again that dynamic dictatorships, whether they fly brown banners or red ones, swastikas or hammer-and-sickles, cannot be appeased.

America has nothing to apologize for, unless it be our naive readiness to accept the pledged word of dictators. We can face our own generation and posterity with a clear conscience if we are able to learn the first profound lesson of this era: that the Kremlin is the heart and hub of the world of dictatorship. We have the same profound interest in extending the area of freedom that the Kremlin has in extending the area of totalitarianism. A defeat for democracy anywhere, whether in China or Poland, in Latin America or Italy, in Korea or the Near East, is a defeat for our world.

I submit that this is the surest way, the only way, to prevent a third World War.

While supporting the United Nations as long as there is a margin of hope that it will do the job, we must remain militarily strong as insurance against all contingencies. We should not be so childish as to give away any military secrets to a dictatorship whose entire country is being guarded like a triple-sealed secret. Meanwhile we must put a backbone into our foreign policies. We must not let down smaller nations struggling to escape the clammy tentacles of Soviet domination. We must give generously of our economic resources and know-how to bolster existing or potential democracies.

Science tells us that survival is the first law of nature. If we Americans do not have a will to survive, we deserve to go under. But I do not for a moment grant that supposition. I believe we shall not abdicate our position of leadership. We shall muster the manhood to stand up for what we know to be right and just and indispensable to our survival in a shrinking world.
REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM

 Archie M. Closson, chairman, of California, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, Calif., September 30 to October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946.

Fifty-three members of your Committee on Americanism met at 5 p.m., September 30, 1946, in Committee Room 308 in the War Memorial Building and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Resolutions Nos. 420, 148, 418, 706, 419, 509, 233, 224, 297, 46, 421, 456, 729, 610 and 665 were tabled.

Resolutions Nos. 222, 126, 130, 127, 132, 131, 825, 532, 469, 596, 439, 178, 467, 455, 298, 526, 152, 468, 498 and 125 were referred to the National Americanism Commission for study and appropriate action.

Resolution No. 292 was referred to the Standing National Legislative Committee for study and appropriate action.

Resolution No. 494 was referred to the Standing National Rehabilitation Committee for study and appropriate action.

Resolutions Nos. 149, 133, 559, 530 and 457 were rejected.

Resolutions Nos. 120, 286, 343, 362, 454, 493, 522, 529, 556, 612, 678, 738, 824, 423, 664, 197, 728, 382, 177, 383, 384, 209, 689, 385, 198, 416, 468, 601, 332, 361, 353, 705, 281, 258, 150, 740, 235, 454, 151, 256, 169, 291, 287, 663, 47, 294, 558, 557, 739, 153, 199, 662, 550 and 290 were consolidated in this report of your committee dealing with these subjects.

The following resolutions were adopted by your Convention Committee and are submitted herewith for your consideration:

Restrict All Quota Immigration

Resolution No. 705 (consolidated)—

Whereas, Our country is faced with a most critical housing shortage and hundreds of thousands of our war veterans are unable to secure homes, and the fact that serious unemployment is possible in the not distant future; therefore be it

Resolved, by The American Legion in annual national convention assembled in San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That it requests the President of the United States to suspend by executive order and/or the Congress of the United States by appropriate legislation to restrict all quota immigration on the basis of the National Origins Act as well as displaced refugee immigration until January 1, 1948.

Federal Participation in School Support

Resolution No. 728 (consolidated)—

The critical situation in American education caused by the shortage of teachers is undermining the educational opportunities of millions of children and constitutes a threat to the individual competence which is a cornerstone of national defense. The reason for present exodus from the teaching profession is primarily an economic one. We therefore reiterate the action taken by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in 1945 in adopting the following resolution:

We recommend the consideration of legislation before the United States Congress providing for federal participation in school support, and urge that legislation which adequately protects the schools from federal domination and secures the continued existence of local control of schools receive the support of The American Legion.

The American Legion now resolves that, in view of the present serious situation, its support will be vigorous and continuous.

Enrollment of World War II Veterans in Subversive and Racket Organizations

Resolution No. 291—

Whereas, The American Legion more than a year ago exposed and condemned the psychological warfare being waged by the enemies of our country by way of sinister propaganda; and

Whereas, These subversive and racket organizations are continuing their un-American attacks in their campaign to divide the people of the United States; and

Whereas, They are now engaged in organizing veterans' division for the purpose of enrolling men and women discharged from service in the military forces of our country, and these same organizations still plan to use the returning veterans for their divisive and hate propaganda by still false promises and offers of assistance in the postwar period, and making this newest activity another form of their subversive operations as well as a dangerous swindling racket; therefore be it

Resolved, by The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That The American Legion condemns these attempts of subversive and racket groups to enroll veterans of World War II in their organizations, and warns the patriotic and loyal young men and women in the armed forces of the dangers of enrolling with these un-American forces and their programs of intolerance, bigotry and hate; and be it further

Resolved, That officers and members of The American Legion posts throughout the United States be made aware of these activities and urged to check and report to the Americanism Commission on these organizations and their leaders engaged in enrolling veterans of World War II.

Oppose Racial and Religious Hatred

Resolution No. 289 (consolidated)—

Whereas, It has been the policy of The American Legion since its inception to oppose any prejudices or social and religious demarcations within its ranks; and

Whereas, We recognize that the forces which promote racial and religious hatred are destructive to freedom and democracy; and

Whereas, We recognize that un-American groups and individuals are continuing to spread racial and religious hatred within our own country; and

Whereas, We recognize that those un-American groups and individuals are disrupting national unity and are dangerous to the perpetuation of American democracy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That The American Legion, recognizing this danger, does hereby reaffirm its opposition to the spread of such un-American doctrines and to any appeals based on them; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge our fellow citizens of all races and creeds to actively cooperate with us by demonstrating a spirit of amity, understanding
and brotherhood towards their fellow Americans; and be it further
Resolved, That The American Legion through its Americanism program continue to protect the constitutional guarantees of liberty and freedom for every American by unhesitatingly condemning and exposing those groups and individuals who are promoting intolerance and disunity.

Oppose Discrimination Against any Veteran Seeking Education
Resolution No. 544 (revised)—
Be it Resolved, by The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That The American Legion opposes discrimination against any veteran seeking education under the provisions of the G. I. Bill of Rights.

Commendation of Federal Bureau of Investigation
Resolution No. 821—
Whereas, The Federal Bureau of Investigation has faithfullly and successfully performed its duties and functions throughout the period of the war; and
Whereas, The Federal Bureau of Investigation is performing its duties and functions with equal brilliance and success in the postwar period; therefore be it
Resolved, That the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention of The American Legion in San Francisco, California, on September 30 to October 4, 1946, express its appreciation and commendation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation through its able director, J. Edgar Hoover.

Appreciation for Hearst Trophy
Resolution No. 823—
Whereas, The American Legion has for the ninth year received the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy, said trophy being presented annually to that department adjudged to have carried out the best Americanism program for the year; therefore be it
Resolved, That this Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention of The American Legion, assembled in San Francisco, California, on September 30 to October 4, 1946, does hereby commend William Randolph Hearst for making this trophy available.

Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award
Resolution No. 822—
Be it Resolved, by the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention of The American Legion, assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That the appreciation of The American Legion be expressed to Lewis S. Rosenstiel in recognition of his consistent support of activities furthering the principles of Americanism and good citizenship in making available the 1946 annual award which is presented to the Legionnaire who is considered by the National Americanism Commission to have performed the most outstanding record of unselfish community service.

Appreciation to the Ford Motor Company
Your committee by unanimous vote expressed its appreciation to the Ford Motor Company for its consistent support of and extensive material aid to the American Legion Junior Baseball program, which support and aid during 1946 helped to make it possible for some 30,000 Junior Baseball teams and some 800,000 boys to compete in Junior Baseball under Legion post sponsorship.

50,000 Students From Foreign Countries to Study in Our Colleges
Resolution No. 492—
Whereas, The Department of State of the United States recommends the importation of at least fifty thousand persons from foreign lands for the purpose of education in our colleges and universities; and
Whereas, The veterans of World War II are unable to be accommodated in our own institutions of learning; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, by The American Legion in Twenty-eighth Annual Convention assembled in San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That such action be disapproved until our veterans are taken care of with respect to their educational needs.

August 14th Be Observed as Victory Day
Resolution No. 707—
Be it Resolved, by The American Legion in Twenty-eighth Annual Convention assembled in San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That we advocate that August 14th be made a national holiday to be known as Victory Day and that appropriate legislation be enacted.

Boys' Forum of National Government to Be a Permanent Program
Resolution No. 690—
Whereas, The Boys' Forum of Good Government, initiated this year by the National Organization, proved to be such an outstanding success; therefore be it
Resolved, That the Boys' Forum of Good Government be established as a permanent program to be conducted and supervised by and under the Americanism Commission.

Nationality Act of 1940
Resolution No. 422—
Whereas, Attempts are being made in the Congress of the United States to amend the Nationality Act of 1940 for the purpose of permitting aliens to acquire citizenship without meeting the modest educational and other required qualifications prescribed in the Act; and
Whereas, Amendment of the Act is being attempted for the purpose of enabling over 3,500,000 aliens to acquire voting, pension benefits and other citizenship privileges;
Resolved, by The American Legion in Twenty-eighth Annual Convention assembled in San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That we oppose any and all attempts at modification of the Nationality Act of 1940 unless the education and other standards prescribed in aforementioned Act are raised instead of lowered.

Extended Period of Naturalization Privileges for Veterans
Resolution No. 417—
Whereas, The privileges granted to veterans who served in the armed forces to obtain naturalization under Section 701 of the Nationality Act expire December 31, 1946; and
Whereas, Many men who might apply have not yet returned to this country; be it
Resolved, by The American Legion in Twenty-
eight Annual Convention assembled in San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That it favors the enactment of legislation by Congress to extend the time during which the privileges may be granted and that appropriate action be taken to secure such extension.

Advocate "Citizenry Week" to interest Citizens to Vote

Resolution No. 285—

Whereas, It is the belief of The American Legion that America's ability to pursue its present form of government is for the people to regain their interest in politics; and

Whereas, We believe that all Americans must press for the full utilization of the hard-earned right to vote, won only after supreme sacrifice by American manhood and their shedding of blood; and

Whereas, A campaign, state and national in scope, should be instituted to seek support of a strictly nonpartisan "Citizenry Week" to be observed throughout the nation from October 28, 1946, to November 3, 1946, for the purpose of interesting all citizens of all states of voting age and eligible to cast their votes at the General Elections a week later; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the American Legion in annual convention assembled in San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That we do seek state and nation-wide support by all governmental authorities, labor and management, civic and patriotic organizations, ministers of all religious faiths, retail merchants, wholesalers and bankers, of a strictly nonpartisan "Citizenry Week" to be observed in the United States the week of October 28 to November 3, 1946, urging all citizens to cast their votes, exercise their right of franchise, whereby protecting and controlling their own destinies, only fulfilled by living in a free government.

Sponsor "National Flag Week"

Resolution No. 170—

Whereas, On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the first Stars and Stripes by resolving that the Flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new Constellation; the number of stars now having increased to forty-eight; for each State of the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new Constellation; and

Whereas, This emblem of justice, freedom and democracy has been carried into battle on the high seas and on battlefields around the world during eight wars in which the United States of America has been engaged, not one of which has been a war of aggression, all having been conflicts in the interest of expanding and extending human liberties; and

Whereas, From 1939 to 1943 the United States Flag Association, and from 1943 to 1946 the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association have sponsored the observance of "National Flag Week," such sponsorship having for its purpose the focusing of greater attention upon this nation of the United States and every decent democratic principle for which cause over 300,000 Amer-

Resolved, by The American Legion in annual convention assembled in San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946. That

(1) We do hereby endorse the observance of "National Flag Week," as sponsored by the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association of Baltimore, Maryland.

(2) We recommend that the several departments and all posts urge the governors of their states and the mayors of the principal cities to issue Flag Week proclamations and appoint local committees to further the aims and purposes of the observance, and that all posts take an active part in such observances.

House Committee on Un-American Activities

Resolution No. 293—

Whereas, The American Legion in connection with its Americanism program has lent its support and prestige to the creation and continuation of the House Committee with Congress to investigate un-American activities; and

Whereas, The committee's activities have led to exposing many organizations and persons with a leaning toward Communist ideology, for which the committee is to be commended; and

Whereas, It has been the policy of The American Legion as part of its Americanism program to condemn and oppose all forms of subversive activities, whether they be in the nature of Communism, Fascism or Nazism, or whether manifested by an appeal to racial hatreds and prejudices or by attempts to divide this nation into industrial strife by agitating and fomenting trouble between capital and labor, and economic group against economic groups; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That any evidence of unconstitutional attack upon our form of government be promptly submitted to the un-American Activities Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States for proper investigation and handling; and therefore be it further

Resolved, by the American Legion in annual convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946. That we hereby commend the good work of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and we do further recommend that the National Americanism Commission keep the membership of The American Legion informed as to all activities and proceedings of the House Committee on Un-American Activities of Congress.

Tolerance

Resolution No. 120 (consolidated)—

Whereas, It has ever been the policy of The American Legion that a broad-minded and tolerant respect for all races and creeds be cultivated; and

Whereas, Recent incidents throughout the United States have revealed the reactivation of the Ku Klux Klan and other organizations with similar undemocratic and un-American purposes; and

Whereas, The activities of these groups, particularly the Ku Klux Klan, promote racial, religious and class hatred, brutality and oppression; and

Whereas, These organizations by their teachings severely conflict with every tenet of the Constitution of the United States and every decent democratic principle for which cause over 300,000 Amer-
Resolved, by The American Legion in national convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That the Ku Klux Klan and all similar organizations be outlawed and removed from society by legislation; and be it further,

Resolved, That The American Legion cause to be introduced and actively promote and support legislation to this end in the several State Legislatures and in the Congress of the United States.

Violators of Selective Service Act
Resolution No. 824 (consolidated)—
Whereas, The American Legion is vigorously interested and alarmed at the present seeming lack of action and interest on the part of the duly constituted government authorities with reference to the conduct of conscientious objectors; and
Whereas, This organization has unequivocally opposed and continues to oppose the granting of mass clemency to Selective Service violators; and
Whereas, The National Executive Committee at its June, 1946, meeting considered the question of enforcing the law governing the conduct of conscientious objectors and concluded that there is a laxity in such enforcement;
Whereas, The Attorney General has been urged to correct this situation and has expressed a desire to do so;
Whereas, In our opinion the law is not being enforced by the Department of Justice and as a result the efficient functioning of the Selective Service Act is being impaired with respect to such conscientious objectors, while patriotic youths are still being drafted to serve their country in the armed forces and continues their personal sacrifices; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion insists that the Attorney General and the Department of Justice carry out the full letter of the law in prosecuting violators of the Selective Service Law and regulations thereunder.

Indian Citizenship
Resolution No. 177 (consolidated)—
Whereas, Indians classified as such by law are not all entitled to the privileges of American citizens; and
Whereas, Indians have demonstrated that they are worthy of the rights of American citizens; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by The American Legion at national convention at San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, That appropriate steps be taken to have Congress enact statutes permitting all American Indians to become citizens of this country with all rights of citizenship;
And that all existing discriminatory laws against American Indians be forthwith repealed;
And that all existing treaty rights and privileges be retained by the Indians.

Mob Violence
Resolution No. 740 (consolidated)—
Whereas, The preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion pledges all-out support to the Constitution of the United States of America; and
Whereas, Veterans and other American citizens have been brutally murdered through actions of mob violence; and
Whereas, Every American is guaranteed the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness with every protection of our legally constituted authorities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion in annual convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, goes on record as denouncing mob action and requests that Congress immediately enact such laws as are required to guarantee the citizen his Constitutional rights and to punish violators in such a drastic manner as to eliminate mob rule.

Oppose Re-Entry of Fritz Kuhn and Others Deported for Un-American Activities
Resolution No. 611—
Whereas, Fritz Kuhn, prominent leader of the German-American Bund, was fairly tried, sentenced and deported from the United States, and placed in prison in Germany; and
Whereas, He has recently been released from prison in Germany and has made the following statement: "That he wanted to return to the United States of America where there was a fertile field, and that he did not care to remain in Germany, for there was no future there for him;" now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion in national convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946, that we go on record opposing his readmittance to the United States of America now or at any time in the future; and be it further

Resolved, That we go on record opposing the readmittance of anyone deported from the United States of America for un-American activities.

Exclude Conscientious Objectors From All Civil Service Jobs
Resolution No. 147—
Whereas, The American Legion deems the following subject to be to the best interests of all persons who bore arms in defense of the United States of America in times of war; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That any person or persons, excluding those whose service was in the non-combatant branch or branches of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, who was or is a conscientious objector, or any person or persons who refused to serve his country in the defense thereof, be denied the holding of a Civil Service job offered by the Federal, state or local subdivisions of the government of the United States of America.

That the Congress and the Legislatures of the several states of the United States of America be urged to enact suitable legislation to prevent the employment of all such persons herein described in Civil Service by the Federal Government and all its political subdivisions.

Subversive Activities
Resolution No. 294 (consolidated)—
Whereas, The American Legion has constantly denounced Communism and all other isms of subversive character; and
Whereas, Various groups of such subversive elements advocate other forms of government contrary to the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America; and
Whereas, National Director of the Federal Bu-
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reou of Investigation J. Edgar Hoover told in no uncertain terms of the activities of these groups in his speech of Monday, September 30, 1946; and

Whereas, Large sums of money are being spent by these subversive forces to develop their programs; and

Whereas, A great complacency has arisen amongst the citizens of the United States of America regarding their duties as citizens; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we of The American Legion do condemn and vigorously oppose all forms of isms contrary to Americanism; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Headquarters of The American Legion be directed to institute a positive educational program to educate the citizens of the United States in the principles of the Constitution and the freedoms guaranteed by that Constitution, as well as the bad features of other forms of government; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Finance Committee make an appropriation to the National Americanism Commission of an adequate sum—and we propose the sum of $250,000.00 for the carrying out of its present programs and the development of this new expanded program, immediately, and the employment of needed increase of personnel as soon as possible.

The Convention Americanism Committee had referred to it through National Adjutant Donald G. Glascoff, a report from the chairman of the Americanism Endowment Fund Board of Trustees, this action by resolution of the National Executive Committee, for consideration by the Convention Americanism Committee.

Having considered the report of the chairman of the Americanism Endowment Fund Board of Trustees, the Convention Americanism Committee adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the National Commander and the National Executive Committee be requested to appoint a special committee to investigate the status of the Americanism Endowment Fund, and submit recommendations as to any future course of action relating to the campaign to raise the Fund.

The report was adopted.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLY: I appreciate the honor of introducing The American Legion’s next distinguished speaker.

At an early age he looked upon any job he could get as a benefit to. Getting the right to work at a job—any job, he thought was a privilege. He swept floors, carried out ashes. He was a sailor, a longshoreman, a structural steel worker. He once carried a union card. Like most of us he accumulated small savings. Like many of us he lost them in various ventures. But he learned business.

He was a newspaper reporter and an advertising salesman. Then he entered the field of merchandising and management. In 1929 he moved to New York. Two years later he became President of Manning, Maxwell & Moore, Inc., which position he still holds. Under his direction the company was revitalized. It is today one of the largest manufacturers of industrial equipment for the nation.

Last December he was elected President of the National Association of Manufacturers. That distinction was a natural result of his understanding, his vigor and his effectiveness and the services he had brought to many of the association’s major activities.

He comes to speak from his heart to us as an exponent of our American business system as he learned it through working for it and in it. He is a fine example of the possibilities of the system itself and a tribute and honor to the principles in which he and we believe. It is a genuine pleasure to present Robert R. Wason.

ADDRESS BY ROBERT R. WASON

President, National Association of Manufacturers

The American Legion, largest veterans’ organization in size, unequalled in its patriotism, unexcelled in its devotion to national welfare, must be America’s first defender.

War destroys life and property. It reduces the freedom of man. Its agonies live in the mind and soul of each of you. Within your ranks are those who fought two wars to preserve American liberties. Now, returned, you see your liberties reduced at home. You see the boundaries of true democracy become smaller abroad. You who gave us victory in war have earned the right to question the victory your sacrifices attained.

You are met in San Francisco to assist the nation’s welfare.

The war has ended but there is no peace. American planes are shot out of the sky in Yugoslavia. American Marines are ambushed in the streets of Trieste and on the highways of China. The appeasement of Hitler at Munich is replaced by concessions to Russia at Yalta, Teheran and Paris.

In the Paris Peace Conference the dictatorship of Hitler at Munich is replaced by that of Stalin.

Apprehension about security at home and peace abroad shakes the nation. At home the State Department criticizes MacArthur’s opposition to Communism in Japan. Patrick Hurley resigns as Minister to China because of his conviction that leftist employees in the State Department are undermining its Americanism.

Abroad, General Clark in Trieste pushed Tito’s Communists beyond the Morgan Line with bayonets. At the UNRA later sent ship loads of American medicines and steel to make bandages and bayonets for Tito’s Communists.

The danger that menaces us abroad is even greater and more immediate at home. There can be no threat of war with Russia except through division of counsels and greed for Communist votes in America.

On Sept. 6 at Stuttgart, Secretary of State
Summary of Proceedings of the

Byrnes publicly proclaimed Russia’s abandonment of the Potsdam Agreement. He stated the case against Communism through the world. At home as a result of peace from Mr. Byrnes’ staff, the State Department by Congress 40 men and women had been fired for having what the State Department called close connections or involvements with foreign governments.

On the day that Byrnes spoke at Stuttgart, all seamen and all longshoremen struck at every ocean port in America. This unity we need, the power we possess for survival, must be expressed in Washington. Peace is what we seek, peace is what we must have. It can be achieved when every American is loyal first to America. Phillip Murray refuses to renounce the Communist and CIO Unions that keep him in power. The CIO-PAC does not reject Communist membership. The Government in Washington sent Wallace to Madison Square Garden to solicit their support.

The wage Stabilization celling was abandoned by John Steelman to give labor increases in wages without giving equivalent increases in production to the public. Never in American history have agriculture and industry been geared to produce so much food and goods and services. Never in history have the obstacles to this necessary production and distribution been so many, so costly, and so ruinous to our defense at home and our welfare abroad. At a time when war debt should be reduced, and the power of America to defend itself increased, the savings of the people are being dissipated by inflationary concessions in exchange for votes.

The Government has made $21 billion available to foreign nations in grants and loans to assist their recovery. To the same extent, it has undermined America’s power to defend itself from attack in later years. At home the non-military expenses of the Government increased $5 billion in the first fiscal years of peace. Demobilization of soldiers with guns was offset in part by mobilization of bureaucrats with deals.

Billions of dollars of war supplies are left on the fields of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America rather than antagonize the people by requisitioning the goods with shortages exist at home and OPA prevents production. Hundreds of millions of dollars are given to Russia which stubbornly resists the making of a peace.

Your Government at Yalta gave the Kurile Islands to Russia. Let it now try to obtain a necessary landing base on any of these islands for American planes flying the North Pacific. Your Government granted the land of Germany to Poland, Rumania’s Basarabia to Russia, the SASScar to France, but it has not yet obtained sovereignty or even trusteeship over the atolls of the Marshall and Caroline Islands that permitted Japan to attack us in 1941.

MacArthur landed in Australia after its Government had decided to abandon the northern third of that great continent to the Japanese. MacArthur defended Australia from New Guinea. The lives of your comrades were lost in the effort. Hundreds of millions of dollars were spent. Australia was saved. But your Government has not yet obtained even unpopulated Manus Island from Australia to assist its protection and ours.

In war, the American armed forces demonstrated their overpowering strength. American industry and American labor proved their abilities to outproduce the world. These displays of strength derived from our power of industrial production. It was the accrued savings of the American people that bought the tools of war. It was American management and labor genius which put these savings to productive use in industry.

America is a mechanized nation. Of 13 million men and women called to the colors, 13 million by observation or experience could drive motors and fly planes. By the latest results from effective tools in the hands of American skilled workmen. The have-not nations have no horsepower.

Seventeen months ago, war ended in Europe. Fourteen months ago it ended in Asia. It has not yet ended in the lives of 140 million Americans. In peacetime, your Government refuses to restore the economic liberties which were given it to help win the war. Mussolini, Hitler and Hirohito proved to the world that individual liberty is inseparable from economic liberty. Today I speak for the return of the liberties which we have lost.

Government controls make houses as scarce as meat. New houses that can’t be rented at a profit can’t be built. Every Government housing program for 10 years past has been a “dope.” The present housing program has not even built “dophouses.” It only deceives the veterans.

The authoritarian controls of Bismarck made the first World War inevitable. The authoritarian controls of Hitler organized the second World War. Authoritarian controls imported from Europe brought economic anarchy to the American economy.

Despite the power of American industry to pay constantly higher wages to workers, to give constantly lower prices to consumers and a fair return to investors, industry is without friends as meat. New houses that can’t be rented at home and OPA prevents production.

If America is to be strong, you must defend its industry. You must take from its throat the collectivists in Washington that choke it. If industry is to employ workers it must be given equality with labor.

If industry is to raise the American standard of living as in the past, it must be kept free to do so. If industry is to equip the armed forces of the future, The American Legion must defend it from its Washington saboteurs. If industry is to protect the American way of life, the authoritarian controls that prevent its functioning must be removed.

In 14 years industry has had no representative in Government. The Department of Commerce which is supposed to represent industry was occupied and administered by avowed enemies of American industry which they were chosen to defend.

The Department of Labor, with Schwelbenbach as secretary, and John Gibson, ex-GOPO or-
The right to sell at a fair profit is as fundamental to our economic freedom as the right to a job at fair pay; they are the same thing. Goods that can't be made at a fair profit just won't get made.

The tools of industry are bought with savings of all the people. Savings invested in tools create more jobs than savings on deposit in banks. Both savings and wages must be defended by you, if the America that made us is to survive.

In America, the tools of industry are within the law, they no longer believe Keynes' gospel, taught us in the 30's, that savings are bad, that debt is good, and that paper money is a benefit to the nation. It is true that we fought a war and have to pay its costs. But that is no reason why the controls we fought to destroy in Europe should be forced upon us in America.

The American people are smarter than any collectivistic group or individual or family within our nation. They no longer believe Keyses' gospel, taught us in the 30's, that savings are bad, that debt is good, and that paper money is a benefit to the nation. It is true that we fought a war and have to pay its costs. But that is no reason why the controls we fought to destroy in Europe should be forced upon us in America.

Bureaucratic controls of prices, wages, profits and controls of interest rates and allocation of capital funds, combine to prevent the most efficient application of human energies to national resources. The result always has been poverty. You never have it been wealth.

The war has ended everywhere in the world except in Washington. Controls that come out of it still shock industry and prevent the most adequate use of the tools of our nation.

In America, labor unions have become a super-government. The Administration in Washington is their stooge. For years the Administration has run labor unions' errands, apologized for messes they made, forgiven their assaults on the welfare of the public, condoned their violence, and in payment has received power from labor union votes.

None of us regrets labor's gains, but all of us are paying for concessions sold to labor by a subservient Government in exchange for votes. The costs are yet to be paid for by all the American people.

More than 100 million man-days were wasted in strikes since V-J Day as a result of the mistaken policies of OPA and other federal officials.

Time after time, the Senate rejected efforts to equalize labor union laws. When the Case Bill was amended on the floor of the Senate, it was vetoed by the President and sustained by Republican votes.

The people are not against labor; they are not against unions. They are overwhelmingly against the unrestrained violation of the people's rights by bad union leadership, sponsored and directed by present laws and present Government.

Labor unions, free of legal restraint by the Government, have developed economic dictators that control the lives and restrict the welfare of all the people. Lewis, Whitney, Johnston, Petrillo, Reuther, Murray—all claim they are within the law. If that be so, Congress needs to change the law.

Eleven years of union labor government in America have taught the people the necessity of equality under the law. They learned to appreciate equality as they lost it. The people seek to save their heritage of freedom, while politicians would fasten the controls of authoritarian states upon them in peacetime.

As a result of inequalities granted labor unions, prices of goods to consumers are higher, returns to investors are lower, and a basis for runaway inflation has been provided by laws.

The politicians never reveal the "Made in Moscow" label of salary controls and the National Labor Relations Board with its combined powers of prosecutor, judge and jury; or the "Made in Germany" label of OPA; or the "Made in Ignorance" label of their pseudo-economists; which prevent the free exchange of goods and services in a free America.

This American Legion represents America at its peak and best. You are America's strength and its defense. Your interests are indivisible from its welfare and its progress. You are opposed to every un-American institution, opposed to the "Klux Klan", to Fascism and Communism.

In Berlin recently I watched the endless funeral of the bureaucratic state. There lived the confidant leaders who took over the thinking for a nation of intelligent people; who persuaded, then compelled the German citizens to accept authoritarian controls. The Germans in two world wars never learned until it was too late that the economic liberties they surrendered were inseparable from their personal liberties.

This American Legion favors the peace, now long postponed.

If America is to hold its position in the world, labor must be free to earn higher wages, the farmer must be prosperous, industry must be kept strong to produce goods at lower prices.

The American Legion demands the American unity that alone can give us peace with power.

Your Legion wants the power of America expressed in the ingenuity and labors of 148 million people. You seek the unity that is the nation's greatest defense. You want the peace that will protect your children from future wars. You want to free America new. May God grant your prayers that America again be made free.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: May I present at this time a Legionnaire who has been awarded the medal of honor for valor at the Anzio Beach Head with the 34th Infantry Division from Richmond, Virginia, Ernest H. Dervishian.

It is my pleasure not to introduce, but to present, to you one of your Past Na-
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER OWLSLEY: Ladies and gentlemen, my comrades of The American Legion: It is a positive happiness that I have the honor and distinction of presenting to this convention our next distinguished speaker of this hour. Rarely is it given in the lifetime of one man to establish himself at the very top and at the peak of statescraft and of diplomacy, as has been the fortune of this distinguished diplomat and statesman.

He has long been a friend of the United States of America. He came in early life to our shores. He is a graduate of the National American University at Columbia, and so he learned to know us and we learned to know and respect him.

Early he was thrown into the life of diplomacy, representing the great Chinese people in the councils of men throughout the world. Wherever the leaders of world thought were assembled this great diplomat and spokesman of the Chinese.

Also, in later years, he was the Chinese Ambassador to the Court of Saint James at London, to the Republic of France in Paris, and now he adorns in name and that of his country as the Chinese Ambassador to the United States of America in Washington.

Suave, unruffled as he heads the field from his portion of this earth leading China’s thought in this chaotic world, in times of war and revolution—cultured, scholarly he has presented in the field of diplomacy the hopes and aspirations not only of China, but it is authoritative—stated that he is speaking for one-quarter of the people of the earth.

Therefore, when he speaks, we shall hear him gladly. He comes at this hour as our friend and in admiration to The American Legion, leading the hopes of his people for a brighter and happier day.

I have the very great honor to present his excellency, the Chinese Ambassador to the United States of America, Doctor Wellington Koo.

ADDRESS By DR. V. K. WELLINGTON KOO

Chinese Ambassador to the United States

It is a pleasure to be with you and a privilege to address your convention today. I regard it as an honor to my country and, for that reason, I appreciate the confidence you have shown me deeply.

The fact that you are meeting here in San Francisco is inspiring to me. The City of the Golden Gate has the largest Chinese community in the Western Hemisphere. It is also the American window through which the people of the United States get a clearer view of the march of events in the Great Basin of the Pacific Ocean. More than that, it is the gateway to the Orient. During our recent joint struggle against the Axis Powers, the port of San Francisco was a great base for the prosecution of the war against Japan, the aggressor in the East. Hundreds of thousands of service men and women and millions of tons of equipment and supplies were sent forth to the Pacific and China theatres of war through this western metropolis of this great American Republic.

And when the Allies of the war decided to organize for the maintenance of world peace in the future, it was here again that the conference for that high purpose was held and the Charter of the United Nations was written and consecrated.

It seems to me that The American Legion, whose membership is composed of the brave and illustrious veterans of two global struggles for the cause of freedom, could not have chosen a more fitting place for holding its first convention in the new postwar world.

China is following your meetings here with a deep interest and a warm heart. For she remembers that tens of thousands among the members of The American Legion have fought in the China theatre of war side by side with their Chinese comrades-in-arms and acquitted their duties splendidly, to the admiration of the Chinese people and to the glory of the Stars and Stripes. No obstacle appeared insurmountable to them; no problem was too difficult for them to solve. Neither nature nor circumstance nor the enemy’s cunning ever found them wanting in courage and resourcefulness of mind to cope with it successfully.

The forbidding Himalayas of India and Burma did not stop the organization and operation of the remarkable “Over the Hump” air service. Nor did the rushing torrents of the Salween and the Mokong and the awe-inspiring ravines of Western Yunnan prevent the building and servicing of the Burma Road.

The daring exploits of the Flying Tigers, of the American Volunteer Group, and of your gallant airmen of P-40’s, B-29’s, and other units, were appreciated in every part of China. The arrival of G. I.’s on Chinese soil in the dark days of our great struggle heartened the Chinese nation which had already borne the brunt of the Japanese war of aggression for over five years. The glorious deeds of the American fleet at Solomon Islands, Saipan, Leyte, Okinawa and other parts of the Pacific filled our people with deep admiration. I have no doubt that many of you present here today participated in the memorable achievements of the American armed forces to which I have just alluded.

Since China and the United States became Allies in the recent World War, the Chinese people have come to learn with increasing admiration and gratitude of the gallantry of the American serviceman and the skill and efficiency of the American officer. As veterans of two World Wars, the members of The American Legion represent the traditions of American heroism, and I salute you all on behalf of the entire Chinese nation. China will always remember the generous aid and assistance which was extended to her by the Government and people of the United States, and I hope that the ties of fellowship and cooperation...
formed during the war will be strengthened and developed in the future.

The general picture of my country today may seem somewhat confusing, but over and above the din of apparent strife there is at work the inexorable process of national unification which every country has to experience in order to achieve unity within and to be able to face all problems from without.

China is no exception, and the Chinese people are determined to press on with their task of rebuilding their country and transforming it into a united, democratic and prosperous state. One of your greatest veterans is working wholeheartedly in China to hasten the achievement of Chinese national unity. I refer to General of the United States Army, George C. Marshall. The Government and people of China hold him in the highest regard and hope that his friendly efforts will succeed.

We may hear discordant voices from China, but they do not represent the sentiment of the Chinese people as a whole. This is especially true in regard to the sporadic and isolated clamors for the withdrawal of American forces from China, or for the cessation of material aid and assistance from the United States. Every patriotic Chinese knows at heart that the very limited number of United States forces in China help her in evacuating enemy nationals and in maintaining communications, and that what necessary supplies and industrial equipment have been dispatched to China are for the relief of Chinese suffering and for the rehabilitation of Chinese industry and agriculture. The peoples of China as a body feel most grateful for this friendly and generous succor to her economic and social well-being after having sustained the devastation by the enemy and the ravages of war for a longer period than any of her Allies.

The emergence of a united, democratic and strong China is only a question of time. We of China feel confident that this much-longed-for event is not just in the cards, but in the offing. For it constitutes the aim and object of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people, and whatever motives a small section of them may entertain, the will of the nation as a whole cannot be frustrated for long.

The Government and people of China are anxious to achieve national unity, for they are conscious not only of the urgency of the task of national reconstruction and development but also of the responsibility which China must share and shoulder in the maintenance of world peace and security. All the nations now live really in one world, and Eastern Asia constitutes a vital region of the world. It is also a region of particular interest to the United States. The security and welfare of that region constitute an essential part in any pattern of universal peace and prosperity.

We are at present in the transition from war to peace. While armistices with the enemy and the ravages of war for a longer period than any of her Allies.

For the earlier peace is made to last, the devastated world be able to settle down to the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Peace is the first essential of settled conditions which, in turn, are indispensable to the achievement of progress and prosperity.

I realize, of course, that the maintenance of peace does not depend entirely upon the existence of peace treaties. There must be a will to peace in every country to insure the world against a repetition of the catastrophe from which we have just emerged. I venture to believe, however, that such a will exists in every land, for I cannot imagine that any nation, having undergone the experiences of the recent war, would want to run the risk of another great upheaval which, with new weapons of mass slaughter, is sure to inflict devastation and suffering many times the toll taken by the recent war and which may destroy our civilization so laboriously developed from time immemorial. A conflict of interests and different ideologies may remain, but with good will and understanding they may in the end be resolved and the will of the nation as a whole cannot be frustrated for long.

But to will peace is one thing. To win it is another. In trying to secure peace, patience, good will and a spirit of understanding and cooperation are indispensable, but they alone are not always sufficient for the attainment of this object. Such a demonstration to be effective for the purpose must be mutual and reciprocal on the part of all nations. Moreover, in the present fluid state of the world situation, responsible statesmen must take into account all possible developments, however remote they may be. Events may overtake everyone's good will and drift along against the best intentions of nations. So wisdom calls for preparedness, and this is not inconsistent with the obligations of members under the Charter of the United Nations.

China considers the maintenance of world peace as her supreme interest and will never cease to pursue it. I know it is also the predominant desire of the United States. Indeed, no country could claim to be more ardently devoted to the cause of peace than yours and mine. Our two peoples, with faith in the supremacy of right over might, both have labored consistently to promote international peace in every way possible.

The world is fortunate in having the United Nations organized and set up as the guardian of international peace and security. It may be too early to tell yet how far it will succeed in discharging this primary role assigned to it, but there can be no doubt that China and the United States are deeply interested in its future and will spare no effort to promote its success. Whatever may be the course of its development, our two countries, I hope, will never fail to cooperate with each other and with other like-minded peoples in the promotion of peace. The mutuality of our interest extends beyond our respective borders. May China and the United States always consider not only traditional friends but also spiritual allies.

VICE-COMMANDER HUNTINGTON: Thank you, Ambassador Koo. Now it is my privilege to present to
you for the purpose of introduction of a speaker another of your well known Past National Commanders, Past National Commander Lynn Stambaugh.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STAMBAUGH: It is my privilege to present to you at this time a personal friend of mine and colleague in my profession, who has attained the highest distinction in the field in which The American Legion operates with the most fervor and zeal, and that is the field that has relation to be helpful to those who, through no fault of their own, are unfortunate and are underprivileged.

Our next distinguished speaker is the head of that organization of mercy with which we are all so well acquainted, the American Red Cross.

He was named chairman of that organization on July 13, 1944, by the late President Roosevelt, with whom he had been associated in a law firm partnership. It was through that association that he had become executive head in 1927 of the Warm Springs Foundation, now the number one center in this country for infantile paralysis treatment.

He also is President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, whose amazing growth is a matter of medical history. He has been honored by our government and by many foreign governments for his great humanitarian services. He comes here today to speak as the head of a great organization with which The American Legion has always cooperated and worked with in relieving human needs and distress. I am happy to give you the Honorable Basil O'Connor, chairman of the American Red Cross and President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paraly.

ADDRESS OF BASIL O'CONNOR
Chairman of the American Red Cross

It is an easy commonplace for a guest at such an event as this to say that it is an honor and a privilege to be with you. My feeling goes far beyond that. It is a real pleasure to attend a Legion convention again, for you will remember that I enjoyed your hospitality two years ago in Chicago. Many of my associates in Red Cross have lived and worked with you during your Army and Navy days; and I, myself, have talked with many of you and your brothers-in-arms on my visits to our overseas Red Cross installations. I recognize that many among you are leaders in Red Cross chapters. The American Legion and the Red Cross are no longer strangers in any community.

If there is one audience that doesn't need to be told the story of the Red Cross, it is The American Legion. You know the job we set out to do for the American serviceman; you know where we succeeded and where we failed. I suppose that no individual—no organization—ever achieves one hundred per cent perfection. Like every organization the Red Cross has to go by the law of averages. We hope that when the score is finally turned in, it will be found that we reached a high average. We aimed high, so it is not extraordinary if an occasional arrow failed to reach its mark. At any rate we know, and you know, that we never stopped trying to achieve the best possible operation.

Much has happened in the world since I last met with you in Chicago in 1944. Our forces won the most devastating, the most bitterly contested war in all history. I am afraid that victory inclined us optimistically to the belief that with the shooting over all our troubles would vanish over night.

We should have known better. We live in an age of crisis. The past quarter century has presented us with a series of crises, each more violent than the one that went before. Now we are confronted with the greatest crisis of all—"Survive or perish." No matter which way we turn we are faced with that simple but appalling reality. One bomb fell on Hiroshima and one hundred thousand people perished. But that bomb did more than destroy a single city and convince the Japanese of the folly of pursuing a war already lost. It signalized the development of potentialities for the destruction of the human race. It is no longer a matter of speculation. We are confronted with a fact. We know that locked in the secret files of great powers are detailed plans for even more horrible instruments of destruction. Bacteriological warfare, cosmic rays—things that would wipe out not hundreds of thousands, but whole populations. That is stark, inescapable fact.

The distinguishing mark of a really mature, responsible human being is his ability to grasp a fact, to accept reality and not run away from it. And having accepted it, to use his intellect to work out a logical, constructive course of action. Apply the same standard to our civilization and we see that we have scarcely begun to be mature in the social sense. At this very moment the mass, give every evidence of being so blind, so undeveloped, that they will not face the facts, come to grips with reality and seek a truly universal solution of the problem.

All civilization has been challenged: "Survive or perish." Yet faced with a supreme problem that affects everybody, many nations of the world are still thinking in terms of territorial boundaries, individual prestige, balances of power. In the age of jet propulsion and the atom-splitting cyclotron, man's thinking processes and his diplomatic and political machinery are creaking along on a Model "T" engine. It is not good enough. The gravity and the urgency of the problem call for a profound readjustment of our ideas. Faced with the possibility of global disaster and the extinction of our species, mankind must find some common ground on which to build the ultimate atmosphere. If we do not, we are inviting doom. If we do not use our heads, we shall lose them.

Compare for a moment this one great problem with some of the other concerns with which the world is preoccupied: borders, ideologies, prestige, differences in color, language, and customs.
These considerations shrink to insignificance when compared with the urgency of these survival problems. So do our problems at home if weighted in the same balance. Here in America we see a daily ferment of social, political and economic unrest. On all sides we find disharmony, fear, prejudice, economic uncertainty and joblessness. Not that these things are peculiar to America; they exist everywhere in the world. They are the things that disturb and perplex Ivan and Hans, Francois and Tony, and between John Smith. These relatively minor problems contribute to the supreme problem. But there is this great hope—if peoples learn to solve their own national problems, collectively we may learn to solve the problems of the world.

The overwhelming need today is for unity. By that I do not mean a uniformity of thought or complete agreement on details. That kind of unity would be incompatible with the form of society we have developed in America. It would be impossible—and undesirable—to achieve it with the nations of the world. The unity we should strive for is a recognition and global acceptance of the goal of survival by all racial, economic, political and religious groups.

We must not expect—nor invite—many differing ideas of how to reach the goal. Difference of opinion is good because it constantly opens up new avenues of approach to the goal we wish to reach. It is fundamental to democracy. We would have no need of our basic freedoms of speech, assembly, worship, and the press if all American citizens were expected to think and act alike. We should encourage freedom of expression both within and between nations. We should want to hear what they have to say. Depend upon it, there will be many voices raised, many things said both wise and foolish. That is all to the good so long as we do not lose our unity of purpose nor lose sight of the common goal of peace and understanding throughout the world.

We dare not lose our way. America and the nations that fought with us incurred a heavy responsibility in winning the war. It is a responsibility that penetrates right down to each of us as individual citizens. When we took up the challenge of battle we said to our enemies, “We are not going to let you build the future. We know how to create a better world.” That is our obligation. That is the responsibility that rests upon us.

And yet with such a heavy task before us, with so much to do that requires hard-headed acceptance of the facts and clear thinking, we are in danger of letting old distrusts and fears poison our minds. The poison is still infecting large areas of the world. It is something with which I could make my voice heard in foreign lands as well as in this convention hall just long enough to drive home one simple thought—we distrust and fear what we do not know. Ignorance brings intolerance, and from intolerance spring most of the evils we have to bear. That is such an old truth that it has become a platitude, and yet we are continually forgetting it both in our relations with one another and also in our relations with other peoples. Other nations—yes, and the peoples of other nations—can be very annoying to us at times. We, likewise, as strange as it seems to us, I’m sure, can likewise be annoying to the peoples of other nations. But when you first find out what makes a man tick—when you understand his culture, his traditions, his likes and dislikes—you know how to reach his mind. It is essential then, that we learn to understand the cultural patterns of other peoples since these color all politics, diplomacy and social life.

The American Legion, composed of men who have lived and struggled all over the face of the globe, has a magnificent opportunity to interpret some of these cultures to the American people. This does not mean that we have to accept foreign customs and practices for ourselves. We have evolved our own way of life and found it good; but we can learn to understand the patterns that influence the thinking of other peoples and, with understanding, dissipate some of the distrust and fear that afflict the world.

My picture of the state of the world today, although painted in harsh colors, is not entirely discouraging. There is much to deplore, but also much that is good.

Perhaps it will be helpful to run up a balance sheet of our assets and liabilities to see just how we stand here in America, for if we are to hope for unity in the world, we must first achieve some semblance of it at home.

Certainly America has lost much of the magnificent unity that made us truly “one nation, indivisible”—during the war. There is a widespread spirit of criticism and unrest; we are all troubled by conflicts between labor and management. We are disturbed by our failure as a people adequately to meet urgent problems like inflation, the housing shortage, and the black market. We have not yet provided adequate employment for veterans, and there are growing social and religious antagonisms which hamper some veterans and minority groups in securing education, employment and advancement. Since V-J Day, our relations with one another seem to have deteriorated almost as much as our relations with some of our former Allies.

If I have painted a gloomy picture it is not because I counsel you to despair, but because...
lieve that the obstacles that stand between us and the society we desire can be overcome if we will accept the responsibility that accompanied our victory.

Suppose, by way of contrast, we had lost the war. Our independence as a nation would be gone, and with it our freedom of thought and action as individuals. We would have no responsibilities. The victor would assume these for us. But that is hardly an alternative that any of us would willingly accept.

With victory we have the tools and the opportunity to create the world we want. You will be convinced of this if you study the credit side of our national ledger and review our assets.

Our basic freedoms are still intact; our homes and buildings still stand; we have the natural resources; the industrial know-how; the trained manpower; the heritage of a free, inquiring spirit; above all we have the privileges and responsibilities of victory. We have, indeed, everything we need, except agreement upon a common goal and the unity of purpose required to reach it.

The winning of victory preserved our freedom, but it is only the first step. The possession of freedom in itself imposes a heavy responsibility. Freedom is not a gift. It is not an ornament that we can put aside to admire when we have nothing better to do. It is something that has to be cherished, fought for, and developed every day of our lives. And it is no good at all unless it is shared. It is not something gained by taking away from someone else. It is a word compounded of many privileges and possible courses of action—all of which entail responsibility. The very conception of freedom implies a choice of action. That is the responsibility that confronts all of us. Choosing wisely, what are we going to do about it?

How can you help to secure this unity of purpose—this common goal? Well, it seems to me that there are four specific things that you as Legionnaires can do—both as an organized group and as individuals.

First: You can combat prejudice wherever and whenever it arises.

Some of you may think that prejudice is no longer a serious problem in this country. To those of you who are tempted to be complacent, I should like to read sections of a startling advertisement that was placed in one of our great newspapers by a public-spirited business house. It says eloquently, things that none of us can afford to forget. It is entitled "Guilty of Being Different!" and it reads:

"You who read this have been found guilty—by self-appointed 'judges.' You're guilty of having a mother or father whose facial characteristics or color your 'judges' say are a threat, seeking security for your family—something you must not do, your 'judges' say, if they don't like your race, creed, or national origin.

"Who are these 'judges'? They are persons within our country who are working to create dis-sension.

"They spread lies about people of a race or faith different from theirs. They try in every way to make you—and me—all of us hate our neighbors. They spread rumors—by resisting their democracy—destroying venom.

"Do that and you are defending the American way of life."

It is an awful indictment of our times that it is necessary to print such an advertisement in an American paper.

You who belong to an organization of men from a wide variety of racial groups and backgrounds know what harm could be done to The American Legion if sinister forces tried to spread distrust and bigotry in your organization. The American Legion would fall apart if you did not fight those forces with every ounce of your strength. What is true of the Legion is equally true of the nation and of the world.

Secondly: In addition to combatting prejudice whenever and wherever it arises you can fulfill your primary duty as citizens by exercising your right to vote. That is an essential first step in good citizenship, and yet millions of men and women in this country are too apathetic, too indifferent to their own government, to go to the polls on election day. For five years now we have been crying aloud the virtue of the secret ballot and trying to promote free elections all over the face of the earth, while here at home less than half of our qualified voters take the trouble to cast their ballots. Here is a freedom we are not using—or at least we are far from making full use of it. It is a responsibility that you are surrendering to corrupt machines, and we have no one but ourselves to blame when our elected officials fail to serve the best interests of our communities. You Legionnaires can set an example to the nation if you will take this responsibility seriously.

And thirdly: Let me urge you in all your activities to—"Get the facts." You will have many self-seeking individuals and groups competing for your support and influence. They will present you with a wide variety of projects and panaceas. Each will have a good "line"—will use all the resources of shrewd salesman-ship to persuade you. Get the facts. Evaluate. Weigh all reports—all publications—all propaganda. Beware of slogans. Find out the source and motivation of every piece of information that seeks to influence your actions and decisions. We are in a condition of ferment—at home and abroad in which many kinds of proposals and programs, both good and bad will boil to the surface. Judge everything by this—"Does it make sense in terms of the vital question of survival?"

Lastly: When you believe you have found the truth, you must act with a firm purpose and a courageous heart to attain the objectives.

In a world that is yearning for strong intelligent leadership—the veterans of America have a golden opportunity because they, more easily than any other group in the country, can meet the minds and clasp the hands of veterans in all the countries of the world.

In Red Cross we know that the people of the world can reunite partisan spirit and work together with trust and understanding when the cause in which they are engaged involves only the welfare of mankind. I say this to you out of my own personal experience for I have recently returned to this country from six weeks in Europe where I attended three international meetings: The International Conference of Christians and
Jews, the convention of the League of Red Cross Societies and a joint meeting at Geneva of the National Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

My trip abroad coincided with the most uneasy period of our postwar world. The Western Democracies and the Soviet Union were at a stalemate. In China our peace mission frankly confessed failure to end the Civil War. Everywhere there were fresh evidences of tension and fear, in India, Palestine, Greece, Yugoslavia, Poland—even in our own country where race riots and brutal lynchings took place.

Yet in Oxford and Geneva we found men and women from all these lands, and many others, moved by a common impulse, united in a common purpose—the welfare of mankind.

This is only one constructive force working in the world today. There are others. When these currents join, we can create a great stream of unity and understanding.

The American Legion is a tremendous force in the nation because it reaches all levels of our life. It has the privilege of freshening the stream of public opinion from the very smallest of our communities to the nation itself. With the great professional honors, I am proud to give President of the American Society of Municipal Affairs on a national scale as the Louisville Metropolitan Area Defense Council, which was twice awarded a citation of merit. He has been active in municipal affairs on a national scale as President of the American Society of Planning Officials, holds many civic and professional honors. I am proud to give you the Federal Housing Expediter and Administrator of the National Housing Agency and a sincere friend of all veterans, Wilson Watkins Wyatt.

ADDRESS BY WILSON W. WYATT

Administrator, National Housing Agency

Let’s do some plain talking about the housing problem.

Let’s see what the Government has done to help homebuilding increase almost 600 per cent since August of 1945.

Let’s see why even this tremendous rate of home protection is having a hard time catching up with the greatest demand for housing America has ever known.

Let’s see why certain pressure groups and their headline hunting lobbyists are trying to scuttle a program that has resulted in an increased number of completed homes in every month of its existence.

The Veterans’ Emergency Housing Program boils down to this: It’s a race to meet a housing need resulting from over a decade when new families were formed faster than new homes were built.

That created a housing shortage, even before the war ended. After V-J Day, the services began demobilizing more than a million men a month—more men demobilized in one month than the largest number of homes this country has ever built in one year.

That changed a housing shortage into a housing crisis.

So when the Government started its race to get housing supply caught up with housing demand, demand had a whopping big head start.

When the war ended, some big business interests told the Government, you end wartime construction controls, and the housing shortage will take care of itself.

The result did not quite measure up to the glib predictions although the biggest building boom in years did get under way. But what kind of a boom?

A rush of race tracks, mansions, summer resorts, bowling alleys, stores, and cocktail bars. Yes, it was a fine building boom, except nobody much was bothered to build any homes that veterans could afford to live in.

It was painfully clear that only if the Government started a bold, hard-hitting housing program could the veteran get the home he needed so desperately.

The President launched such a program early this year. It was and is primarily a private enterprise program—a program of all-out effort by business and labor and government, working as partners.

The Government’s job was to do everything possible to bring about vast, rapid increases in the production of building supplies. It backed up this up by cutting down on non-housing construction and by channeling building materials into homes and apartments for veterans.

The production drive started at once. The Government funneled raw materials to producers of building supplies, it adjusted prices, it raised wages, it recruited labor, and took literally hundreds of steps to get production rolling.

It asked for legislation to authorize premium payments for manufacturers to cover the unusual expense of abnormally rapid speed-ups in production.

Premium payments get fast increases in pro-
duction cheaply and they do not force the consumer to pay a higher price.

Now one of the main ingredients of an emergency program is speed. But unfortunately those groups which thought exorbitant profits were a more pressing need than homes for veterans fought the premium payment legislation. Those groups which thought exorbitant profits were a more pressing need than homes for veterans were a more pressing need than homes for veterans in the lowest income group.

The result was that although the Government started its production drive last February, the chief tool of the Government needed for this production drive, the premium payment, was not available until June.

The production under just one of these premium plans will show you what this delay meant to the veteran. Gypsum board and lath production, aided by premium payments since June 1, hit an all-time high in August, the third month the premiums were in effect. That peak production record could have been reached three months before.

The Veterans' Emergency Housing Program called for three pieces of essential legislation. One of these was the Veterans' Emergency Housing Act providing funds for premium payments and giving veterans a preference on new housing.

The second essential piece of legislation was the Wagner-Ellender-Taft General Housing Bill, on which the emergency program relief for a large volume of privately built rental apartments at prices veterans could afford. This bill also contained many other provisions to bring about the building of homes for the low and middle income groups of this country. And let's get this point clear for the record. The Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill is nine-tenths a private enterprise bill enabling private builders to cut rent and monthly payments down toward the average veterans price range. Certainly, it includes public housing, too, but does private enterprise begrudge a decent home to the veteran in the lowest income group?

Unfortunately, this Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill did not come to a final vote in the 79th Congress. I am confident the measure will be passed at the 80th Congress so that veterans can receive its benefits in 1947.

But the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program was moving ahead in spite of obstacles. Each month production of building materials was rising. Each month more homes were being put under construction. Each month more homes were being finished.

Production was speeding ahead in its race to catch up with the housing demand. But even with this increased rate of production, the gap still was widening between production and demand. That was because demand was sprinting at the start of the race.

Remember, the services had been demobilizing men at the rate of a million and more a month.

Marriages were taking place at a rate of 166,000 a month.

Veterans were returning from overseas and seeking a home for families which had doubled up with relatives during the war.

Employment was moving toward an all-time high, 14 million. Demand for housing was out in front and still sprinting.

Last winter, when the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program was launched, we knew that the demand for housing would be increasing at a faster rate than production could possibly achieve during 1946. We knew that the housing emergency was so huge that it would take two full years to lick it. That's the reason Veterans' Emergency Housing Program is a two-year program.

There were some who thought that even two years wasn't time enough. Some of the best private building experts said last winter that the largest number of homes this country could possibly put under construction in 1946 was from 326 thousand to 396 thousand. And the 326 thousand prediction was hedged with the statement that this could not be reached if price ceilings were placed on new homes. In other words, we were told in effect that builders would not provide homes for veterans unless the sky was the limit on what they could get from their desperate purchases.

Well, the Government did not sell this country short. The Government believed that this country would roll up its sleeves and break all home building records. The Government thought this country would be glad to give up new pool halls and juke joints and other unnecessary buildings until veterans could get decent places to live.

Naturally the Government knew that this would not be popular with the selfish few in our nation who put their pocketbooks ahead of the veteran.

The Government knew the housing program would be attacked by the builder who preferred the fat profit from constructing a night club to the smaller return of putting up a home for a veteran.

The Government knew it would be attacked by the real estate speculators who wanted no limit put on the money they could make by trading in the misery of the veteran who had no home for his family.

But the Government believed that the efforts of the decent majority could overcome all of these and make the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program work.

Well, we have finished eight months of the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program. We finished the first third—the toughest third—of the two-year program. And what does the record show?

It shows that the average production of sixteen major building materials has increased 75 per cent in the first seven months of the emergency program.

Let's look at the August production figures! Gypsum board and lath output was the highest in the nation's history.

Asphalt roofing and siding reached its highest record production. Cast iron soil pipe set a post-war high. 22,000 more bathtubs were made in August than in July. 58,000 more kitchen sinks were produced in August than in July. Nail production went up 20 per cent in August. And so on for other building supplies.
The record shows more. It shows that 708,000 homes and apartments—think of it—are have been put under construction since the first of the year. It shows that half that number, 350,000, have been completed during that time. Those are the facts.

But the people who are afraid of bold plans, the people who said we couldn’t do it are trying to hide the facts with loud talk.

And why?

Because they want the veterans to be sold out to the profiteers.

Sure, they hate the Veterans’ Emergency Housing Program. And why?

Because they don’t like the ceilings it imposes on new housing. They want the sky to be the limit on home price and rents. They are the doubt or nothing landlords—“pay me double what it’s worth or nothing doing.”

Sure they want to hide the results of the veterans’ housing program by smearing it with a coat of propaganda. And why?

The answer is in their own program. They state publicly and without shame that the best way to get homes for veterans is to build mansions for millionaires. Then the more well-to-do move into the homes the millionaires have vacated and some others step into the smaller mansions that this makes available, and this process continues until finally at the bottom of the ladder, a veteran gets some sort of a back-street place to live in.

That’s the trickle theory of housing and I don’t like it. I don’t think you veterans like it. These trickle theory housers are trying to play upon the emotions of veterans by charg

President Hanford MacNider presented the General Henri Gouraud Trophy.

The colors were advanced with the invocation being pronounced by Sam L. Latimer, Jr., National Vice-Commander.

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The colors were retired and the meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1946

The final session of the convention met in the Exposition Auditorium with National Commander Stelle presiding.

The colors were advanced with the invocation being pronounced by Sam L. Latimer, Jr., National Vice-Commander.

TROPHY AND AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Howard F. King, chairman, Montana, reported as follows:

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 Mississippi. Percentage, 344.34.

Alvin M. Owsey Trophy

Awarded annually to that department having the highest percentage of membership on December 31 for the ensuing year, as compared with the average membership for the immediate preceding ten years.

Winner: Department of North Carolina. Percentage, 238.17.

The colors were presented by Col. Albert C. Bell, Jr., National Adjutant.

John G. Emery 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 Nebraska. Percentage, 202.45.

Henry D. Lindsey 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 Nebraska. Percentage, 192.38.

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 North Carolina. October 6, 1945.

North Carolina Trophy

Awarded annually to that department thereof not included among the several state departments or the Department of District of Columbia that has the highest percentage of members by the close of business March 31 each year, as compared with the total number of members in the department on December 31 of the preceding year.

Winner: Department of France. Percentage, 682.36.
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.

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 Virginia. Percentage, 313.87.

Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy
Awarded annually to that detachment of Sons of The American Legion which on January 1 of each year has attained the greatest percentage of increase over the previous year’s total membership.
Winner: Detachment of Washington. Percentage, 362.73.

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 Mississippi. Percentage, 210.17.

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 West Virginia.

Spafford National Trophy
Awarded annually to that department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the runner-up team in the semi-finals of the Junior Baseball Program.
Winner: New Jersey (Trenton Post No. 93, Trenton, New Jersey).

Howard F. 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 Louisiana (Crescent City Post No. 125, New Orleans).

Hearst Trophy
Awarded annually to that department which performs the most outstanding Americanism accomplishments during the Legion year.
Winner: Department of Oklahoma.

Franklin D’Other Trophy
Awarded annually to that department which performs the most outstanding Americanism accomplishments during the Legion year.
Winner: Department of Oklahoma.

National SAL Gallery Trophy
Awarded annually to that team winning the Sons of The American Legion 50-Foot Gallery Rifle Match.
Winner: Upper Darby Squadron No. 214, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

Ralph T. O’Neil Education 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.
Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention

James A. Drain Trophy
Awarded annually to that department of The American Legion showing the most consistent service to the community, state and nation 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.

National Aeronautics Trophy
Awarded annually to that department of The American Legion which shall have contributed most to the furtherance of aviation.
Winner: Department of California.

National American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award
Winners for 1946:
William Randolph Hearst.
Bob Hope.
Major General Lewis B. Hershey.
J. Edgar Hoover.
Cordell Hull.

American Legion Military Academy Award
Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy with the highest standing in Chemistry and Electr
Winner: Cadet William A. Strain, Fort Benning, Georgia.

American Legion Naval Academy Award
Awarded annually to that midshipman of the Second Class at the United States Naval Academy who stands first for the year in Naval History.
Winner: Midshipman Robert Craig Olson, Omaha, Nebraska.

American Legion Coast Guard Academy Award
Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the United States Coast Guard Academy who is considered to have excelled personally in athletics.
Winner: Cadet John Leland Wright, San Francisco, Calif.

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.

Russell G. Crevelston Trophy
Awarded annually to that Drum and Bugle Corps winning first prize in competition with all other drum and bugle corps during the annual national convention of The American Legion.

The Miami Trophy
Awarded annually to that Drum and Bugle Corps winning first prize in competition with all other Drum and Bugle Corps during the annual national convention of The American Legion.

J. Guy Griffith Trophy
Awarded annually to that sponsored Junior Drum and Bugle Corps winning first prize in competition with all other sponsored Junior Drum and Bugle Corps during the annual national convention of The American Legion.
Winner: Cyprus Post No. 38, Magua, Utah.

Louis J. Canepa Trophy
Awarded annually to that Sons of American Legion Band winning first place in competition with all other Sons of American Legion Bands during the annual national convention of The American Legion.
Winner: Hollywood Squadron No. 43, Hollywood, California.

Patrick J. Hurley Golf Trophy
Awarded annually to the former soldier obtaining the best score in the Inter-Departmental Golf Tournament of The American Legion.
Winner: Bill Maxwell, Department of Oklahoma.

Charles Francis Adams Golf Trophy
Awarded annually to the former Blue Jacket or Marine obtaining the best score in the Inter-Departmental Golf Tournament of The American Legion.
Winner: George Gnau, Department of California.

Cleveland National Convention Trophy
Awarded annually to that Sons of The 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: Quincy Squadron No. 37, Quincy, Illinois.

Glen R. Hills Trophy
Awarded annually to that American Legion Color Guard and Firing Squad winning first place in competition with all other Color Guards and Firing Squads during the annual national convention of The American Legion.
Winner: Aqueduct Post No. 342, Los Angeles, California.

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 Florida—3,600 miles.

Rosenstiel Award
Awarded annually to the Legionnaire reported to have done the most outstanding, unselfish community service work during the past Legion year. Award is for $1,000.
Winner: E. R. Christopher, Bartlesville, Oklahoma (James H. Teel Post No. 105).

National Commander Scholarship Winners—1946
Northern Area—
Richard Duane Brady, Johnsonburg, Pennsylvania.
David Henry Fithian, Bridgeton, New Jersey.
Eastern Area—
Maurice N. Bowler, Petersborough, New Hampshire.
Ronald Allen Jones, Lamoline, Maine.
South Dakota 27,368 213.93
Tennessee 69,051 217.38
Texas 121,363 226.84
Utah 8,789 138.67
Vermont 12,884 253.02
Virginia 55,313 237.32
Washington 61,941 183.48
West Virginia 51,462 241.14
Wisconsin 89,363 132.09
Wyoming 9,290 180.14

The report was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE

Richard C. Cadwallader of Baton Rouge, chairman; Richard Vail of Fresno, California; T. J. Reiser of Kansas City, Missouri; Joe Vinardi of Omaha, Nebraska; Henry Denhartig of Racine, Wisconsin; George V. Hook of Middletown, Ohio, and Hayward B. Cleveland, Port Washington, New York.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Our next speaker was one of the pioneers in naval aviation. Following his graduation from the Naval Academy in 1915, he served as a pilot during and after World War I. He was a squadron commander in 1925 when he went on reserve status. Back on active duty at the time of Pearl Harbor, he was deputy director of the munitions board, then material control officer for the Navy.

As landing craft coordinator of the D-Day landing in France, he went ashore with the first wave and made seven other landings that day. Later, he was returned to Washington where he became chief of staff of the War Production Board.

At the end of the war he accepted temporary civilian status to become Civilian Production Administrator. It is my honor and privilege to present to this convention a native Texan and a fellow Legionnaire of the National Cathedral Post in Washington, D. C., the Administrator of the Civilian Production Administration, John D. Small.

ADDRESS OF JOHN D. SMALL
Administrator of the Civilian Production Administration

Distinguished Guests, Comrades of The American Legion, and Friends: Today my job is helping produce for peace. As head of the Civilian Production Administration in Washington, it is my responsibility to help American industry to do a good job—to do it faster, to satisfy the tremendous demand for peace-time goods, and to help provide jobs for everyone who is willing and able to work.

At the beginning of the second year after the greatest military victory in history, we have
just about reached full employment and are well on our way to full production. Never before did a nation beat those swords back into plow shares so soon after the conflict was over. Our achievement in industrial production since V-J Day far exceeded those of any other nation in the world. Production has been running at high speed since June. Give us continued production at this rate for another few months and many of the present shortages will have disappeared and have been forgotten. Some few shortages will continue for a longer time.

If you will look through the stores it will be immediately apparent that the demands of things are being produced in abundance, and most of the country's desires for goods are being met. But a comparatively small number of items which we lacked all through the war are still in very short supply. It is these really few items that cause complaints. Human nature being what it is, such complaints are natural as long as any shortages whatever exist.

We must face reality—demand that has been accumulating for four or five years cannot be satisfied in a few months. During the war when demands for one weapon changed to demands for another, industry could not shift overnight to full-scale production of the new weapon—sufficient production to meet all demands immediately. It took months, but in industry did shift in time to meet military plans and to produce the new weapons in ever-increasing volume. So it is today. Industry has shifted from production of war weapons to peacetime products with amazing speed—far faster than anywhere else in the world. We have nearly full production of many basic materials. Let me give you a few examples. Steel production, since the recovery from the coal strike, has been at or close to 90 per cent of rated capacity, which for practically all things has reached satisfactory levels—most things are being met. But a comparatively small number of items which we lacked all through the war are still in very short supply. It is these really few items that cause complaints. Human nature being what it is, such complaints are natural as long as any shortages whatever exist.

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communities must be taken care of. It must be obvious that for health and safety reasons, repairs to the sanitary equipment in homes and offices must go forward without delay and without time-consuming red tape.

A simple priority system where veterans' housing, and practically nothing else, gets priority for building materials should insure that builders of veterans' housing get prompt delivery. This sort of thing worked during the war when most people complied with priorities because they were patriotic. We need such patriotic local efforts now just as much as we did during the war if we are to get materials into veterans' housing fast. Each one of you can help back in your own home town. Your government will do its part by prosecuting flagrant violators wherever we can get the evidence. We intend to continue to enforce compliance with utmost vigor, but we cannot cutting flagrant violators wherever we can get the evidence. We intend to continue to enforce compliance with utmost vigor, but we cannot.

Your government will do its part by prose-cuting flagrant violators wherever we can get the evidence. We intend to continue to enforce compliance with utmost vigor, but we cannot.

Let's agree on our own common objectives. Surely we are agreed that we must achieve and maintain full employment at fair wages and good working conditions. Hand in hand with this goes full production—the pouring of goods and services with fair profits and at prices that will assure the widest consumption and the greatest satisfaction of human needs and human wants.

To gain these objectives, we must overcome obstacles. Labor and management must make up their minds to work together, and deal to-gether across the table in good faith and on reasonable terms. Management must recognize the rights and needs of its workers—that labor is not just another cost of production to be cut as low as possible, but consists of men and women trying to earn a decent living. Labor, for its part must make allowance for the facts and factors facing the individual businessman. It must cooperate in keeping the plant running producing products that can be sold at compe-titive prices. Undoubtedly both sides must at times take less than seems their fair share.

There never has been, and never will be, small groups in Washington, or anywhere else with sufficient wisdom to solve all problems or cure all troubles. On the contrary this country has grown great because we, the people, back in our own home towns have worked out the solutions to our problems, and have told Wash-ington what we, the people, wanted done.

It is easy to forget the fact that since V-J Day labor, industry and Government working together have been able to reach almost full employment and almost full production in spite of all of the after-war turmoil.

That is a lot of progress. But in spite of it, there are those who are impatient for even faster action regardless of whether it is prac-tical or not.

We can retain our gains, remain at full pro-duction, and full employment for a long time to come if all of us can only be a little toler-ant, a little patriotic and good-humored. To some people it may involve a little sacrifice to be understanding and good natured but if re-straint and patience and tolerance mean sus-tained prosperity for all, I believe it is worth the effort.

With a flood of peacetime goods we can fill the urgent needs in short order and go on to satisfy the tremendous requirements of our fu-ture. We can achieve higher standards of liv-ing than were ever dreamed of before. When we reach this goal we will have again shown the world that the American way is truly worth fighting for.

The following resolutions were rejected by the committee for their consideration.

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Forty-eight resolutions were submitted to the committee for their consideration.

The following resolutions were rejected by the Internal Organization Committee: Resolutions Nos. 33, 90, 376, 409, 378, 34, 377, 214, 52, 598, 695, 548, 193, 115, 208, 511, 351, 269, 696, 411, 761 and 48.

The following resolutions were referred for appropriate action:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

Edward McGinnis, chairman, of Illinois, report-ed as follows:

To the Twenty-Eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, Califor-nia, September 30-October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946.

Forty-four members of your Committee on In-ternal Organization met at 5:30 p.m., Septem-ber 30, 1946, in Committee Room 223 in the War Memorial Building and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Forty-eight resolutions were submitted to the committee for their consideration.

The following resolutions were rejected by the Internal Organization Committee: Resolutions Nos. 33, 90, 376, 409, 378, 34, 377, 214, 52, 598, 695, 548, 193, 115, 208, 511, 351, 269, 696, 411, 761 and 48.

The following resolutions were referred for appropriate action:
Resolution No. 677 to the National Americanism Committee.
Resolution No. 330 to the Contest Supervisory Committee.
Resolution No. 410 to the Standing Committee on Trophies, Awards and Ceremonies.
Resolution No. 206 to the Standing Committee on Trophies, Awards and Ceremonies.
Resolution No. 273 to the National Contests Committee.
Resolution No. 513 to the National Executive Committee with the recommendation that it be made effective.
Resolutions Nos. 546, 452 and 698, dealing with the subject of the continuation of the National Aeronautics Commission, were rejected and as a substitute the following resolution was adopted unanimously by your committee:
Resolution No. 852—
Whereas, Section 4, of Article I of the National By-Laws of The American Legion provides as follows:
"The National Commander shall name such committees as he shall deem advisable, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next meeting succeeding the appointment."
Whereas, The question has arisen as to whether or not standing committees may be created by national convention action; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that the provisions of the foregoing section does not prohibit the creation of a standing committee and the defining of its powers by national convention resolution.
The following resolutions were approved by your convention committee on Internal Organization and are submitted herewith for your consideration:

**National Poppy Day Committee**

Resolution No. 274—
Whereas, There is no existing uniform Poppy Day all through the United States; and
Whereas, It will be to the interest of the members of The American Legion and the people as a whole of these United States that there be no separate dates for Poppy Day; and
Whereas, This would avoid misunderstanding in communities where the state border line is in the midst of populated metropolitan areas; and
Whereas, A National Poppy Day Committee should be established to fulfill one of the most important programs of the Legion; and
Whereas, This committee nationally in scope would be better fitted to direct department Poppy Day committees and would formulate rules beneficial to all; therefore, be it
Resolved, By The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, September 30-October 4, 1946, that the balloting on applications be made effective.

**Balloting on Membership Applications in Post Meetings**

Resolution No. 270—
Whereas, In the 1944 edition of the Manual of Ceremonies the "order of business for post meetings" indicates that the balloting on applications is to be considered after the reading of the minutes of previous meeting, committee reports, sick call, relief and employment, and unfinished business; and
Whereas, The membership committee is an important activity of any post and applicants for membership are not entitled to membership until their applications have been properly voted upon by those present at a regular or special meeting of a post, as provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws of such post; be it, therefore,
Resolved, By The American Legion In convention assembled at San Francisco, September 30-October 4, that the balloting on applications be made the third order of business of post meetings, immediately following committee reports; and be it further
Resolved, That the National Executive Committee authorize that this change be incorporated in the next edition of the Manual of Ceremonies.

**Membership Quotas Should Be Based on Potential Membership**

Resolution No. 64—
Whereas, The system which has been followed by National Headquarters of The American Legion in setting department membership quotas in past years has been outmoded by the tremendous increase in eligibles from World War II; and
Whereas, The old policy of basing department membership quotas on past membership accomplishments has always been unfair, in that it penalizes departments which have consistently had a good membership, and allows others which wish to do so to let their membership drop for several years in order to get a lower quota, then by enrolling a good membership the next year or two to win a majority of the membership awards and honors; and
Whereas, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting in June, 1946, set up a system of establishing department membership quotas for the next five years on the basis of adding 10 per cent to the June 30 membership of the previous year to get the next year's quota, thus aggravating even more the unfair system followed in the past, making it almost an impossibility for some departments to reach the goal which would be set in 1951; and
Whereas, The Department of Nebraska has, during the year of 1945-1946 made an intensive study of membership possibilities in its own state, which when applied to a membership campaign has resulted in that department enrolling a higher percentage of its potential membership and its 1940 population than any other department, proving that an outstanding membership job can be done when using potential membership as a basis; therefore, be it

**Continuous Membership for Former Prisoners of War**

Resolution No. 626—
Whereas, There were many members of The American Legion who were prisoners of war during the war just completed; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, By The American Legion, in convention assembled at San Francisco, California, on September 30, October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946, that dues be waived for their period of captivity for members of The American Legion who were prisoners of war and who could not continue their dues during their captivity and that they be given a right to request continuous membership.
Resolved, That The American Legion adopt as a basis for setting department membership quotas for the next five years the only equitable and sensible method—that of basing quotas on potential membership; and be it further
Resolved, That since the survey made by the Department of Nebraska shows that giving each department a membership quota based on 3 percent of its 1940 population would result in practically the same total quota which the National Executive Committee plan sets up, that each continental department of The American Legion be given a 1947 membership quota based on 3 percent of its 1940 population as reported by the United States Bureau of the Census.

Special Committee on Veterans' Housing

Resolution No. 833 (substituted for Resolution No. 831)—

Resolved, Second only in importance to keeping the peace, the matter of providing proper housing for returning veterans of World War II is paramount today; and

Whereas, It is apparent that since V-J Day little progress has been made toward achieving this goal; and

Whereas, America is a nation which has been built upon the foundation of the family and the home; and

Whereas, The men and women who served this nation in the recent war did so in order to preserve that fundamental principle; and

Whereas, These men and women, upon their return to civilian life, have not been able to enjoy the blessings of family and home for which they fought; and

Whereas, The programs put forward by the various governmental agencies have brought forth apologies instead of apartments, and red tape instead of roofs; and

Whereas, The American Legion has, through the various mediums at its command, extended the fullest cooperation to the governmental agencies involved without achieving the desired success; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the National Committee of The American Legion immediately appoint a special committee of the National Organization on Veterans' Housing, this committee to consist of seven members and so far as practicable the majority of this committee shall consist of the younger veterans who are more directly affected by the lack of housing; be it further

Resolved, That this committee organize forthwith to attack this problem and proceed immediately to investigate the present Federal program on veterans' housing; study pending or proposed legislation, and initiate a program of remedial measures; be it further

Resolved, That all resolutions and proposals pending before this convention and before The American Legion pertaining to the subject of veterans' housing be referred to this special committee; be it further

Resolved, That this committee report its findings and recommendations to the November meeting of the National Executive Committee.

SAL Badge for Detachment and District Officers

Resolution No. 271—

Be it Resolved, By The American Legion in convention assembled in San Francisco, September 30, October 4, that the national convention in session approve and recommend to the Emblem Department, and the National Emblem Division, a suitable badge for detachment and district officers, Sons of The American Legion.

Continuance of The American Legion College

Resolution No. 219—

Whereas, The objectives of The American Legion College are: to increase knowledge and appreciation on the part of the future leaders of The American Legion for our American way of life and our Constitutional form of government; along with a sound understanding of the contributions to these basic philosophies by the programs of The American Legion; and

Whereas, The security of The American Legion lies with the future leaders of the Legion, these leaders being those who have recently affiliated with the organization and thereby have little knowledge or experience in Legion programs; and

Whereas, The American Legion College makes available the necessary knowledge required of leaders of The American Legion and makes known to its students the history and background of the Legion, including the organizational, administrative and executive processes of the Legion; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By The American Legion at its 28th annual national convention held in San Francisco, 1946, that ways and means be provided for the continuance of The American Legion College.

Annual Conference of Department Commanders and Adjutants

Resolution No. 136—

Be it Resolved, That the annual conference of department commanders and department adjutants be held in the fall of 1946, at the call of the National Adjutant.

Emblem Division Contracts

Resolution No. 852—

Be it Resolved, That the incoming National Commander be directed to review all contracts let through the National Emblem Division and that pending that review all contracts be terminated within 90 days following the adjournment of the San Francisco convention.

Committee to Study Reorganization of the National Organization

Resolution No. 854—

Whereas, National Commander John Stelle in his annual report to the twenty-eighth annual national convention of The American Legion has recommended that consideration be given to a reorganization of the National Organization; and

Whereas, It is quite apparent that such reorganization should begin with the structure of national committees; and

Whereas, There is appended hereto and made a part hereof a portion of the report of the Convention Committee on Internal Organization dealing with this subject matter; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the twenty-eighth annual national convention of The American Legion assembled in San Francisco, California, September 30-October 1, 2, 3, 4, 1946, that the incoming National Commander be directed to appoint a committee for the purpose of studying and recommending the reorganization of the National Organization and con-
sideration be given to the suggestion contained in this report, that copies be sent to each department and that the committee report to the November, 1948, meeting of the National Executive Committee.

Issuance of Temporary and Permanent Post Charters

Resolution No. 856—

Whereas, In many instances temporary charters have been issued by the departments to various posts of The American Legion covering a probationary period; and

Whereas, No permanent charter is issued in such instances until approved by the department involved; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That in all instances where temporary charters are issued in the future the probationary period during which said charter is to continue in existence shall not exceed a period of one year, upon the termination of which the department shall determine whether a permanent charter shall be issued or denied and the action of the department shall be final.

The following resolutions were consolidated into Resolution No. 145: Resolutions Nos. 272, 412, 32, 512 and 716.

Contracts for Manufacture and Sale of Legion Caps

Resolution No. 145—

Whereas, The American Legion has grown to a size where it has become big business and its affairs should be handled in a businesslike manner; and

Whereas, Certain committees in charge of the operation of divisions of the National Headquarters have let large contracts for the various items purchased for resale to the individual Legionnaire, and have awarded such contracts without inviting bids from all reputable manufacturers and dealers; and

Whereas, The National Emblem Committee recently awarded a three-year contract to the Sheaf Trading Corporation, Boston, Mass., doing business under the name and style of Legonnaire Cap Company to manufacture and sell through retail stores in each and every department of The American Legion at prices greatly in excess of those which could have been secured by the National Emblem Division through competitive bids; and

Whereas, Pursuant to the action of the National Emblem Committee the National Headquarters of The American Legion entered into a three-year contract with said Sheaf Trading Corporation, dated July 1, 1946, embodying the above terms, which contains a clause to the effect that The American Legion may modify or terminate said contract pursuant to national convention action without further liability to either party to said agreement; and

Whereas, If said contract is permitted to remain in force and effect, it will cause disharmony in the various departments in The American Legion and cost the individual members of The American Legion more for such caps than they should be required to pay; and

Whereas, The policy of the National Emblem Division with reference to the marketing of Legion caps should be modified to permit departments to make their own contracts with cap manufacturers so long as they conform to minimum specifications as required by the National Emblem Division and so long as they purchase the Legion emblems to be used on said caps from the National Emblem Division; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That:

1. The contract with the Sheaf Trading Corporation herein above referred to, be terminated;

2. That the various departments be permitted to make contracts for the purchase of Legion caps for sale in their departments with manufacturers of their choice, provided that such contracts will require such manufacturers to conform to the minimum specifications of the National Emblem Division, and provided further that all emblems used in the manufacture of such caps be purchased from the National Emblem Division.

Bugler and Firing Squad for Funerals of Veterans

Substitute for Resolution No. 220—

Whereas, The American Legion takes an active interest in community service to include the families of servicemen who made the supreme sacrifice for their country; and

Whereas, The government of the United States has made provisions by regulations for the return of the bodies under escort to the homes of servicemen who were killed or died in service under war conditions; and

Whereas, It is often requested by the nearest of kin that an official Army, Navy, Marine or Coast Guard detail consisting of Color Guard, Bugler and Firing Squad assist at these services:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by The American Legion in convention assembled at San Francisco, California, September 29th to October 4th, That Army Regulation 600-30, Change 5 Paragraph 19.1, entitled "Firing Squad for Funeral of Veteran" be modified by Congress so that all areas adjacent to military, naval and coast guard bases be divided into such districts that all United States territory is included; and that a detail including two Color Guards, one Bugler and a Firing Squad of eight men plus a leader will be available at each post, camp, station or depot throughout the United States for each two hundred thousand population within the area represented. Monetary allowances in lieu of quarters and rations will be furnished at Government expense. The provisions noted in this resolution are in addition to those provided for prior to this date.

Resolution No. 694 to Continue The American Legion College was received and filed in view of the adoption of Resolution No. 219.

In addition to those approved resolutions previously reported, the following Resolution No. 857, received the unanimous approval of your committee.

Allocation of Housing Department Delegations to National Conventions

Whereas, A number of departments of The American Legion are of the opinion that the present method of allocating hotel accommodations at national conventions of The American Legion to official representatives from the various departments is unfair and discriminatory.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that in allocating rooms for the housing of department delegations to national conventions rooms of first and second
REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON REORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES

In line with the basic recommendations of National Commander John Steile contained in his annual report under paragraph 1 thereof, your committee has given some thought to streamlining the general National Committee organization. We agree with the national commander that our extensive and ramified activities need coordination and closer supervision. Perhaps some of these committee activities may well be curtailed while others should be expanded.

Since many activities, when authorized by either national convention or the National Executive Committee, are made operative by the appointment of a committee, we have first reviewed the committee structure of the National Organization and we find that there are upward of fifty-four national committees, commissions or sub-committees in existence. Certain of these committees, commissions or sub-committees are quite basic in objective such as the Americanism Commission, Rehabilitation Committee, Legislative Committee, Finance Committee and similar committees. Other commissions and committees have rather limited functional purposes—important in themselves but obviously subordinate to basic principles. It is the opinion of your sub-committee that a reorganization of national committees, commissions or sub-committees should be made. We believe that the structure of such a reorganization should follow a basic premise.

There are certain fundamental programs of The American Legion which underlie all of our activities, for example Americanism, Child Welfare, Rehabilitation, Legislation, National Defense, Economic Welfare, Foreign Relations and Law and Order. And in addition, there are the problems that concern our Legion publications, our public relations, our finances and other details relating to our "intimate housekeeping."

Your committee has had the benefit of some advice from the National Executive Committee indicating the overlapping and duplication of activity on the part of many national commissions, committees and sub-committees. We believe that it is necessary in the interest of efficiency that these activities be coordinated and supervised to a greater extent than has heretofore been obtained.

We also believe that there should be a differentiation between those commissions, committees and sub-committees which have major policies to interpret and those commissions, committees and sub-committees which are purely functional in purpose.

We also believe that it is necessary to channel responsibility delegated either directly or indirectly, to the various commissions, committees and sub-committees in some form or other which will eliminate overlapping and duplication of purpose. We also recognize that there is little time available to the National Executive Committee which is charged constitutionally with the administration of our American Legion affairs. Some system therefore must be devised which will permit a segregation of those matters which are functional in character from those which involve a question of policy. It is also necessary that some determination be made so that functional matters may be determined promptly and that policy matters be deferred until proper determination thereon may be made by either the national convention or the National Executive Committee. To this end we recommend to the national commander and to the National Executive Committee:

1. That a first line of major responsibility be centered in a group which we choose to call "Commitees" which will be charged with responsibility for certain basic Legion programs. Such commissions to make their reports to the National Executive Committee for all correlated matters that pertain to their responsibility.

2. A second line of functional groups which we choose to call "Committees", subordinate to the various commissions previously mentioned, which shall be charged with the functional responsibility of the study and development of some particular phase of the program.

3. In the development of this philosophy, however, we believe that in the assignment of responsibilities representation upon any commission must include in its membership representation on behalf of any sub-committees. This may be accomplished either by including arbitrarily certain members of the committees as members of the commission or by requiring that from the commission membership certain members thereof shall be members of the subordinate committee. The entire point being that in any event any committee charged with a responsibility shall have voice and vote within the commission body which shall determine its recommendations.

We recognize the utter impossibility of making conclusive determination as to the basic responsibilities to be assigned to the commissions under this theory and the appointment of functional sub-committees to the various commissions in the limited time available at this convention. We believe, however, that if a competent special committee, not to exceed nine (9) members, were appointed by the national commander to select the various basic principles or programs of the Legion which should be assigned to the commissions under this theory, as well as the segregation and distribution of the various sub-committees whose function should come under the supervision of the commissions, should be made promptly. Such special committee should be directed to begin its operations at once to the end that constructive suggestions shall be presented to the National Executive Committee at its November meeting. The November meeting is, of course, recognized as the meeting which approves the organization of the new administration.

5. In making the foregoing suggestions your
sub-committee has in mind the simplification of a great many procedural matters. We do not desire to set up any arbitrary views recognizing that the reorganization as suggested entails to some extent the disturbance of many procedures which have prevailed from the inception of The American Legion. We do have in mind, however, the fact that within the last year The American Legion has acquired upward of two million new members. These younger members have brought with them into our membership and our concern problems which completely change the emphasis to be given to many established programs. We feel that this emphasis should be recognized and that the commissions, committees and sub-committees which are responsible for the activation of American Legion programs, as voted by the national conventions and interpreted by the National Executive Committee, should reflect this emphasis. This emphasis should be placed upon, first, the program and, second, the expedition with which the program can be executed. We do not believe that present methods are adequate to meet these requirements. For these reasons we reiterate our suggestion to the national commander that a competent committee be appointed to recommend to the National Executive Committee the details of a reorganization in conformity with our foregoing suggestions. We think that such committee should not exceed a membership of nine (9) members of The American Legion who by background and experience could best suggest the specifications for the commissions suggested and the subordinate committees contemplated.

As a pattern for the consideration of the national commander, the National Executive Committee or any special committee charged with consideration of the reorganization of national committees we suggest the following:

a. Americanism Commission with subordinate assignments of Boys’ State, Subversive Activities, Oratorical Contest, School Awards, Junior Boys’ State, Baseball, Boy Scouts and the present functions of the Coordinating Committee.

b. Child Welfare Commission to include the functions presently assigned and in addition the functions of the committee on the Education of Orphans of Veterans.

c. A National Defense Commission to include the responsibilities as presently assigned to the Aeronautics Commission, Military Affairs Committee, Civil Defense Committee, Merchant Marine Committee, Naval Affairs Committee and the temporary functions of the Special National Security Committee.

d. The creation of a new commission to be known as the Internal Organization Commission which would embrace either present committees existing or additional committees to be created on the subjects of Membership, Constitution and By-laws, Contests Supervisory Commission, Convention Bureau, Distinguished Guests, Marksmanship, Resolutions Assignment, Sons of The American Legion, Transportation and the Committee on Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials.

e. A Law and Order Commission to embrace the various activities relating thereto plus that of the activity of Highway Safety.

f. A Commission on Foreign Relations to embrace matters pertaining thereto but including the functions of the Inter-American Good Will Committee and certain assignments on behalf of The American Legion which have been made to the United Nations Security Council and which might be made to the United Nations Economic Council.

g. A Publications’ Commission whose function would continue to include the management of the affairs of our various publications.

h. A Legislative Committee which would include all of the responsibilities for the enactment of Federal legislation as recommended by The American Legion, plus the very definite responsibility for coordinating the activities of any special committees which may be created in the interest of specific legislation such as revision of the GI Bill, Universal Military Service or similar subjects.

i. A Public Relations Committee to carry out the purposes set forth in the design of such present commission.

j. A Rehabilitation Commission which would in effect displace the present Rehabilitation Executive Committee without disturbing at this time any subordinate organization presently prevailing. The supervision of the Rehabilitation Commission would include, in general, matters pertaining to hospitalization, client rehabilitation training of the physically disabled, insurance matters and other matters which pertain to the physical rehabilitation of the veteran.

k. A Finance Commission which would embrace the functions apparent in any Finance Committee such as budgetary matters but including the functions presently assigned to The Americanism Endowment Corporation, the Emblem Committee, the Five Million Dollar Endowment Fund Corporation, the Investments Policy Committee, the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust, the Retirement Committee and the committees appointed in the interest of expanding the facilities of National Headquarters, as well as those charged with the sale and acquisition of Legion property.

l. The Graves Registration Commission to embrace the matter of the repatriation of American war dead from overseas, the survey of National Cemeteries, the continuation of programs concerning the Decoration of Overseas Graves, and the Legion Program on Graves Registration.

m. We believe that it will be necessary to establish certain special advisory committees to the national commander among which we
have in mind the present committee on Labor Relations.

In further connection with the recommendations of National Commander Stelle we believe that the items specified in his report which deal with restating our efforts to those specifically provided for in the National By-laws can be accomplished if the foregoing recommendations are carried into effect. We acknowledge that there are many complications in the holding of our national convention which should be studied, including the ratio of delegate strength to the membership which would be a logical assignment of the newly appointed Internal Organization Commission.

Likewise we feel that the matter of the allocation of the national dues dollar would be a logical question for the Finance Commission in coordination with other organizational committees concerned. We also are of the belief that if the Emblem Division is brought under the direct supervision of the Finance Commission many of the thoughts of the national commander can be properly reviewed and adjusted. It would appear that the constructive suggestion concerning the establishment of a coincidence between the administrative years of the various departments with that of the National Organization would be a logical assignment to the suggested Internal Organization Commission. The matter concerning the advisability of establishing geographical areas or districts to be represented by the national vice commanders would also seem to be a logical assignment to a Commission on Internal Organization.

We recommend to the National Executive Committee that if this program is adopted that in such instances where a commission is established the National Executive Committee shall establish from its own body a suitable liaison committee with each commission to the end that a definite group of National Executive Committee men shall be informed as to the business of the several commissions.

As an ultimate conclusion we believe that in the interest of uniformity the permanent organization of future national conventions should conform as nearly as practicable to the established commission structure as contemplated by the foregoing recommended commissions. For the purpose of positive action on the part of national conventions it may be necessary to set up additional convention committees, but in any event such committees should contemplate the agency through which it is anticipated that their objectives are to be accomplished.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:
The Chair recognizes one of the great national commanders, Milo Warner of Ohio.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILO WARNER:
Commander Stelle, My Comrades of The American Legion: It is a happy privilege indeed to be asked to introduce to this convention a long-time friend of the Legion. Twenty-three years ago, when The American Legion met in San Francisco and elected John Quinn national commander, the man whom I am about to introduce to you was chairman of the Indiana delegation, its department commander. He is presently in Washington and he likes to have it put this way: He is a businessman now from Ohio, serving the veterans in Washington for the past two years and he is the Director of the Veterans' Placement Board.

I have known Perry Faulkner for 23 years, and I have known him always to be a friend of the veteran, sincere in his effort at all times on their behalf.

It gives me great pleasure to present to the convention and introduce Perry Faulkner, Director of the Veterans' Placement Board.

REMARKS BY PERRY FAULKNER
Director of The Veterans' Placement Board

MR. PERRY FAULKNER: Commander Warner and My Comrades of the Legion: Of course, I am fully aware that you have been listening to speeches for many days. The brass hats from Washington and other kindred folk that perform under the white lights of the throne of government have told you about their accomplishments and the things they hope to do.

In the report of your Employment Committee, you talked largely and at considerable length about "On-The-Job Training," and the things you hoped to do for the veteran who has suffered some extraordinary catastrophe in this war.

I admit that Title I, II, III and other titles of the GI Bill of Rights, and I think I shall continue to call it that, has a great deal of importance in the scheme of Legion activities, but it has seemed to me that Title IV of that famous bill deserves the consideration of the Legion. I would be happy if I had the eloquence and the precision of Harry Colmery that I might tell you something about these 16 or 17 million veterans that are going to be needing jobs. Not ordinary jobs, but good jobs.

The law under which I operate and under which I was called to Washington to set up an organization insists that the veteran shall receive a maximum of job opportunity in the field of gainful employment. I can think of no more important task which should engage the attention, the energy, and the every thought of The American Legion back in their home community. Yes, it is well that we think about "On-The-Job Training." Everything the Legion can do should be done for the disabled, but we must remember that the thing that flowers and grows into the finest type of citizenship is the returned veteran with the memory of his service to his country happily engaged and readjusted in our civilian economy in a good job. I would like to ask the del-
gates to this convention to go back home and read Title IV of the GI Bill. You will find there, one of the most amazing laws ever put on the statute books of this country. Everywhere, we are surrounded by red tape. We are responsible to the Veterans' Placement Service Board.

We are housed in the Department of Labor. We work with the United States Employment Service, and after November 15th, the United States Employment Service will work with and under the Unemployment Compensation.

So out of that maze of Government red tape, we are instructed to give a veteran the maximum of job opportunity in the field of gainful employment. And in spite of all of the things that you have heard here, of the glittering verbiage the lords of language that have talked to you—I ask you to go back home, read that law, do something about clarifying its purpose, and give the veterans of this country that maximum of job opportunity.

If you will do that, I believe you will be rendering the veterans of this war and all wars, one of the greatest possible services. I thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Thank you, Perry Faulkner. Your organization is one of the good old hard-fighting organizations for the welfare of these service men, and are doing a great job on this.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

E. E. Thompson, chairman of Missouri, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-Eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1946.

Forty-one members of your committee on Constitutional Amendments met at 5:00 p.m., September 30 and October 2, 1946 in Committee Room 219 in the Veterans' Memorial Building and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

National Judge Advocate Ralph B. Gregg presided for the purpose of organizing the committee. The name of E. E. Thompson of Missouri was placed in nomination to the office of chairman and upon roll call was elected as such. Motion carried that the chairman appoint a secretary of committee and by such authority your chairman appointed Hon. Turner M. Budeell of the Department of South Dakota, secretary.

Appointment of National Adjutant

I—Resolution No. 72—

The above numbered resolution, emanating from the Department of Nebraska was referred to our committee by the Resolutions Assignment Committee and deals with the subject of amending Article VI of the National Constitution relating to the manner of the selection of the national adjutant. The resolution is in words and figures to wit:

"Be it Resolved, By The American Legion that Section 3, Article VI of the National Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Section 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the national convention shall appoint the national adjutant, national treasurer, national judge advocate and national historian, such officers to hold office for one year and be ex-officio members of the National Executive Committee.

Be it further Resolved, That Section 4, Article VI be repealed and that Section 5 thereof be renumbered Section 4."

The committee being advised by the Resolutions Assignment Committee and the national adjutant's office that the proposed resolution had been circulated among the various departments and the members of the National Executive Committee in compliance with Article XVI of the National Constitution, and finding the resolution in proper form, recommends adoption of the proposed amendment to this convention, and Mr. Commander I so move you.

Removal of Political Restrictions

II—Resolution No. 123—

The above resolution emanating from the Department of Wisconsin was referred to your committee by the Resolutions Assignment Committee which reports that Article II, Section 2, of the National Constitution be amended to the end that political restriction should not prohibit Legion officials from holding public office or becoming a candidate therefor. After due consideration and discussion your committee recommends the rejection of the proposed amendment and Mr. Commander I so move.

Resolution No. 337, emanating from the Department of Maryland and relating to the same subject matter, was not considered by the committee for the reason that it was received at National Headquarters on a date too late to permit it to be circulated to the various departments and members of the National Executive Committee in compliance with Article XVI of the National Constitution.

Automatic Amendment Eligibility

III—Resolution No. 777—

The above resolution emanating from the National Executive Committee and referred to us by the Resolutions Assignment Committee, proposes to amend our constitution by the adoption of a new article to be known as Article XVII which would provide that in the event the Congress of the United States should amend the eligiblity clause in the act creating The American Legion, our constitution would be deemed amended in conference therewith without the convention action being necessary. The resolution further provides for a similar amendment of Article XIII relating to eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary.

At the pre-convention meeting of the National Executive Committee it was recommended that the proposal to amend, which was initiated in that body, be rejected.
M-1

IV—Resolution No. 779—
The above numbered resolution emanating from the Department of Missouri, was assigned to our committee by the Resolutions Assignment Committee and it is proposed to amend our constitution so as to officially recognize a subsidiary organization known as M-1, membership in which would be limited to veterans of World War II who are, and continue to be members of The American Legion in good standing.

Our committee duly considered the proposal and recommends to the convention that it be rejected and Mr. National Commander I so move.

Administrative Committee

V—Resolutions No. 71 and 144—
The above resolution No. 71, emanating from the Department of Nebraska, was referred to our committee by the Resolutions Assignment Committee and proposed to amend Section 1, Article VII of the National Constitution of The American Legion by providing that between meetings of the National Executive Committee the administrative power shall be vested in the National Administrative Committee which shall be composed of the seven appointed members of the National Finance Committee, as provided in the By-laws and seven members to be selected from the National Executive Committee. The resolution further provides that the national commander and the national treasurer shall be ex-officio members of said committee, and the national commander and the national adjutant shall be chairman and secretary, respectively, of said committee.

Above resolution No. 144, emanating from the Department of Indiana, is identical with respect to the subject matter of the national commander's report to the convention recommending that an Administrative Committee be made a constitutional part of The American Legion. No action was taken thereon for the reason it does not constitute a proposed amendment of the National Constitution within the meaning of Article XVI of the National Constitutional.

Recording of SAL as Subsidiary Organization

VI—Resolutions No. 96, 104, 217—
The above numbered resolutions, all identical, emanating from the Departments of Rhode Island, South Carolina and Vermont recommended that the National Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion be amended to provide that the Sons of The American Legion be made a subsidiary organization of The American Legion and to provide for election of national officers of the Sons of The American Legion.

As heretofore indicated Article XVI of the National Constitution provides:

"Section 1. This constitution 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 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.

"Section 2. That no proposed amendment shall be submitted through the national adjutant to the several departments and members of the National Executive Committee, as provided in Section I of this article, unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a department convention, Department Executive Committee, or the National Executive Committee.

The above article of our constitution has been construed to require that the proposed amendment to the constitution (must) be set out in the transmittal to the various departments and the members of the National Executive Committee.

None of the above numbered resolutions comply with such constitutional requirement. Therefore it would require the unanimous vote of this convention to amend our constitution in the manner recommended. There being a resolution of a department in opposition to the recommendation to make the Sons of The American Legion a subsidiary organization of The American Legion, and also expressed opposition thereto by members of our committee, it was the consensus of opinion that unanimous vote of the convention could not be obtained and therefore our committee did not further consider the above numbered resolution.

Resolution No. 399 emanating from the Department of California.

No. 505 emanating from the Department of Pennsylvania.

The committee also received an excerpt from the national commander's report to the convention recommending that an Administrative Committee be made a constitutional part of The American Legion. No action was taken thereon for the reason it does not constitute a proposed amendment of the National Constitution within the meaning of Article XVI of the National Constitutional.
Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention

organisation was not considered for the reason that it was received at National Headquarters too late to be circulated in compliance with Article XVI of the National Constitution.

Resolution No. 108, emanating from the Department of California and No. 416, emanating from the Department of Texas, both favoring the recognition of the Sons of The American Legion as a subsidiary organization were received too late for circulation and were not considered.

Naming of Posts

VII—Resolution No. 146—
The above numbered resolution emanating from the Department of Illinois, proposing that Section 4 Article IX of the National Constitution relative to the naming of posts was received at National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, at 10:32 a.m. September 11, 1946, too late to be circulated in the manner provided by Article XVI of the National Constitution. It being apparent that a unanimous vote of the convention could not be obtained in support of the resolution it was therefore not considered by our committee.

Change in Ratio of Delegates to Membership

VIII—Resolution No. 531—
The above numbered resolution emanating from the Department of Minnesota, relating to a proposed amendment to Section 5 of Article V, changing the convention delegate ratio to membership was received at National Headquarters too late to be circulated to the departments and the members of the National Executive Committee, as provided by the National Constitution.

It being apparent that the unanimous vote of the convention could not be obtained on said resolution it was therefore not considered by our committee.

Chartering Overseas Posts BWI

IX—Resolution No. 136—
The above numbered resolution was adopted by Defense Post No. 16 of Trinidad, BWI, and relates to chartering of overseas posts. In substance the resolution proposes that the constitution be amended to include overseas posts to be affiliated with an established Department in the continental United States be repealed and that such post be represented at a national convention by at least one delegate and one alternate, in good standing, for each 100 members or major fraction thereof. As indicated, the above resolution has not been submitted to a Department Convention, Department Executive Committee, or the National Executive Committee and is not in form required by the Constitution. Accordingly the resolution was not considered by our committee.

X—Resolution No. 328—
The above resolution, emanating from the Department of Iowa, was officially considered by the Resolutions Assignment Committee and referred to our Committee. The resolution recommends that Congress be petitioned to again amend our National Charter by fixing the terminal date of eligibility for membership in The American Legion for veterans of World War II as October 5, 1946.

It will be recalled that the 1946 convention, at Chicago, adopted a resolution petitioning Congress to amend the National Charter by substituting the date September 2, 1945, for the phrase "date of cessation of hostilities as fixed by the United States Government." Pursuant to such request a Bill was introduced in Congress to that effect. It was passed and the President affixed his signature thereto on July 8, 1946. Accordingly, the terminal date for membership was received too late for circulation and were not considered.

XI—Resolution No. 5—
The above resolution emanating from the Department of Rhode Island, was officially considered by the Resolutions Assignment Committee and referred to our Committee. The resolution provides that Congress be petitioned to amend our national charter so as to make eligible for membership in The American Legion those who served in the armed forces of the United States during the period between September 16, 1940, and the expiration date of the present Selective Service Law.

After duly considering the resolution our Committee recommends that it be rejected and, Mr. National Commander, I so move you.

XII—Resolution No. 91—
The above-numbered resolution emanating from the Department of Oregon, provides that Congress be petitioned to amend our national charter by making any person eligible for membership in The American Legion who was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted or commissioned, or who was accepted for and assigned to active duty in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard of the United States at some time during the period between September 16, 1940, and September 2, 1945, and the date of the cessation of hostilities, or the date ending the state of war, which ever date is the earlier, as fixed by the United States Government, while the Selective Service and Training Act of 1940 and any and all extensions thereof are in full force and effect, all dates inclusive.

The above resolution was duly considered by our committee and is recommended to this convention that it be rejected and, Mr. National Commander, I so move you.

XIII—Resolution No. 772—
The above resolution emanating from the Department of West Virginia, is identical in language to Resolution No. 91 just acted upon. The resolution was considered by our committee and we recommend its rejection and, Mr. National Commander, I so move you.

XIV—Resolution No. 776—
The above-numbered resolution emanating from the Department of Illinois proposes that The American Legion charter as amended and approved by Congress on October 28, 1942, by Public Law 767 be continued in effect and not amended until a definite decision is reached with regard to the date of cessation of hostilities. The above resolution was adopted by the Department Executive Committee of Illinois prior to the enactment of the present law fixing
John Stelle, and Fellow Legionnaires: I deeply
ert P. Gerholz.
States, and a fellow Legionnaire, Rob-
past president of the National Associa-
 gan.
in 1944.
ers. He was president of the association
of Home Builders of the United
France. For 25 years he has been a home
oklahoma, Mr. Ernest R. Christopher. . . .
Oklahoma, Mr. Ernest R. Christopher.
ber of James H. Teel Post No. 105, Bartlesville,
and I am very happy to present this check for
present year has an enviable record of service,
ners to have
Rosenstiel in behalf of the
of The American Legion to have
sible by Lewis S. Rosenstiel in behalf of the

The Chair recognizes Chairman Webb

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:
The Chair recognizes Chairman Webb of the

MR. WEBB: Mr. Commander, my comrades
The American Legion: Five years ago the
Rosenstiel Award was created. This award is
sum of $1,000.00, and has been made possible by
Lewis S. Rosenstiel in behalf of the

The recipient of this award is that Legi-
naire judged by the National Americanism
Commission of The American Legion to have
made the greatest unselfish contribution of
service to his community.

The man selected to receive the award this
present year has an enviable record of service,
and I am very happy to present this check for
$1,000.00 to a great Legionnaire who is a mem-
er of James H. Teel Post No. 106, Bartlesville,
Oklahoma, Mr. Ernest R. Christopher.

Chairman Webb of the American-
ism Commission presented the $1,000.00
check to Mr. Ernest R. Christopher . . .

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:
The National Association of Home Build-
ers has commissioned a distinguished
representative to inform this convention on
special phases of the housing crisis.
It is composed of 30 per cent of all build-
ers. He was president of the association
in 1944.

In World War I he rose from the ranks
through the artillery school at Samur,
France. For 25 years he has been a home
builder in his native city of Flint, Michi-
gan.

It is a genuine pleasure to present a
past president of the National Associa-
tion of Home Builders of the United
States, and a fellow Legionnaire, Rob-
ert P. Gerholz.

ADDRESS BY ROBERT P. GERHOLZ
Past President, National Association
of Home Builders

MR. ROBERT P. GERHOLZ: Commander
John Stelle, and Fellow Legionnaires: I deeply
appreciate the opportunity of reporting to the
people in America, what I think of the most
vital role in housing.

I would like to pause just a moment though,
to pay respects to Commander John Stelle,
for the greatest convention it has ever been my
privilege to attend. I know of no group in
America that more represent rugged America,
two-storied, red blooded, hard hitting, courage
group of individuals who certainly have the
guts to say what they think. Whether you like
the report I give you or not, I am going to
have the guts to tell my story too.

Where do we stand in this veterans' home
building picture today? We had some plain
talk about it last night from my good friend
Wilson Wyatt of the National Housing Admin-
istration, and I would like to say to you fellow
Legionnaires, that if you can build houses with
plain talk, and a lot of it, if you could build
houses with political platforms, and expediency,
if you could legislate houses for veterans, we
wouldn't have any housing shortage today.

Fellow Legionnaires, I speak for a group in
America that, during the war, built more than
one million houses for the immigrant war
worker. I am not for the group in America who
in January, met with President Truman, and
Wilson Wyatt, to address ourselves to the hous-
ing program of America.

Now, you can talk a lot about waging a war,
but you have got to talk on the heavy artillery,
if you have a job to do.

We told President Truman—because he and
I were fellow artillerymen during the first
World War—that we represented the “heavy
artillery” on the home front on this particular
job; (because we recognized that a big job had
to be done) and we said, “Mr. President, the
only thing that the home builders of America
need is the material—the bricks and the nails
and the lumber and the roofing to do this job.

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to be done) and we said, “Mr. President, the
only thing that the home builders of America
need is the material—the bricks and the nails
and the lumber and the roofing to do this job.

We have had a lot of charges and counter-
charges, but we can't lose track of one objec-
tive we have had since we met with the Prez-
ident of the United States and Wilson Wyatt.
We still have that objective today, and it is
not going to be obtained by throwing bricks
at each other.

We have a partnership with government. I
am sorry that government thinks of us as the
saboteurs. I represent to you today the group
in America that has started—since that politi-
cal conference—more than 600,000 houses.
My fellow Legionnaires, if some of those houses
remain unfurnished, it is because the home build-
ers of America lack ingenuity and can't roof
them with political promises and "plain talk.
I think that the problem is big enough to
tax the ingenuity of labor in America. We had
labor during the war, and they were great part-

Summary of Proceedings of the
Do you think we would ever have turned things out of shipyards or aircraft factories, or could have produced more than a million war housing units if labor hadn't been a very important partner on our side? So we want labor on our side today, because we need them if we are going to do this veterans' housing. They're part of the partnership. Yes, we need the producer that "Cap" Small represented this morning when he told you what the Civilian Production Administration was attempting to do.

Yes, we need the producers. Yes, we need the home builders in America, and as long as we are partners with government, we need the government. And if we are going to build this housing, then we need this partnership working as a team, and not throwing bricks and hammers at each other. For twenty-five years I have been building, and I have never built anything with a wrecking bar.

Just where do we stand today? My friends, we were told last night that the housing picture had improved more than 600 per cent. Let's take a look at the 500 per cent.

After V-J Day, the home building business had been reduced to a mere trickle. Why? Because we were no longer willing to work at the job? No, because we never have been permitted, any time in the last five years, to build a house unless we first got permission in the form of a priority or something else from the Federal Government. Will you make a mental note of that and take it back?

Now there are in Washington today 1,141 separate agencies and bureaus in government. You have heard a lot about that. You are not going to hear much from me. A number of those agencies today, in one way or another, determine the housing program in America.

We are working under that agency. We are not permitted to start a single veteran's home unless we first get permission, and that permission is granted to us in the form of a HH priority.

I'd like to say to you fellow veterans that up to this moment (and I haven't checked with my office in Washington in the last thirty minutes) the HH priority, as far as the home builders of America are concerned, is worthless. That is for the record. No matter how much conversation we have had about it, it has been worthless up to date.

We have been granted HH priorities, and when we presented them to our material supply dealer, he told us they had no value because he had certified HH priorities, he had "super-duper" priorities, he had Double C priorities, and those poor, naked priorities of mine were valueless.

Well, as I say, that doesn't get housing. That is what you are interested in, and that is the story you want to take back to your respective communities.

Now what can you tell them? You can tell them this: You tell them what we told President Truman that we are prepared to build the largest volume of housing that has ever been produced in America, given the materials—and we will produce them at the lowest price that can be produced by anyone in America.

During the war, my friends, we built houses, and the most expensive house was fixed at a $6,000 ceiling, and we built more than a million. We built all the houses the government would permit us to build. They rented from $30 a month to $50 a month, which was the ceiling in America; and we built plenty of rental housing. As a matter of fact, the same agency—the National Housing Agency—with practically the same personnel today—that is, Wilson Wyatt's agency—was the agency that told us—the head of that agency told me personally about a year ago or more, shortly after V-J Day, that he was afraid that we had overbuilt in most of our communities, and the reason that he was not programming any more houses at that particular time was the fact that we were going to have a surplus.

That is the same kind of statistics, my friends, that predicted that we were going to have between seven and eight million people unemployed in America in March, 1946.

As a matter of fact, the reason that we have shortages of everything can be traced to the same cause. Why, in our industry, we even have shortages of paper, and some of you people know the kind of paper that I have reference to. I notice the stock market collapsed the other day, and it didn't change the picture very much, but for your information, Scott tissue hit a new bottom.

Now, my friends, for the record, how many different kinds of veterans do we have in America? How many different kinds of veterans are there in America? Well, my friends, I don't think we have as many different kinds of veterans as we have of priorities, but from here on out let's do the job by working together. Let's take a look at this partnership in America. Who built America? The 1,141 agencies in government? Oh, no, my friends. They can give you a lot of "plain talk" about housing, but if they are going to be built in your respective communities, they are going to be built by the builders of America, and I am here today to continue the pledge that we will never give up on that front until every veteran in America is decently housed.

Let's continue to let individual opportunity and individual initiative build homes, and I promise you that they will be the best at the lowest prices, and next year and the year after you can say that we have kept faith with these fine young men. Thanks.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Thank you, Mr. Gerholz.

The Chair recognizes Commander Chamberlain of California.

COMMANDER CHAMBERLAIN: Comrade Commander and Comrades of The American Legion: The man I am about to introduce is a part of The American Legion program. He exemplifies the success of one of your most important objectives. He is the winner—out of 158,000 contestants—in our National Oratorical Contest. He comes from a small high school down in Los Gatos, and I promised the 13th District of Cali-
forina that I'd mention them in connection with this.

Going through the contest, he won the finals, and I am very proud to present to you one out of 158,000 contestants in the National Oratorical Contest, who familiarized them with the Constitution of the United States, Bill Wollin, of Los Gatos, now attending Maryland St. John's College, in Annapolis.

ADDRESS BY WILLIAM O. WOLLIN
National Oratorical Contest Champion of The American Legion

Members of The American Legion: To me it is not altogether fitting that I should stand before you today, because in the past few days you have heard orators of such worth and note that it would make me shy from this microphone, but in a larger sense it is fitting that I stand here today, regaling the portion of the country that I do not see physically represented in this hall. Yet, they are in spirit with you, and I know that you are thinking about them. It is that portion of the country which is not old enough yet to be veterans of your organization, and yet they are old enough to get the real meaning of that citizenship for which you veterans have fought. I mean the boys and girls of America.

They have asked me to tell you something. They have asked me to say to you something that they feel in their hearts. I only wish that I were the orator of note that I could tell you that, but I only know one word in the English language that can tell you that meaning, and that is a little, common, every-day word. It is a word called "thank you." Yes, thank you, American Legion, for taking an interest in us in such programs as the Boys' Forum of National Government, Junior Baseball, and your Oratorical Contest. Yes, you are giving us a real break, and you are also getting the satisfaction that in the long run you are building a better America.

And so, on behalf of the 160,000 boys and girls, we would like to present to you humble, before this convention, a few brief thoughts on the Constitution, the guardian of our people's rights.

The streams of ragged soldiers had left the dusty roads, and they had gone home. The fire and the rolling drums had long been silent. The twisted scraps of cannon, swords and baggage trains had been cleared, leaving white the beaches of Yorktown. The strike had ceased at Yorktown, yet on that cold January Winter's day in 1787, it seems as though the tenth birthday of our young nation would be its last, for on that day Captain Shay led his army of two thousand men up the hill at Springfield. He wore his Continental uniform, and the muskets of his men were the muskets they had used against the British and the Hessians; now they were to be fired on the Massachusetts militia defending the arsenal below.

Shay was a simple manner of man. During the Revolution he had fought to right the intolerable wrongs that wicked men had foisted on America. He thought he was again fighting for the same reason, for the lawyers and the financiers of Boston, and the legislatures that they owned were just as wicked as King George and his Minister. They had brought him and the common people everywhere to the point of ruin, so he believed.

In a small convention room in Philadelphia, there gathered a group of chosen representatives of the people. Here they intended to revise the Articles of Confederation which had made possible the conditions which Shay and his men were fighting against. Never had such talent, such genius assembled under the same roof. Presiding over that small, earnest group was America's leading citizen, General George Washington. He knew first-hand what the people were thinking about. He had heard what they had to say at Valley Forge, Saratoga, Trenton, Princeton, Yorktown. He had shared in their highest hopes and deepest despair, and now he gave to that convention all the insight, the courage, the honor and the dignity that he had given to his rough and motley band of soldiers.

Next to him was a silent man, bent over his desk, with a feather quill, meticulously recording the words of the convention. His mind knowledge of government, from the Romans on up, was an invaluable aid to his colleagues. Many called James Madison the Father of the Constitution.

In the middle of the group sat the grand old man of the convention, Benjamin Franklin. Long before many of his colleagues had been born, he had been in the public service. His fame was widespread, and through his witty, caustic tongue he poured forth his humorous, home-spun philosophy of government. On one occasion, when the subject of the Presidency was brought up, the room was grimly silent. With the wounds from kings and martyrs still smarting in their minds, the members were rapt in bitter thoughts. No one spoke. Then old Ben got up. He gave a cheery smile and said, in his high, falling voice, "Delegates, it is an interesting subject. I'd like to hear what you have to say." That got them started. Many times he saved a convention in just that way.

Adding his striking personality to the group was Edmond Randolph. At 23 he had been our first Attorney General, remaining true to the Constitution, the guardian of our people's rights by his Creator. For that task they had come hundreds of miles on horseback to give unsafely of their energies.
Sawdust was spread on nearby pavements so nothing would disturb their work, and through 99 days—often ten and twelve hours a day—they fought, argued, debated, reasoned, hoping somehow to reach that goal. And out of their unceasing efforts they framed the Federal Constitution of the United States—a constitution of government so radically different from any existing at that time—a government which was not the master but the servant of the people. It was to be for the people, by the people, to be comprised of leaders from the rank and file of the people.

It was thus that they created—an old world of oppression, by tyranny—American democracy.

The convention broke up, and they went home to tell the people what they had done. The Constitution was read and examined in every little village and hamlet. The farmers examined it as they gathered around the cracker boxes in the general stores; blacksmiths, shoemakers, bartenders, shipbuilders, cooks, drivers—they all gathered in their town meetings, and they fought and argued over certain phases of that Constitution.

Yes, the people were taking a good look at this new idea called democracy, and yet they were not satisfied. Their thoughts grew to suspicions, to grumblings, to outbreaks and rebellions. "Where," they shouted, "were the freedoms their forefathers had come over to seek? Where were the freedoms they had fought to gain? Where were the inalienable rights that Mr. Thomas Jefferson was talking about?"

Those freedoms and rights were not written in this new Constitution.

Our first Congress met, with the cries of the people still ringing in their ears. They wanted a guarantee of liberty. The Constitution would be acceptable, but first it must be cemented in freedom.

And from that great call came the grandest guarantee of human liberty that this world of ours has ever seen—the first ten Amendments to that Constitution, the American Bill of Rights. These rights comprised the sum of the sweat, the toil, the blood of martyrs, the thousands of ungraven graves of man's history in attempting to be free. They gave the people the sum of man's victories over the forces of barbarism and oppression for generations.

The freedoms they embraced were those inalienable rights that Mr. Jefferson was talking about—freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom to assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances, freedom of the home from the invasion of soldiers, freedom of life, liberty and property from infringement without due process of law; freedom of the press.

This was what the Pilgrims had visioned when they stepped out on Plymouth Rock. This was what Washington's men had dreamed about at Valley Forge. This was what Betsy Ross was thinking about when she was sewing the Stars and Stripes. This was what John Paul Jones was thinking about when he shouted, "I have not yet begun to fight!" This was what Captain Shay was telling his men on that fatal January afternoon. This was what the shackles of humanity had been waiting for through so many long years of bondage.

Now that Constitution and the Bill of Rights have been the charter of the American way of life. They have been the rudder by which America has steered herself to a world power as a free nation, and today America stands as the last stronghold of free government.

In no nation are the citizens endowed with the liberties that we are today, and yet this Constitution and this Bill of Rights are powerless in themselves to keep our democracy free. They are forms only, and cannot live without substance. What is the substance of democracy? It is the faith of her citizens in this new kind of governmental institution. This faith is the substance of America, and it should run through our blood and bones. For if it doesn't then this democracy of ours is living on borrowed time, for it was by the faith of the Washingtons, the Jeffersons, the Lincolns, the Roosevelts, the Colins Kellys, the Sergeant Yorks, the thousands of free Americans in times past that our freedom was preserved for us today. It can only stand as long as free men keep faith in this government.

Always the call goes out to you—keep faith in this Constitution, the guardian of our people's rights. Keep faith in democracy. Our flag calls to us with the inspired words of an unknown writer:

"Oh, pledge me, my people, pledge me your faith. And your love and your loyalty both. Oh, pledge me, my people, hear ye my call—Set me high as you march to your goal.

"Oh, pledge me, America, give me your all; Your heart, your mind, and your soul."

Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Just before Bob gets up here, come up, all of you vice-commanders and the chaplain.

We who have served you as command- ers and chaplain have a pleasant duty to perform for one of the vice-commanders, because this afternoon he ends the rank of single men and traverses the by-ways of us married men which we have traversed for so many years, and he has a new commander after today.

Fred, we whom you have served with and we who have had the privilege of serving The American Legion, present to you and the future Mrs. LaBoon a little token of our esteem.

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER LA- BOON: Thank you ever so much. It has been a pleasure working with Commander Stelle and my other comrades and vice-commanders. It has been indeed a pleasure serving as your vice-commander for you fellow Legionnaires.

I just want to say that my family will always carry on the Legion principles and we will be a Legion family in the future.
Again I want to say at this time, we World War II, the younger members, are coming into this organization in what I have seen over in my area, on a full-partnership basis and we are going to carry that out to the end.

**VICE-COMMANDERS’ PRESENTATION**

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER HUNTINGTON: Commander Stelle: I am privileged to address you at this time as the representative of your National Vice-Commanders and your National Chaplain. They have designated me to present to you a tangible bit of evidence of their sincere admiration of your splendid leadership during the year now closing, and to express publicly to you the high esteem in which you are held by we of the elected staff who were privileged to serve under your leadership.

We sincerely regret the absence of one of our numero Civic Auditorium and Charles R. Farrington, California, assistant secretary.

To the Twenty-eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, Cal., September 30 to October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1946.

Eighty-seven members of your Committee on Rehabilitation met at 5:00 p.m., September 30, 1946, and at 9:00 a.m., October 2, 1946, in Committee Room 403 in the Civic Auditorium and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

T. O. Krafel, North Dakota, as temporary chairman, called the meeting to order and asked for nomination of a permanent chairman. Robert M. McCurdy, California, was unanimously elected. Charles W. Stevens, Illinois, was elected secretary, and Charles R. Farrington, California, assistant secretary.

The delegates, according to custom, established two subcommittees to facilitate considering the resolutions. The subcommittees were entitled Medical and Hospital, and Claims and Rating. The Medical and Hospital subcommittee assumed the task of considering also resolutions dealing with policy and with vocational rehabilitation and education. The Claims and Rating subcommittee also had assigned for consideration, insurance, and service department review board resolutions.

William Mitchell, Minnesota, was elected chairman of the Claims and Rating subcommittee, and John H. Walsh, Massachusetts, chairman of the Medical and Hospital subcommittee. On the latter subcommittee Mr. Farrington was appointed secretary, while Mr. Stevens served the subcommittee on Claims and Rating.

The committee voted to recess until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday morning, October 2.

The subcommittee again met at the appointed hour and place, October 2, 1946, in Rooms 401 and 403, Civic Auditorium, immediately proceeding to consideration of the resolution, all delegates being present.

The committee had for consideration 267 resolutions. Of these, 127 were for consideration by the Claims and Rating subcommittee, 140 by the Medical and Hospital subcommittee.

Your committee recognizes the invaluable service rendered by the Department Service Officers’ Pre-Convention Committee on Rehabilitation Resolutions, which greatly facilitated the handling of these considerations.

In addition to the delegates present as members of the Convention Rehabilitation Committee, there were present many Legionnaires interested in rehabilitation who remained through the sessions of the committee. Representing the Veterans Administration were H. W. Breining, Assistant Administrator for Insurance; E. E. Otis, Solicitor; R. L. Jarrahd, chairman, Board of Veterans’ Appeals; H. V. Stirling, Assistant Administrator for Vocational Rehabilitation and Education; G. H. Birdsell, Assistant Administrator for Legislation; William T. Comer, director, Coordination and Planning; E. McE. Lewis, director, Public Relations; Hugo Mella, M. D., Assistant Medical Director, Medical Department; Brig. Gen. Pearson Menoher, U. S. Army, president, Discharge Review Boards, Adjutant General’s Office, War Department, was present throughout. Hon. Errett P. Scrivner, M. C., a Legionnaire member of the World War Veterans’ Committee of the House of Representatives, attended the sessions as a delegate from Kansas.

In the interest of conserving time, a summary is given of the resolutions approved and referred. It will be understood that many of the expressions were consolidated as being duplicates of those approved. These are listed showing the covering resolutions. Also listed are those tabled and rejected. If there is any question about an approved resolution, or about any of those which have been referred, consolidated with approved resolutions, tabled or rejected, your chairman will be glad to have such resolution read in full.

The following resolutions were approved:

**Claims and Rating**

No. 1—Urges follow-up by Veterans Administration on requests for service records.
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No. 4—Protests priority of examinations for rat-
ing purposes in convalescent cases already on the
rolls, as against claims pending initial adjudica-
tion.

No. 6—Requests review of all claims disallowed
during period ‘quantity,” not ‘quality,” ratings
prevailed.

No. 19—Requires that aggravation be conceded
based upon manifest increase of disability during
service period.

No. 20—Urges elevation of income limitation in
non-service-connected disability pension cases.

No. 21—Requires amendment of Section 7, Pub-
lic 866, 76th Congress, to authorize service-con-
ected death compensation award in lieu of non-
service-connected death pension award.

No. 22—Requires increase in death compensation
for dependents and statutory elevation of income
limitation for parents.

No. 23—Urges award of accrued pension, com-
pensation, or retirement pay of a deceased veteran
to parents without dependency showing and to ad-
terformances of child, brothers and sisters.

No. 24—Includes in definition of child, one to who
a veteran has stood in loco parentis for a year.

No. 28—Urges employment by Veterans Admin-
istration of additional medical officers so that ade-
quate specialized physical examinations can be
made on all claims.

No. 61—Urges restoration of full compensation
payment in ‘presumptive” cases.

No. 61—Asks inclusion of psychoneurosis in the
chronic disease list for service-connection under
Public 866, 76th Congress.

No. 74—Requests that commercial insurance pay-
ment be excluded in considering income for non-
service-connected death pension purposes.

No. 78—Advocates elevation of statutory limita-
tion from $1,000 to $1,800 in non-service-connected
death pension cases.

No. 82—Asks inclusion of stomach ulcers in
chronic disease list for service connection under
Public 2, 73rd Congress.

No. 83—Asks that no combat disability rating
be reduced for a period of one year following ad-
judication.

No. 84—Urges elimination of notation of doc-
ator’s statement in support of claim filed in Vet-
ers Administration examination.

No. 85—Requests statutory award for arrested
malignancy in line of duty when injured in reserve
status in Army and Navy training programs during
World War II.

No. 86—Asks that Veterans Administration in-
structions provide for an exhaustive search for all
medical records for adequate disability compensa-
tion ratings.

No. 793—Asks legislation providing that persons
be considered on active duty from date of injury
in line of duty when injured in reserve status in
Army and Navy training programs during World
War II.

No. 794—Asks 1945 schedule amendment to
provide service connection of peptic ulcers under
Public 2, 73rd Congress, on basis of provisions set
forth in Extensions 6 and 7 to the 1926 Disability
Rating Schedule.

No. 795—Asks practical application of rating
board decisions of Veterans Administration per-
nance to veterans when codes "MM" and "NN" used in
judication and requests diarization of every claim
rated with these codes.
No. 799—Asks that a "Manual for Medical Examiners" be furnished each physician making examinations for the Veterans Administration; requests denial of payment to a designated examiner unless adequate examination and report is made; and asks rating agencies be instructed to refuse to rate inadequate reports.

No. 801—Asks issuance of instructions requiring that full examination and report be made of all complaints, even though rating board request specifies certain disabilities only.

Insurance

No. 363—Declares the policy of The American Legion to be maintenance of the integrity of contracts of National Service and U.S. Government life insurance by requiring that legislation be sought to amend pertinent sections of laws only after thorough consideration by standing committees concerned; requires an aggressive joint campaign by The American Legion in cooperation with the Veterans Administration and Life Insurance Companies of America, urging retention of National Service life insurance by eligible veterans; and urges expedition of decentralization of Veterans Administration insurance business and simplification of methods of handling premium payments and claims settlements.

No. 843—Reaffirms the opposition of The American Legion to compulsory health insurance in the United States of America.

Service Department Boards of Review

No. 17—Asks amendment of Sections 301 and 392, Public Law 446, 78th Congress, to implement authority presently granted disability and discharge review boards.

No. 18—Seeks amendatory legislation to provide for composition of review board panels established under provisions of Sections 301 and 392, Public Law 446, 78th Congress.

No. 444—Requests legislative enactment to require that aggravation of pre-existing disability be considered in Navy retirement cases.

Medical and Hospital

No. 13—Urges construction without further delay of 500-bed GM&S hospital authorized for Birmingham, Alabama; and asks allocation of an additional 1,000 beds to that state.

No. 29—Asks construction of one or more hospitals for colored veterans to serve large population centers, these to be staffed by the Veterans Administration with colored personnel.

No. 207—Urges establishment of a Veterans Administration hospital in the Canal Zone available to all veterans in Latin America.

No. 290—Asks that the Veterans Administration supply electric razors to bed patients entitled to shaving service.

No. 318—Asks that the national commander appoint a medical committee or that the National Rehabilitation Committee make a study of the contractual medical program of the Veterans Administration.

No. 320—Requires publicity to cite as typical of a national situation the extreme delay in provision of an expanded tumor center at Hines, Illinois, resulting in denial of Veterans Administration medical care and causing thousands of war veterans to seek essential treatment in charitable and in city, county and state institutions.

No. 323—Asks provision of adequate postal service by establishment of an independent post office at Veterans Administration hospital, Downey, Illinois.

No. 404—Asks legislation be secured to increase payments by the Federal Government to states from $300 to $500 per annum for disabled veterans undergoing domiciliary and hospital care in state homes.

No. 554—Asks establishment of a Veterans Administration hospital for treatment by physical medicine of arthritics, paralytics, etc.

No. 593—Requests that it be kept at national cemeteries for issuance at burial.

No. 591—Asks amendment of the present system of issuance of meal vouchers to disabled veterans to facilitate their use.

No. 606—Asks the Veterans Administration to use Army and Navy hospitals until new Veterans Administration construction is completed.

No. 608—Asks that Veterans Administration construct or acquire convalescent hospitals to care for chronic disease cases.

No. 627—Seeks legislation to provide automobiles for World War I veterans who suffered service-connected loss of use of limb.

No. 676—Urges enactment of appropriate legislation providing free mailing privileges for all disabled veterans in all government hospitals.

No. 725—Requests that legislation be enacted to resume the Cadet Nurse training program to relieve the acute shortage.

No. 736—Requests that the Veterans Administration maintain continuous contact with all government and private hospitals in which Veterans Administration beneficiaries are being cared for.

No. 800—Asks that complete annual physical examination be made of all domiciliary members of Veterans Administration homes.

No. 802—Requests that any Veterans Administration installation assume responsibility for admission and travel authorization of a sick veteran to the type of hospital in which care can be best afforded.

Veterans Administration Hospitals

The following resolutions relating to hospital and domiciliary construction were referred to the Standing Committee on Rehabilitation in connection with the terms of Cleveland Convention Resolution No. 15, which expresses the policy of The American Legion on the subject. The resolutions are listed according to states and by number:

Arizona—387, 388, 390.
California—403.
Missouri—338.
Nebraska—75.
New York—583, 587.
Oregon—83.
Puerto Rico—736.
Texas—634, 635, 636, 649, 651.

In consideration of resolutions on hospital construction it was recommended that every effort be made to obtain the release of necessary materials for such construction.
Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

No. 313—Urges that the Veterans Administration expedite payments to veterans of vocational training and educational benefits.

Policy

No. 8—Requests that the Veterans Administration issue complete sets of all issues to each Veterans Administration and recognized veterans' organization office.

No. 9—Asks issuance of manuals of regulations and procedures governing operation of each Veterans Administration service, with changes to be made only by pertinent and timely amendment to the appropriate manuals.

No. 241—Requests return of disbursement function to the Veterans Administration from the Treasury Department.

No. 316—Requests that the Administrator issue instructions to all regional managers to make monthly statistical reports available to any accredited representative of a recognized organization.

No. 319—Recommends that the National Commander appoint a special committee or that the National Rehabilitation Committee make a thorough study and analysis of the Public Relations Service of the Veterans Administration to determine whether its cost can be justified.

No. 341—Deplores the encroachment upon the liberties of Veterans Administration employees by issuance of orders prohibiting wearing of Service Organization buttons and limiting activities of employees of the Veterans Administration in Service Organizations, and asks corrective action by the Administrator or by Congress.

No. 604—Asks codification of laws relating to veterans and of veterans' regulations.

No. 804—Asks legislative action to provide an adequate allotment of space in Veterans Administration branch, regional and sub-regional offices to permit the efficient operation of full-time paid accredited representatives.

No. 845—Requests survey by the National Rehabilitation Committee of all existing Veterans Administration services to ascertain if greater efficiency and economy may be possible without jeopardizing the future welfare of disabled veterans.

No. 653—Asks legislative provision be made for the grant of full credit for service by women in the WAAC who subsequently enlisted in the WAC.

No. 726—Calls upon the National Rehabilitation Committee to establish a definite agency within itself charged with the responsibility for compilation and prompt distribution of matters of law and regulation essential to the operation of all Legion service officers.

No. 804—Asks amendatory legislation to permit a retired officer of the armed forces to be recognized and to function as a full-time accredited representative of a recognized organization in preparation and presentation of claims before the Veterans Administration.

No. 847—Condemns the attempt of unscrupulous individuals to victimize former prisoners of war by seeking monetary stipends for services in securing benefits not presently collectible; and asserts that American Legion service officers will undertake to prosecute the claims without cost.


Referred Resolutions

The following resolutions were referred to the Standing Committee on Rehabilitation for study, necessary action and formal report:

No. 5—Urges that the Administrator abolish the use of form letters to claimants in advice of rating action, and require that adequate information be supplied each claimant as to basis for denial actions.

No. 7—Asks that clear instructions be issued to grant unrestricted authority to Veterans Administration field installations of every type to procure and arrange medical treatment and transportation.

No. 10—Asks that American Legion post publicity officers sponsor in local newspapers, by radio and other means, information to veterans as to right to out-patient treatment at Veterans Administration installations and by designated physicians.

No. 12—Asks delegation of authority to Veterans Administration sub-regional and contact offices so they may function other than as referral agencies.

No. 14—Requests that rating boards travel from Alabama regional offices to sub-regional and contact offices to afford claimants personal appearance.

No. 16—Urges immediate establishment of a regional office in Birmingham, Alabama, and at such other Alabama cities as will serve adequately veterans and dependents.

No. 49—Requests reduction of interest rate on U. S. Government life insurance policy loans.

No. 78—Asks amendments to the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940, as amended, to provide for monthly disability benefits to those who became totally disabled since the original Act without extra premium cost; to grant automatic insurance of $10,000 instead of $5,000; to eliminate dependency of parents as a requisite to automatic insurance entitlement; and to provide automatic insurance to persons within the first 120 days of active World War II service.

No. 92—Asks reduction of interest rate on United States Government life insurance policy loans.

No. 114—Asks amendment of postal regulations to permit forwarding of veterans' subsistence allowance, disability compensation and pension checks if a forwarding address is on file over the veteran's signature.

No. 124—Requests provision of adequate office space immediately for the Lincoln, Nebraska, Veterans Administration regional office.

No. 141—Asks decentralization of all activities from a regional office to a sub-regional office level.

No. 210—Recommends modification of instructions to provide that additional subsistence allowance be paid from date dependency arose if evidence is submitted within 60 days after status changes.

No. 221—Suggests a new composition of the National Rehabilitation Executive Committee.
No. 244—Asks that "constitutional psychopathic state" be considered a disability for rating purposes.

No. 340—Asks that files of a claimant be made available to an accredited representative of the designated recognized organization before rating is made.

No. 370—Urges that proper and necessary corrective measures be taken to eliminate utilization of schools in the programs provided under Public Law 346, 78th Congress, if they do not afford adequate training opportunities, and requires The American Legion to investigate the existing situation, taking necessary corrective action.

No. 375—Asks support of legislation to provide Veterans Administration benefits for veterans, and dependents of veterans who served during World War II in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

No. 389—Asks establishment of Veterans Administration treatment centers on Indian reservations.

No. 402—Asks waiver of premium for total disability in National Service life insurance cases on and after the insured's 60th birthday.

No. 435—Requests assignment to Paris, France, of a Veterans Administration representative.

No. 436—Requests that the Veterans Administration designate the American Hospital of Paris at Neuilly as one to care for veterans.

No. 443—Requests retroactive reduction of insurance rate on loans made on policies issued by the Veterans Administration insurance service.

No. 484—Requests confidential interviews of nurses to determine why Veterans Administration experiences difficulty in securing nursing personnel.

No. 486—Requires an investigation by Veterans Administration and American Legion officials to determine need for additional regional, sub-regional and contact offices and itinerant service in Pennsylvania, and the present installations of the Veterans Administration in the state.

No. 490—Asks that the Veterans Administration be advised of, and investigate restrictions applicable to veterans enrolled under Public Law 346, 78th Congress, in certain Pennsylvania colleges and effect their removal.

No. 537—Asks authorization of out-patient treatment at doctor or dentist of claimant's choice.

No. 553—Requests extension for additional five-year period from June 30, 1947, of the United States Government life insurance five-year level premium term policies.

No. 555—Asks that arrangement be made for out-patient treatment for service-connected cases in New Mexico similar to plans approved in other states.

No. 581—Asks full utilization of the space provided for the contact office established by the Veterans Administration on Staten Island, New York.

No. 584—Requests that level premium term contracts be provided as one of the additional converted National Service life insurance plans.

No. 643—Asks issuance by Veterans Administration of certificates of accomplishment to veterans upon their completion of courses under Public Law 16, 78th Congress, and Public Law 346, 78th Congress.

No. 652—Asks an additional incontestability clause in insurance policies issued by the Veterans Administration.

No. 658—Asks 13 Area Rehabilitation Conferences be held prior to the National Rehabilitation Conference in Washington.

No. 697—Seeks reorganization of National Rehabilitation Conference.

No. 725—Requests that The American Legion study the possibility of provision of a special program for paraplegic veterans.

No. 767—Requires amendment immediately of the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940, as amended, to provide for permanent and total disability benefits to be included in all contracts effective October 8, 1940, calling upon national American Legion officials to make this legislation the first and immediate objective of the organization.

No. 780—Asks amendment of regulations to provide that fully paid-up insurance policies be issued every veteran carrying an insurance policy issued by the Veterans Administration upon attainment of age 64, or who have maintained the insurance in force for 50 years.

No. 783—Asks that the agreement between the Veterans Administration and the California Physicians' Service, and similar agreements in other states for medical care of veterans in their home communities be made a permanent part of Veterans Administration medical service, and that the scope of this service be enlarged and extended where operative and that similar programs be instituted in other states where such agreements do not exist.

No. 849—Asks special pension benefits for widows and minor children of deceased Congressional Men of Honor men.

No. 850—Asks retirement with pay and allowances as officers be authorized for Congressional Medal of Honor men.

Consolidated Resolutions

No. 19 covers No. 655.

No. 20 covers Nos. 470, 487, 769.

No. 22 covers No. 58.

No. 51 covers Nos. 79, 103, 245, 450.

No. 76 covers Nos. 471, 607, 639, 700.


No. 181 covers Nos. 2, 156, 162, 339, 364, 473, 605.


No. 311 covers Nos. 245.

No. 341 covers Nos. 30, 335.

No. 366 covers No. 60.

No. 542 covers No. 109.

No. 606 covers Nos. 365.

No. 657 covers No. 766.

No. 847 covers Nos. 491, 675, 683.

Tabled Resolutions

No. 158.

Rejected Resolutions


The report was adopted.
PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY PRESIDENT-ELECT, MRS. NORTON PEARL

Mr. National Commander, National Officers, Members of The American Legion and Their Guests: It is indeed with a great deal of pride that I come here before your convention to offer to you the assistance of the finest group of women who live in America today, the American Legion Auxiliary.

They have proved themselves over the years. Nothing has deterred them from doing their job for the veterans. They have never lost interest. They only ask for work to do and a chance to do it.

We have an enviable record of our service in the hospitals across this nation. We want to do more, and we are told there is plenty of work to do. We ask your help and your cooperation in that job.

In your legislative program, the American Legion Auxiliary can do much to further that program. Ask us for letters and you will have an avalanche of them. Always the women are there, as your Auxiliary, to serve. Be sure not to neglect your women of the American Legion Auxiliary back home in your communities. They can do you much credit, and they will be your right hand in any part of your program.

I am delighted to be here to speak to you for just a moment. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: I want to say something to you delegates out there, as I told the ladies yesterday. In travelling over the country, I travelled in one department which is the outstanding one in membership and one of the outstanding departments in the activities of The American Legion—Pennsylvania—and I told them, when I traveled over there with Jim Murray and the others from Pennsylvania, that they have their Auxiliary out and working, and in my humble opinion that is one of the reasons why you're ahead, Jim. You fellows didn't do it all yourself; you accepted the work of the ladies there.

I want to present to this convention a man who really is a youngster. When I attended my first convention of The American Legion at Minneapolis and as one of the youngsters in the delegation from Illinois, and as one of the youngsters I was called at that particular time—I had to be sold on this individual because we youngsters, like many of the youngsters today, probably, had other ideas, but he built up our organization started to grow and from that foundation we have grown to the figure that we are now. His interest in our organization is still with you. To me, he is one of the great Legionnaires of our country.

I have the pleasure of presenting to you a man who was a member of the Legion's 1941 mission to England to study civilian defense; chairman of the Bombing Facts-Finding Commission which assessed bombing results in Europe and the Pacific.

I present to you Franklin D'Olier of Morristown, New Jersey, our first national commander.

ADDRESS BY FRANKLIN D'OILER

Past National Commander and Chairman of U. S. Strategic Bombing Survey

About one year before V-E Day the War Department had already spent many billions of dollars and was to spend many more on our Air Forces and it was suggested that it might be well if an outside independent civilian group would make a study to determine the value of the strategic bombing of Germany. Therefore, the Secretary of War, pursuant to a directive from the late President Roosevelt, created the United States Strategic Bombing Survey. It was established for the purpose of conducting an impartial and expert study of the effects of our air attack on Germany to determine its influence upon the will and capacity of Germany to resist. And by capacity I mean the whole economic problem of supplies, including weapons and transportation. Also to be used in connection with our air attacks on Japan and finally to establish a basis for evaluating air power as an instrument of military strategy and planning the future development of the United States armed forces and for determining future economic policies with respect to our national defense and security. As a result of interim reports submitted, President Truman on August 15, 1945, requested the survey to conduct a similar study of all types of air attack in the War against Japan.

The survey was organized and operated in Germany with a chairman, vice chairman and ten directors, all civilians, who were to draw up the report, together with a personnel of 1,600, mostly Army officers and enlisted men, including about 300 civilians. And in Japan the survey operated with 1,400 officers and enlisted personnel, about 60 per cent Army and 40 per cent Navy, including about 200 civilians. Military personnel in both instances were to aid in gathering the information, while the civilian directors alone in both Germany and Japan were responsible for all conclusions and recommendations. At all times we received superb cooperation from the Army and the Navy and Air Forces.

In January 1941 I accompanied Milo Warner, then national commander of The American Legion, to England to study the effects of the German blitz on London and England a few months previously and the steps which had
been taken and were being taken for civilian defense.

In 1944 and 1945 the bombing survey studied carefully the damage done in London and England not only from the air attacks but also by the V-1s and V-2s. We studied exhaustively the damage done in Germany. We studied exhaustively the damage in Japan and, of course, more particularly, the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the atomic bomb, when 100,000 men, women and children were killed and more than 50 per cent of both cities was destroyed by only two bombs.

Many of you have seen some part of this terrific picture, but in spite of this you will require the most vivid imagination to appreciate how terrifically devastating the whole picture is.

It is well to keep in mind that England almost succumbed to the blitz of 1940. You all recall Prime Minister Churchill's statement about the gallant defense of London by the Royal Air Forces to the effect that never in history did so many owe so much to so few. It is well to keep in mind that England had no defense against the V-2s until the allies actually overran the launching sites on the continent. It is also well to remember that the atomic bomb was not ready for Germany, but three months later it was dropped on Japan. You yourselves know that the B-29 fortress is already outmoded by the colossal superfortress which I recently saw in Fort Worth, Texas, and which has had its recent trials. You and I haven't the slightest conception as to what may develop from jet planes, to say nothing of guided missiles flying through the air.

At present attack is ahead of defense, although, of course, defense may catch up with attack, as for instance occurred with the U-boat threat, but before we were able to defend ourselves against the U-boat we suffered a terrific loss of shipping and this country alone was able to make up that loss, otherwise we should not have got replacements to our troops in the ETO and our allies.

I doubt very much if for some time we will ever have a complete 100 per cent control of the air and that we will ever have a perfect defense against enemy planes and guided missiles and if only a few get through the damage will be terrific.

Both the German experience and the Japanese experience prove conclusively the great advantage of blitzkrieg on the part of those who attack opponents unprepared. The most hopeful in both Germany and again in Japan did not expect as great results as both Germany and Japan so quickly achieved so early simply because of the lack of preparation on the part of those they attacked. For instance, Japan within a few months' time overran enormous areas containing a population of more than 100 millions, with a total loss of less than 15,000 Japanese soldiers killed and with a loss from all causes in the entire campaign of less than 500 Japanese planes. Therefore, we must not be so unprepared as in the German phase when our allies held the enemy back until we were prepared, or in the Japanese phase where the great distances again helped until we were ready.

The only way to be completely free from possible air attack is to acquire such a military force as to Germany and Japan is to avoid war and the best way to avoid war is to see that the United Nations actually works. Almost any reasonable sacrifice on our part is worthwhile that the United Nations should work so that war can be avoided. We should leave no stone unturned in our effort to help make the United Nations work. However, until the United Nations does work and until we are guaranteed that there will be no more war, we must see to it that at all times our own national defense and security is beyond doubt. And I believe that the great contribution this country can make to the success of the United Nations is that we shall have not only the will but the strength to help make the United Nations work. Therefore, our great contribution should be that we are the greatest strength for peace. The United States was founded and has since lived upon the principles of tolerance, freedom and good will at home and abroad. Strength based on these principles is no threat to world peace. The prevention of war will not be furthered by neglect of strength or lack of foresight or alertness on our part. World War I and again World War II have proven that we were not aggressors and all we wanted was peace. But, unfortunately, on both occasions we lacked the strength to enforce that peace. Those who contemplate evil and aggression find encouragement in such neglect. Hitler relied heavily upon it. The Japanese would never have attacked Pearl Harbor had we the strength for peace. What must we do here now to avoid this unpreparedness, which in view of modern weapons might result in a great catastrophe to this country. What must we do to become the great force for peace, which we are not today? I would like to mention four very strong recommendations which I have to make as a result of this very exhaustive study which was made.

In the first place, research and development for our national defense and security are most important. Science has increased and still is increasing tremendously the destructive capability of modern weapons and promises ever greater development in the future. Science is now talking of developments about which the average man knew nothing only a short time ago. To illustrate this humorously, a friend of mine at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, who had followed closely the development of the plane in the early days and who is now interested in the development of the super-sonic plane which will go at a speed greater than sound, that is, well over 700 miles an hour, told me that he was looking forward to the time when he could leave Wright Field in a super-sonic plane so much faster than the speed of sound that when he got out at Washington he could hear himself coming. Research and development cannot be neglected and we must be prepared to spend many, many millions of dollars all the time and that we will be ever ahead of any possible enemy.

The second recommendation is that our in-
telligence must be greatly improved. By that I mean we must be prepared to spend money in having the finest possible intelligence, which even today we lack, so that we may know in plenty of time who our future enemy is likely to be and what he has to fight us with.

The third point is that our civilian defense should be well coordinated with our whole system of national defense and security, and finally the reorganization and better integration of our military establishments must be reorganized and integrated so that we shall have much better team play from the very top right down to the bottom. All land, sea and air forces should be integrated into a perfect team. Team work is most essential.

I am not very happy over the friction in Washington between the land, sea and air forces as to the type of our future military establishment. I think that this is a most unfortunate lack of team play. In a way, this reminds me of a college or university having won a football championship; instead of being grateful for the championship won and dedicating every effort to win the next year's championship, this championship divides into two camps and begins arguing whether it was the line or the backfield which won the championship. Their only thought then is whether they will win in connection with this championship they hope to win next year, being sure that they have both the best line possible and also the best backfield all welded together in a perfect team. Integration and coordination is the best way to secure this real team work.

The above recommendations and suggestions, namely, research and development, better intelligence, coordination of our civilian defense with the strength of national defense and security, and finally the reorganization and better integration of our military establishments for better team play, are all for assuring the military strength and security of the United States against any nation or combination of nations that dare disturb the peace of the world. Internal strength against appeasors will help secure external strength for peace, and by an appeaser I mean the one who denies the facts of life and indulges in wishful thinking. Those of us who wish to secure strength for peace are no more war mongers than a citizen who pays his taxes for a police force to keep down crime.

You veterans of World War II can very largely determine what steps our country should take to become this great strength for peace in order to avoid another war. It is the responsibility of The American Legion to see to it that the strength for peace, the strength to insure the peace of the world by being absolutely sure of our own national defense and security."

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE

S. Perry Brown, chairman, of Texas, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-Eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, California, September 30—October 2, 3 and 4, 1946.

One hundred seventy-nine members of your Committee on National Defense met at 1:00 p.m., October 2, 1946, in Committee Room 314 in the Veterans' Memorial Building and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

The following number of delegates composed the component committees of the National Defense Committee: Military Affairs, 50 members; Naval Affairs, 30 members; Civilian Defense, 32 members; Merchant Marine, 32 members; Aeronautics, 30 members.

The committee organized, electing S. Perry Brown, of Texas, chairman, and E. J. Zoble, Wyoming, secretary.

The chairman appointed a special subcommittee to consider resolutions pertaining to matters of national defense common to all the sections, appointing Warren H. Atherton, of California, chairman.

Resolutions pertaining to the affairs of each of the separate component sections were designated to those sections.

The committee divided into its component sections, each one electing the following chairman and secretaries: Military Affairs, Frank H. Parker, Philippine Islands, chairman, William G. Murray, Illinois, secretary; Naval Affairs, Arthur Duffy, New York, chairman, Geo. Metcalf, Michigan, secretary; Civil Defense, J. Strum Thurmond, South Carolina, chairman, Neil Moffitt, Oregon, secretary; Merchant Marine, R. 0. Garber, Iowa, chairman, C. S. Booth, California, secretary; Aeronautics, John Dwight Sullivan, New York, chairman, Harry Berdie, Mexico, secretary.

Each component section considered the resolution presented and the entire committee on national defense reconvened at the Veterans' Memorial Building, Room 314, at 1:00 p.m., October 2,
1946, at which time the component sections and the special committee made report and the final report to the convention was adopted.

Sixty-nine resolutions were referred to the National Defense Committee.

By unanimous action, the committee requests the national defense report to the convention be dedicated to the memory of Robert J. Shaw, Iowa, who for many years, served as chairman of conventions National Defense Committee of The American Legion. His meritorious services will ever be remembered by The American Legion.

Statement of Policy

The United States of America has demonstrated throughout the years that it is a peace-loving nation and abhors war and its needless slaughter. In order to maintain this principle and to prevent future wars by power-mad dictators or nations, an adequate national security must be maintained. To accomplish this principle The American Legion believes in and strongly recommends:

1. That adequate preparedness demands that a system of universal military training be inaugurated without further delay.
2. That a unified command of our armed forces with the Army, Navy and Air Force on an equal level, is essential to adequate preparedness and economy of procurement.
3. That the peacetime establishment of the Regular armed forces be maintained at a minimum consistent with necessity to meet peacetime requirements, to be reinforced in time of emergency by organized units drawn from a citizen reserve organized for this purpose in time of peace.
4. That scientific research in nuclear energy and in other scientific and technical fields be continued and expanded in order to contribute to the best interest of the nation in peace as well as in war.
5. That the merchant marine be developed for commercial service in peace and maintained for military service as a vital arm of our national defense in war.
6. That stockpiles of strategic material, difficult of procurement during emergencies, be established and adequately maintained.
7. That our American department of World Intelligence Service be expanded and maintained on a permanent basis.
8. That a civilian defense program to provide adequate protection for our civilian population be established as an integral part of the total defense policy of this nation.
9. That our nation maintain necessary bases consistent with our policy of national defense.
10. That all phases of transportation, within and without the country, contributing to our national defense policy be expanded.

The American Legion as a leading proponent of national defense deems it not only advisable, but necessary, that these policies prevail and the National Executive Committee be, and it is hereby directed, to take the necessary steps to effectuate them.

Universal Military Training

Nine resolutions were submitted to the committee: Nos. 631, 25, 41, 102, 345. Nos. 70 and 789 were consolidated into one resolution designated as No. 789, amended.

Whereas, In 1919 The American Legion, at its first convention in St. Louis, Missouri, adopted the following:

"That a large standing Army is uneconomic and un-American. National safety with freedom from militarism is best assured by a national citizen Army and Navy, based upon the democratic and American principle of the equality of obligation and opportunity for all. We favor a policy of universal military training and the administration of such policy should be removed from the complete control of any exclusively military caste; and

Whereas, The American Legion, cognizant of the necessity for training American youth for service in time of national crisis, as the basis of adequate national preparedness, has advocated universal military training for twenty-seven years; and

Whereas, Universal military training plans should be so designed as to give the greatest possible support to the civilian component services and cause the least possible interference with the religious, educational, home and economic life of the trainsees; and

Whereas, There was introduced into the last session of the United States Congress, at the request of The American Legion, H. R. 6544, providing for a period of basic military training at a time of year best suited to the needs and desires of a majority of trainsees and the completion of training for national service under a system of options causing the least possible interference with schooling or work; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirms its policy in favor of universal military training and urges that said training be accomplished by the giving of an adequate basic period of training at a camp, field or station as near as possible to the home of the trainsee followed by a period of training in school, in the civilian components, or in the regular services at the option of the trainsee, as outlined in H. R. 6544, introduced in the 79th Congress at the request or The American Legion.

Merchant Marine

Resolution No. 69 reaffirms the action of the 27th national convention. It states:

Be it Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirms and readopts the action of the 27th national convention. It states:

Whereas, Universal military training plans should be so designed as to give the greatest possible support to the civilian component services and cause the least possible interference with the religious, educational, home and economic life of the trainsees; and

Whereas, There was introduced into the last session of the United States Congress, at the request of The American Legion, H. R. 6544, providing for a period of basic military training at a time of year best suited to the needs and desires of a majority of trainsees and the completion of training for national service under a system of options causing the least possible interference with schooling or work; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirms its policy in favor of universal military training and urges that said training be accomplished by the giving of an adequate basic period of training at a camp, field or station as near as possible to the home of the trainsee followed by a period of training in school, in the civilian components, or in the regular services at the option of the trainsee, as outlined in H. R. 6544, introduced in the 79th Congress at the request or The American Legion.

Civilian Defense

Resolution No. 847, originating from the Department of Missouri, was rejected.
Resolution No. 42, Colorado, calling for the continuation of the Civilian Defense Committee, as a part of the Standing National Defense Committee, was adopted and it is recommended for approval by the convention.

Resolution No. 445, Kentucky, asserts that a total defense of the nation must include preparations for the protection of our civilian population and calls upon The American Legion and the Armed Forces to include in their future defense planning, provisions for the establishment of civilian defense measures and the training of civilians to fulfill such duty. This resolution is recommended to the convention for adoption.

Aeronautics

Resolutions Nos. 135, 609 and 671 were referred to the Aeronautics Commission for study and action.

Resolutions Nos. 346, 492 and 692 were referred to the convention committee on Internal Affairs.

Resolutions Nos. 672 and 668 were rejected.

Resolution No. 392 protesting the testing of aircraft over populated areas is recommended for adoption by the convention.

The committee offers the following resolutions and recommend the adoption:

(a) Be it Resolved, That the Air Forces of the Armed Forces be made separate and co-equal with the Ground Forces and the Naval Forces.

(b) Be it Resolved, That at the earliest opportunity adequate steps be taken to correct the neglect of the airships and to secure the broadening of the Maritime Act of 1936 to permit the addition of airships (dirigibles) to the Merchant Marine of the United States.

Naval Affairs

Resolution No. 818, National Defense Committee, supporting the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve training program is recommended for approval.

A resolution was presented by the Naval Affairs Committee asking for legislation creating a reviewing agency for courts-martial convictions was approved by your committee and is recommended for adoption.

Resolution No. 579, New York, was referred to the Standing Committee on National Defense.

Military Affairs

The following resolutions were rejected:

No. 507, Pennsylvania; No. 814; No. 229, Washington; No. 449, Michigan; No. 281, Illinois, and No. 600, Oklahoma.

Resolutions No. 720, New Jersey, and No. 829, from the National Executive Committee, were referred to the Standing National Defense Committee, without recommendation.

Resolution No. 838, from the National Defense Committee, demands the maintenance of the Island of Puerto Rico as a fortified base and recommended for adoption.

Resolution No. 506, Pennsylvania, asks that steps be taken to prohibit the enlistment in the armed forces of persons previously convicted of crimes, and it is recommended for adoption.

Resolution No. 282, Illinois, dealing with an enlarged and fully supported R. O. T. C. program in the United States is recommended for approval.

Resolution No. 196, Montana, requests appropriate amendments to the Articles of War to provide the same punishment for deserters from the armed services in peacetime as is applicable to deserters in wartime, is recommended for approval.

Resolution No. 764, District of Columbia, requests the President of the United States and the Congress to provide the same treatment in regard to promotions for enlisted men and officers who were prisoners of war in the Army, as has been provided for the same treatment in regard to the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. It is recommended for adoption.

Resolution No. 817, National Defense Committee, calls for full cooperation by the National Organization, departments and posts, in the VALAR (Volunteer American Legion Recruiting) program. It is recommended for adoption.

Resolution No. 873, Virginia, requests change in Army regulations and legislation which will permit service in the National Guard or the Organized Reserve to be counted toward retirement and it is recommended for adoption.

Resolution No. 284, Illinois, asking for a general overhauling of the courts-martial system of the armed services is recommended for adoption.

Resolution No. 155, Montana, and 450, Michigan, were consolidated and urge the immediate passage by Congress of an adequate retirement program for Reserve and National Guard personnel and is recommended for adoption.

Resolution No. 834 is a reaffirmation of the action of the 25th annual convention and commends Congress for providing retired officers of the armed forces advances in rank on retirement.

Resolutions Nos. 518 and 350, Alaska, were consolidated with No. 820 of the National Defense Committee and demands that the U. S. Government immediately improve and maintain adequate railroads, highways, pipe lines, water transportation and port facilities in Alaska in order that the defenses of that territory may be adequate, and it is recommended for approval.

Resolution No. 481, Michigan, compliments the Doolittle Committee and urges the War Department to adopt the recommendations made by that committee, and is recommended for adoption.

A resolution from the National Defense Committee favoring the traditional policy of the United States in its reliance upon minimum regular establishments and a maximum provision for civilian components for the defense of the nation is recommended for approval.

A resolution from the delegate from Arizona on the Military Affairs Committee having to do with military intelligence was endorsed by your committee, but because of necessary study it was referred to the Standing National Defense Committee.

Resolutions Nos. 166, Maine; 305, Nevada; 576, New York; 577, New York; 510, Pennsylvania, dealing with the secrets of the atomic bomb were consolidated with No. 674, Virginia, and is recommended for approval as the following resolution:

Be it Resolved, That at present it is in the interest of peace and the preservation of our democ-
racy to control all of its secrets pertaining to the atomic bomb and other secret weapons created or developed by the United States of America.

**Single Department of National Security**

Resolution No. 516, as amended.

Whereas, The American Legion at its 27th Annual Convention established its policy on unification as follows:

“We endorse the principle of a unified command of our armed forces with the Army, Navy and Air Force on an equal level.”

Whereas, Congress, recognizing the need for unification of the armed forces, has voted to reorganize its Committees on Military and Naval Affairs to accomplish unity of action; and

Whereas, Close coordination between branches of the armed services is essential to adequate preparation and economy of supply; now, therefore,

Resolved, That the Congress is requested to enact appropriate legislation to establish a single department for national security with provision for the Army, Navy and Air Forces on an equal level thereto.

The report was adopted.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS**

Benjamin C. Hilliard, Jr., chairman, of Colorado, reported as follows:

To the Twenty-Eighth Annual National Convention, The American Legion, San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1946.

Forty-six members of your Committee on Resolutions met at 5 p.m. on October 1 and at 4 p.m. on October 2, 1946 in Committee Room 213 in the War Memorial Building and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Benjamin C. Hilliard, Jr., of Colorado, was elected chairman and Sam Rorex, of Arkansas, secretary of the committee.

Resolution No. 781 concerning Boulder Canyon water contracts was withdrawn.

Resolutions Nos. 73 and 692 concerning the 1946 USO drive were tabled.

Resolution No. 203 opposing continuance of all war-time government bureaus was rejected.

Resolution No. 744 expressing gratitude to the President for insisting upon price control legislation was rejected.

Resolution No. 374 endorsing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence seaway was rejected.

Resolution No. 142 for the adoption of “call to the Legion” as our official national march was rejected.

Resolutions Nos. 157, 34, 264 and 277 concerning presentation of headstones to families in cases where the bodies of war dead cannot be returned were rejected since the subject is covered by existing mandates.

Resolution No. 792 urging that the bodies of war dead be not returned to the United States was rejected.

Resolution No. 401 concerning nationalization and naming of a military cemetery at Los Angeles, California; Resolution No. 813 for the establishment of a national cemetery at Benicia, California; Resolution No. 516 for the establishment of a national cemetery at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Resolution No. 18 for the establishment of a national cemetery in the Pacific Northwest; and Resolution No. 775 concerning inscriptions on existing headstones; were referred to the standing National Cemetery Survey Committee.

Resolution No. 853 urging the award of the National Distinguished Service Medal to Dr. Willard H. Dow was referred to the National Executive Committee.

Resolution No. 836 urging earlier return of war dead from the Pacific islands was referred to the standing Graves Registration Committee.

Resolutions Nos. 545 and 336 endorsing candidates for national offices were referred to the Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee.

Resolution No. 278 concerning strikes in wartime, and Resolution No. 621 concerning uninterrupted boat service to Alaska, were referred to the standing Committee on National Defense.

The following resolutions were adopted by the committee and are presented for the consideration of the convention:

No. 137, appreciation to host state and city.

No. 460, as amended, combined with No. 775, erection of national memorial in Washington, D. C., to those in Armed Forces in World War I and World War II and their mothers.

No. 816, as amended.

No. 827, as amended, campus Legion posts.

No. 817, as amended, funeral and escort details for bodies returned from abroad.

No. 727, as amended, expansion of national cemetery facilities.

No. 438, as amended, photographs of individual graves of war dead.

No. 375, as amended, preservation of World War II plaques.

No. 321, as amended, combined with Nos. 218, 452, 514, requesting press and radio not to emphasize suspects are veterans.

No. 465, as amended, support continued sale of U. S. Savings Bonds.

No. 31, as amended, combined with Nos. 122, 275 and 515, investigation of excessive war profits.

No. 461, as amended, combined with Nos. 131 and 168, exact legislation to correct labor-management chaos.

No. 643, as amended, National American Legion Distinguished Service Medal.

No. 732, as amended, combined with No. 733, status of territories and possessions of the United States.

No. 194, as amended, combined with No. 278, conservation of American goods for the use of the American people.

No. 601, tribute to our victory.

No. 524, development of new public lands under all-American canal.

No. 141, urgent necessary appropriations for U. S. Archivist.

No. 168, war crimes.

No. 540, memorial resolution, General Henri Gouraud.

No. 541, memorial resolution, Frank D. Reah.

The report was adopted.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:**

As a grandfather of four grandsons, I am about to receive a present, the pres-
ent of many, many presents that I have received while I have been your national commander. I have the pleasure of presenting to you the National Executive Committeeman from Hawaii.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAN ORVEL T. SHONK: Thank you, Mr. Stelle. It is indeed a pleasure to be here. I won't take up any of your time because I know everyone is tired—I am.

John, we are sorry you couldn't take time out last year from your many duties to visit our island, so we are going to bring a little of the spirit here.

. . . National Commander Stelle was presented a lei, and Hawaiian music was provided by two Hawaiian girls . . .

NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE: Thank you ever so much, the Department of Hawaii. There were too many people looking.

GRIFFITH ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY

James Murray, Pennsylvania, past department commander, nominated Paul H. Griffith for national commander. The convention adopted a motion to make it unanimous and elected Paul H. Griffith of Pennsylvania national commander.

ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE

This is a great day for me. The honor you have bestowed upon me in electing me as national commander of this greatest of all veteran organizations makes me very humble and very happy.

To be chosen as leader of approximately three and one-half million men and women who have borne arms in defense of their country is indeed a sacred trust.

I am grateful to all of you for the confidence you have expressed in me and I appreciate the deed a sacred trust.

My first interest in The American Legion was born of a belief that rehabilitation of the wounded soldier, sailor and marine was the greatest of all veteran organizations makes me very humble and very happy.

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**ELECTION OF VICE-COMMANDERS**

The following were elected as vice-commanders for 1946-1947:

Richard C. Cadwallader, Baton Rouge, La.
Joseph W. Brown, Natchez, N. H.
Edward J. Sharkey, San Francisco, Calif.
Ernest H. Dervishian, Richmond, Va.
Martin B. Buckner, Flint, Mich.

**ELECTION OF NATIONAL CHAPLAIN**

Rev. Arthur L. Rustad, Faribault, Minn., was elected national chaplain.

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS TO OUTGOING NATIONAL COMMANDER**

Edward A. Hayes, Past National Commander

Commander Stelle: Yesterday, by unanimous action by all of the delegates of this convention, you received a personal vote of confidence and a glowing tribute never equaled in American Legion history.

You were right there, Commander. All of your comrades admire and will vigorously support a fighter who fights in the open.

Today, you receive from all of us as your very own, these exquisitely beautiful flags, the flag of our country and the flag of our American Legion. They are the symbol of everything worthwhile in our nation.

The flag of our country embodies the accomplishments, the sacrifices, the joys and sorrows, the hopes and ambitions of every citizen of this greatest, most successful experiment in self-governement ever established by man.

Some of us have known you intimately throughout your entire Legion life. We recall and record here your never-failing efforts in behalf of your disabled comrades; your brilliant, most effective leadership at every rung in the Legion ladder, from post, through district, division, state, and finally this crowning triumph you have just experienced as our national leader.

As you look upon the folds of your own Old Glory, all we ask you to do, John, is keep in mind always the unfathomed depth of our gratitude and affection, and our immeasurable expression for having given of yourself so generously.

What you have done for us, for all of our comrades, and for our country is epitomized in these words. We may rear temples, and they will crumble into dust; we may write upon stone, time will efface it; we may write upon brass, it, too, will perish; but if we write upon the immortal souls of men, we will have written upon tablets which brighten throughout eternity.

Mr. Commander, I shall be forever grateful for the privilege of presenting these flags to you.

. . . National Commander John Stelle received the flags . . .

**PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:** Thank you, Ed Hayes.

**NATIONAL ADJUTANT GLASCOFF:**

The Aide to the National Commander, John McCauley, will pin upon the national commander the diamond-center past national commander’s pin.

**MR. JOHN McCAULEY:** Commander Stelle requested me to make a speech, but I got through so far without making one, and I won’t make one now.

. . . The past national commander’s pin was pinned upon Past National Commander Stelle by his aide, John McCauley. . . .

**PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STELLE:** Thank you.

**NATIONAL ADJUTANT GLASCOFF:**

Past National Commander Louis Johnson of West Virginia will please proceed to the microphone and escort National Commander-Elect Paul Griffith.

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS TO INCOMING NATIONAL COMMANDER**

Past National Commander Louis Johnson

Paul, it is not because of the affection I bear you, my friend; it is not because you brought me back from India alive, and I was supposed to die there. Paul, it is because I love this Legion more than anything else, except my God, my family, my country, that to you a good son of worthy parents, a good husband, a good father who understands both the boy and the girl, and he who comes to this office as few have ever come with a background unparalleled in what this Legion stands for, and because, Paul, you are a true American product. You have made your position in life. You, yourself have been untrammeled by schemers or others and have made friendships and gained the respect of all of us in the way you have served this Legion, yourself the Commander of, and for these reasons I present these banners—one, the flag of our country, the other the flag of that organization which can make or break America in the next twelve months. It is in these troublous times that for the three million, four hundred thousand of the Legion, and the eight hundred thousand women of the Auxiliary, I entrust to your keeping for them, these two banners, having the utmost confidence that a year from now with the Legion carried where none of us who have proceeded you have ever been able to carry, you will have served America through the Legion so that the times will be less troublous, that God will still be on high, and the country will be a lot safer. May the angels guard and keep you. God bless you, Paul.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER PAUL GRIFFITH:** Thank you, Louis. My own hope is that I can stand here one year from now when these flags are again presented as permanently my own and you and I both know that they have been untarnished by any act of mine. Thank you very much.

The colors were retired and the convention adjourned at 3:15 p.m.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
of the
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
for the
Period Ending July 31, 1946

THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE
Year Ended July 31, 1946

Income:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National dues</td>
<td>$815,285.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sons of The American Legion dues</td>
<td>1,932.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings—reserve fund investments</td>
<td>24,752.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings—general fund investments</td>
<td>5,530.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net income</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>$847,500.45</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibit A

The American Legion Magazine—exhibit D: 1,045,984.02
Emblem division—exhibit E: 183,653.98

Deduct: Excess of expense over income—National Legioonnaire—exhibit F: 3,782.60

**1,225,257.40**

Expense—schedule A-1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>624,618.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americanism</td>
<td>57,593.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative</td>
<td>57,187.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>193,834.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>34,754.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>237,812.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>45,617.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employes Retirement Trust</td>
<td>148,787.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expense</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>1,400,204.98</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other income</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>672,552.87</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash discounts</td>
<td>774.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-divisional interest</td>
<td>4,951.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>1,073.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income—net</td>
<td>568.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks cancelled</td>
<td>105.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention registration fees—1945</td>
<td>6,705.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit on sale of equipment</td>
<td>244.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total other income</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>14,332.48</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deductions from income</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>686,885.35</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of expenditures in connection with Rehabilitation and Child Welfare over funds allocated for the purposes, year ended December 31, 1945</td>
<td>161,893.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks, previously absorbed in income, presented for payment</td>
<td>79.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on manuscripts, arts, and photos</td>
<td>1,517.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of income over expense</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>$ 533,393.99</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Summary of Proceedings of the

**THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**

at July 31, 1946

### ASSETS

#### Current Funds:

**General:**
- Cash on deposit and on hand—schedule B-1: $4,252,693.33
- Accounts receivable: 106,774.08
- Accounts receivable—special: 148,430.00
- Checks returned unpaid by banks: 175.23
- Accrued earnings—invested funds: 197.62

**Inventories:**
- Publications division: $167,746.51
- Emblem division: 206,843.89
- Office building—Rehabilitation division—Washington, D. C.: 158,086.46
- Deduct: Reserve for depreciation: 24,915.97

**Other real estate:**
- Building site—Washington, D. C.: 282,286.20
- Building—Indianapolis: 90,000.00
- Furniture, fixtures, and equipment—schedule B-2: 223,468.18
- Deduct: Reserve for depreciation: 114,200.60
- Deferred expense—1946 National Convention: 109,147.58
- Prepaid insurance, supplies, expense, and advances: 53,138.25

**Restricted:**
- Due from current funds—general: 115,702.33
- Funds restricted to rehabilitation and child welfare—excess of expenditures over available funds—schedule B-3: 126,295.27

#### Trust Funds:

**Pershing Hall Memorial Trust fund:**
- Due from current funds—general: 27,379.27

**Overseas Graves Decoration Trust fund:**
- Cash in special deposit not invested—schedule B-4: 4,432.68
- Advance—American Overseas Memorial Day Association: 306.00
- Investments—schedule B-5: 244,149.53
- 249,101.26

**Employee Retirement Trust fund:**
- Cash on deposit—schedule B-6: 13,253.92
- Investments—schedule B-7: 431,251.89
- 445,001.04

#### Reserve and Restricted Funds:

**Reserve fund:**
- Principal cash awaiting investment: 26,389.66
- Investments—schedule B-8: 1,203,712.43
- 1,230,002.09

**Restricted fund:**
- Principal cash awaiting investment: 333,488.20
- Certificate of beneficial interest: 530.55
- Investments—schedule B-9: 1,991,609.02
- 2,325,327.57

**Total:**
- $6,906,937.41
### Exhibit B

**THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**

at July 31, 1946

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accounts payable</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employee deductions for savings bonds</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accrued unemployment and old age benefit taxes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal income taxes withheld</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal excise tax payable</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commissions payable—National Auxiliary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department credits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emblem merchandise undelivered</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1946 national convention deposit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provision for employee retirement trust for employees with less than three years' service</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Due to other funds:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current funds restricted</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pershing Hall Memorial Trust fund</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred income:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allocated dues unearned:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The American Legion Magazine</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Legionnaire</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sons of The American Legion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted surplus—exhibit C</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balances—schedule B-10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trust Funds:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pershing Hall Memorial Trust fund:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balance—schedule B-11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas Graves Decoration Trust fund:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employees Retirement Trust fund:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balance—see note 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserve and Restricted Funds:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserve fund:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted fund:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balance</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE 1:** According to the plan, an additional contribution of $78,274.85 will be made to the trust in 1947, which completes the contributions based on compensation paid to eligible employees prior to December 31, 1945, and will be in addition to the contribution arising from current compensation payable to eligible employees in the calendar year 1947.
**THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**ANALYSIS OF UNRESTRICTED SURPLUS**

Year Ended July 31, 1946

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance, August 1, 1945</strong></td>
<td>$683,718.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of income over expense, year ended July 31, 1946—exhibit A</td>
<td>$533,393.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment of unreported expense reserve at December 31, 1945</td>
<td>$716.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Additions</strong></td>
<td>$534,110.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deductions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to restricted fund by action of National Finance Committee</td>
<td>$125,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense sustained by The American Legion in Paris, France, in prior years</td>
<td>$4,068.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to relief fund by action of National Finance Committee</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Deductions</strong></td>
<td>$136,568.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance, July 31, 1946—exhibit B</strong></td>
<td>$1,081,260.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Represented by:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original cost of Washington office building</td>
<td>$130,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other net assets</td>
<td>$951,260.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Represented by</strong></td>
<td>$1,081,260.44</td>
</tr>
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<td>Miller, Hon. Justin</td>
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<td>O'Connor, Basil</td>
<td>122</td>
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<td>Patterson, Robert P.</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Rickenbacker, Captain Eddie</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>Ridgeway, Lieut. General M. E.</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>Romulo, Brig. General Carlos P</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>Shoulders, Dr. R. H.</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Small, John D.</td>
<td>130</td>
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<td>Snyder, Irvin R.</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Spaatz, General Carl</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sullivan, John L.</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wainwright, General Jonathan M.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanamaker, Mrs. Pearl A.</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wason, Robert R.</td>
<td>117</td>
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<td>Wilson, Sir Henry Maitland</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>Wollin, William O.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl, Mrs. Norton</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharkey, Edward J.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truman, President Harry S.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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<td>Warren, Governor Earl</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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