PROCEEDINGS

of the

First Annual National Convention

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Municipal Auditorium
Minneapolis, Minnesota
November 10, 11, 12, 1919

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Innumerable messages were received by the Convention from various Posts, Organizations and Celebrities, extending commendations and wishes for the continued success of The American Legion.

A cablegram was read by General Collardet from Marshall Foch, expressing the deep appreciation of the French Government for the American people. With great cheers, the Chairman of the Convention was instructed to prepare an appropriate reply.

An inspiring message was received from General John T. Pershing, which was read to the Convention. A suitable reply was authorized by the Convention with a rising cheering unanimous vote.

A resolution was adopted unanimously by the Convention extending sympathy to President Wilson and a message of cheery hope for his speedy recovery.

Resolutions were passed by the Convention regarding the regretful occurrence at Centralia, Washington, where four Legionaries were murdered on Armistice Day. Among these resolutions was the following:

WHEREAS, Those veterans at Centralia, Washington, on Armistice Day defended lawfully confined prisoners who had killed four of their number,

BE IT RESOLVED, By the American Legion in Convention assembled, that this act is a typical illustration of 100% Americanism.

Lemuel L. Bolles
National Adjutant

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Monday, November 10, 1919

...The Convention is called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Chairman Henry D. Lindsley. Eric Fisher Wood acted as secretary.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen of The American Legion, we will first have the invocation by Dr. Cyprus Northrop, president emeritus of the University of Minnesota, and a grand old man of the Northwest. *(Applause)*

...The invocation is given by Dr. Northrop.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen of The American Legion, the governor of the great state in which we are meeting will now address us, the governor of Minnesota. *(Applause)*

Welcome: Honorable Joseph A. A. Burnquist
Governor of the State of Minnesota

Since becoming governor of Minnesota, it has been my privilege to welcome many organizations to this state, but I can say to you this morning in all sincerity that there has been no organization that I could welcome more heartily or more cordially than The American Legion for I appreciate what the members of this organization have done for America and because I feel that in the principles for which it stands are wrapped up our country's greatest future, its truest progress and the highest development of its people.

We welcome you to Minnesota because of what you advocate. The preamble of your preliminary constitution begins with the words: "For God and Country." You recognize in that preamble the existence of a power higher than man and the need of our country to be actuated in its national and international affairs by the principle of that justice and righteousness for which a true religion stands. We welcome you because in this day when old empires are falling, new nations are being born and the fundamental principles of the American republic are being attacked you advocate the upholding and the defending of the Constitution of the United States of America. *(Applause)*

We all realize the need of changes in our laws and amendments to our constitution from time to time in order to conform with changing conditions, but the fundamental principles of government, which were followed in the formation of that instrument, do not change. They are as true today as at the time of the adoption of our constitution. They recognize that sovereignty is in the people and that the individual is entitled to a proper amount of liberty but no more and no less. *(Applause)*

We welcome you because you have come out strongly for the preservation of law and order. *(Applause)*

In the words of that distinguished and beloved father of one of the originators of this organization, Theodore Roosevelt, "The worst foes of America are the foes to that orderly liberty without which our Republic must speedily perish." You clearly recognize that in a republic where the majority rule, the first requisite in the securing of justice is the maintenance of law and order. *(Applause)*

We welcome you also because you advocate in your preamble the fostering and perpetuating of 100 percent Americanism. We all, regardless of party, ought to congratulate the federal government upon its recent activities in connection with the arresting and deporting of undesirable foreigners. The elimination of these agitators to a still greater extent will do more to restore order and harmony among our people than anything else that can be done.

The inculcating of "that sense of individual obligation" on the part of both native and foreign born to the community, state and nation, which you advocate is essential to our true progress as a nation and as individuals. For a government to become so beneficent as to make it unnecessary for the individual to work or to rely on his own initiative would soon destroy both the individual and the government.

You are also to be commended for urging a more active opposition on the part of each citizen to the establishment here of "the autocracy of either the classes or the masses." All of our citizens should be brought to a clearer realization of the fact that ours is not and should not be a government by capital, labor or any one class, but that it is and should remain a government by all of our people. *(Applause)*

We are also glad to welcome you because you desire "to make right the master of might, to promote peace and goodwill on earth and to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy." Those are the ideals for which you fought in the great conflict which closed a year ago tomorrow. By reason of that titanic struggle, we owe it to you, to the countless dead and to future generations, to do everything within our power to see to it that disputes shall hereafter be settled in international courts of justice instead of on fields of battle. *(Applause)*

In order that this result may be brought about, it is necessary to secure on that part of as many nations as possible a consensus of opinion as to what is right and as to what is wrong for not until a sufficient number of nations reach such a consensus of opinion and are willing to live up to it can we expect the abolition of war.

We also welcome you for what your organization means to its own members. One of its purposes, the last mentioned in your preamble, is that of "consecrating and sanctifying your comradeship by your devotion to mutual helpfulness." As illustrative of what you can accomplish by recommending just legislation, we have an example in the State of Minnesota. The American Legion, organized within our commonwealth, recommended the enactment of the law which was passed by our last legislature and grants to each of the servicemen from this state fifteen dollars for each month they were in the service, amounting in all to an appropriation of about $20 million. *(Applause)*

Although, of course, I cannot speak for Congress, I feel safe in predicting that the national legislative body of this country will likewise, at all times, comply with any fair recommendations made by this organization. You do well in devoting yourselves in this way and in other ways to mutual helpfulness. There was a prominent philosopher who said friendship, sympathy and fellowship are diseases and should be eliminated. By advocating their elimination, he lost his friends. He lost their fellowship. He lost their sympathy and helpfulness. He, himself, finally became the greatest argument against his own philosophy by losing his own mind.

We need one another's sympathy, cooperation and friendship. By continually putting into practice such a spirit of fraternity and with your advocacy of individual responsibility, your organization will be of much assistance to its own membership as well as to the country of which you are citizens. It is a source of great satisfaction to feel that your organization is not a sectional one. It represents every locality within our national borders. It is nationwide, and, therefore, as we are here gathered, it is, I assure you, a great pleasure to welcome you to Minnesota, not as citizens of any particular state or territory, but as citizens of our common country, the United States of America. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, I now have the pleasure of presenting the mayor of Minneapolis. *(Applause)*

Welcome: Honorable J. Edward Meyers
Mayor of the City of Minneapolis

Mr. Chairman, members of the Convention, fellow citizens, the last title is the one that I take pride in addressing you in because as such I can at least meet on a plane with you, much as I regret not being of that age when I could have met with you either here or abroad in the service that you did to the country. *(Applause)*

Perchance it fell to my happy lot to be presiding over this city when the questions of organization of your members came home and you decided on Minneapolis, and I want to say it is a great honor to have been a member of this first Convention. So, I appreciate it and every loyal citizen of this great city appreciates the honor that you have given us in meeting with us here, and I hope that we may always deserve that which you have conferred upon us. Friends, for as such as must meet together, we are at a critical period and I will speak but a few minutes to you, for you have a program that wants attention. Yet, you will permit a suggestion, together with a slight reference to our historical data that comes home very close to me.

I assumed the office of Mayor of Minneapolis on a historical date, made national by the loss to this country of one of its foremost, if not the foremost citizen, Theodore Roosevelt, January 6, 1919. *(Applause)*

In assuming that oath of office I referred to the death of my acquaintance and, friends, that body politic before which I stood, rose in honor and remained silent for the departed great American, except a little, small group of men who ignored even the honors and virtues of the departed and refused to rise. And that class of people you and I have to deal with in this country, men who will follow a true, honest, loyal citizen and man beyond the grave with a perverted mind, men who cannot appreciate the true value of American citizenship under the Stars and Stripes. *(Applause)*

And, friends, I am further proud to say that perhaps before we assumed here in this country the word of The American Legion on there was organized or gathered together, according to the records I looked up this morning in my office, on February 4 a body of loyal boys who had come back, and they said they wanted to organize. I said, "Go to it, boys." And that was on February 4. I am proud of those two dates so far as I was in touch with them, and you will bear with me in this pride.

Yesterday, in looking over the paper, I noticed with much interest the preamble of your declaration, and I said, "Oh, if we all could subscribe to it to a man in this country, there is no question or fear as to what results might be by our readjustment, for with loyalty in the heart of every man that lives in this country, the progress of the country is foreseen without any question at all."

But during the time that we are readjusting ourselves, all you remember, and I know you do, after reading that declaration so carefully that you are to play that same important part in the history of this country that the illustrious G.A.R. played from the time of the close of the Rebellion when they preserved this Union, up to the time that you volunteered your services and went abroad and upheld the honor of this country, and while doing that you will rededicate yourselves not only to the service you rendered over there but continue that service in this country, not in petty politics, but in civic life, that makes you leaders of our men. *(Applause)*

Upon you rests the responsibility as to what the American nation shall be and what shall be the future ideal of that dear old flag of ours, and I know you will not fail in this crisis. I know you can't stand otherwise for the future, and those of us who still live will remember the dead that we left over yonder. Their bodies rest there, but their souls and spirit are here, and they are all I have, and as history records them in the volumes and what they did and what you did. So, I ask you as a citizen who is beginning to depart and probably in years to come will go off the boards, to take up the work that was assigned to us years ago by the great Lincoln, and now assigned to you by the same man, together with the illustrious Theodore Roosevelt, departed, and uphold the great American ideals that have been laid down before us.

There are questions that have come to you for discussion, and I want to refer to one that is near and dear to my heart, and I hope if your Convention sees fit, it may touch upon it and that is in reference to our immigration laws. We who stayed at home were compelled to stay here, as the result of indiscriminate admission to citizenship of men unprepared for it and it is time that you and I say who shall enter our home and how they shall conduct themselves after they enter that home. *(Applause)*

It may be a question for you and me to tell our representatives in Congress as to how long the period of probation shall be and how well qualified that man should be who knocks at our door for citizenship in the future. We felt at home you were backed by the loyal Americans throughout this country, but we hang our heads in shame for the large proportion of slackers ready to leave you in the forefront to the enemy. Gentlemen, the man who was not ready in this support during the crisis is not ready for good citizenship today. *(Applause)*

And then when that man knocks at the door for public office especially in your legislative bodies, think well and don't forget, it is said that the American people are good forgetters, would to God we were better on our memory in realizing that which has gone before. Historical facts come home to us, and we are simply, as Benjamin Franklin has said, "the pupils of yesterday." And remember also that you are the teachers of tomorrow. So, let us look after the problem of the man who comes to this country with a grievance, for he becomes a grievance to us, and see what he is.

Look at law, law is coming to many, but lawlessness and disorder are his handmaidens, and he hopes to tear down, recognizing nothing except what he experienced under autocracy over yonder as being law and order here. He is willing to tear down, but not to build. Friends think well what your representatives and my representatives in Congress are doing regarding immigration laws right now. And then another point that I must ask you to take an interest in and let me make an appeal especially to the younger men, is to see who are the ones that teach the future generations in our schools' loyalty and Americanism. *(Applause)*

Our schools and our playgrounds, you know, for you went through them as I did, are the making of this country in the future, and I ask you to set aside any petty politics and get up to a high level to say that the schools and the playgrounds of this nation must be kept immaculate from any treasonable teachings of any kind whatsoever. *(Applause)*

As a representative of the City of Minneapolis I welcome you. Yes, I admit, you are thrice welcome. We are more than happy that this is to be the historical ground on which you have this first Convention. It is an honor to us, and we want at least those of us who hope to survive a few years yet to be able to point with pride to this place and say, "There was the start of the greatest movement for the betterment of mankind that has been inaugurated." And The American Legion must be the leader of that movement. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Comrades, when it was proposed to arrange a program for this Convention, those on whom you had placed the responsibility of doing so decided that there was one man in all the world who should honor this Convention by his appearance here in Minneapolis today, and your National Committee therefore took up with the French government and invitation to the commander-in-chief of the allied armies to come over here and be with us on this occasion. I want you to know that the French government treated that invitation as a distinct honor. It had the personal attention of the president and the premier of France as well as the marshal.

Our own government extended the invitation, the arrangements were practically completed when finally, it was determined that the marshal's presence was necessary in France at this time to such an extent he could not leave. I want, on your behalf, to thank the French ambassador and the French embassy for their work in attempting to make this arrangement and there is here today the military attaché of the French embassy who has received a special cable from Marshal Foch to read to you and from the box I will ask General Collardet to read the message. *(Applause)*

Message from Marshal Foch

GENERAL COLLARDET OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY: My valiant war companions: The 11th of November, 1918, saw the capitulation of the enemy; vanquished Germany was craving for mercy and she delivered over to us such trophies as history had never known.

This was indeed the victory of the allied armies who, ardently fighting, had united in a supreme, continuous and violent effort all their energies as they had united all their hopes.

With head erect, the valiant American fighters of the Argonne, of the Meuse, of the Somme, of Flanders, after hard days, resumed once more, by the side of the Allies, the march toward the Rhine.

On this day when, for the first time, we celebrate the anniversary of the armistice, I want to be with you to commemorate the past and to tell you that, with our eyes ever raised toward the same ideal of justice and liberty, we must remain united as we have been in the days of trial and the days of triumph. *(Applause)*

Proud to have been at your head, I send my most cordial greetings to the veterans of the Great War, illustrious by their immortal deeds and to those too who, in the camps of America, were preparing with ardor to come and take their part in the battle. *(Applause)*

Lastly, I wish to salute, as ever living in a memory of the past and on the threshold of a future common to us, the tombs of those who lie in the soil of France, resting there, and are as a symbol of our indissoluble union. *(Applause)*

Address: Henry D. Lindsley
Chairman of the National Executive Committee

Governor Burnquist, Mayor Meyers, distinguished visitors, comrades, as the chairman of the National Executive Committee I am not going to in any sense present to you a detailed report, nor am I going to deal in figures in anyway. The history of this movement since the St. Louis Convention is written in the history of every state of the nation and those who came here today as delegates from the various states know what has been done at National Headquarters as well as in their states, as well as I or others working there know these things.

I feel, however, that I should pay tribute to the splendid cooperation which has been given to me as national chairman during these past six months when I have been at the temporary National Headquarters in New York by the volunteer workers who came in there, working night and day, to see that the messages which came to us from all over this land went back to the various parts of the United States, seeing that the stimulations which we received went back throughout the country. I feel I can particularly mention the secretary, Mr. Wood, and his valuable work; and Dr. Derby, who rendered most valuable assistance and Mr. D'Olier who was always on the job and no less do I feel that from the standpoint of National Headquarters we are particularly indebted to three men who went throughout the nation preaching the gospel of The American Legion; Herbert of Massachusetts, Inzer from Alabama, and Roosevelt of a growing family.

But, gentlemen, I can without restraint pay tribute to the state organizations. We realized from the start that the national organization could do little of anything to make The American Legion what it is today potentially and actually the greatest power in American life, if in every state in this country and in every foreign possession, members eligible for The American Legion did not get together and perfect their several organizations and there is an enormous debt due to the men who in these several states throughout the country gave their time to build up these state organizations, and in turn tremendous value has been done by those who organized the posts. We realized that the National Headquarters was at best a coordinating force to bind together these several units and that they in their turn bound together the various posts under them and there has been built up and knit together in this nation a force today of over a million men. *(Applause)*

Those of you who attended the meeting on Friday of the advance delegation, know that there was prepared no set program. There was suggested a tentative outline, the result of the work of a number of men including particularly the chairman of the Program Committee, Mr. Foreman of Illinois, and this program after having been gone over fully by that Advance Committee was adopted as that which would be referred to you. I mention that at this time particularly for this reason, gentlemen, The American Legion does not need a set program and I hope the time will never come in the United States when the National Convention of The American Legion will follow any set program prepared by anybody. *(Applause)*

I am not talking about the machinery of the Convention. What is alright, that merely gives opportunity for expression, but no man attending the convention at St. Louis, no man who heard the expressions that came from the floor of that convention there, didn't realize that there was in this country one unbossed organization. *(Applause)*

I hope in that connection I haven't gone over the final program as it will be suggested to you, that it will be determined as a permanent part of our procedure that there will never be a nominating committee of The American Legion and that every officer who is elected by a Convention should be nominated from the floor. *(Applause)*

To those of you who have not gone over this tentative program I want to briefly say this, there are twenty-three committees, of these, three are the primary committees and twenty remain throughout the Convention. These committees are selected, as you know, and as has been done by your several delegates, I don't know whether you have or have not selected the chairmen of these committees, have you? Apparently, some have and some have not. I wish to impress on you when these committees get together, gentlemen, the importance of selecting chairmen who will expedite the work of the committees. There will be in motion, as a matter of fact, twenty small conventions, twenty very powerful conventions, each one of which will deal with one or more great big subjects and the sub-divisions of that subject or subjects, and those committees are dignified by being original committees of this Convention and reporting directly back to the Convention.

The national organization has invited certain experts or men who are particularly informed relative to a number of subjects that will be discussed, and these men are at your disposition, but I want to particularly impress this point on you and on them, those who are here, that they are simply here as advisors to these committees to the extent that the committees desire to ask on them for information or for advice. It was believed advisable to have a number of men here or a fair number who had made special studies of special subjects and their services are tendered to you and to your committees, to use as you see proper.

I wish to call attention to the national legislative program that has been carried out or is now in process of being carried out. You know, of course, that The American Legion is the only veteran organization chartered by the national congress of this country. And we feel that this, while a proper recognition, is a most distinct and honorable one which will pass for all the years to come as a recognition of the fact that before the treaty of peace was concluded there had grown up in this country an organization powerful, yes, but more than powerful, patriotic, so patriotic that its patriotism had never been questioned and that the Congress of the United States practically without a single dissenting voice felt it perfectly safe to put the stamp of the national government on The American Legion. *(Applause)*

You know the work that has been done in getting the bill passed for the deportation of alien slackers and those who succeed this present national executive ought to have a mandate from this Convention to push that bill until it reaches its conclusion and beyond until every one of those men has been deported from the United States. *(Applause)*

You know the work that has been done by your American Legion with regard to the amendment of the War Risk Act and that it has been back of and perhaps has been largely instrumental in getting the Sweet Bill as far through Congress as it now is. You know of the investigation of the Board of Vocational Training which was started by The American Legion in the interests of those for whom that bill was framed. You know the bill giving civil service preferences for federal positions to honorably discharged soldiers and sailors.

You know of the Lenroot Bill which The American Legion has felt it could very properly back providing war service educational facilities of nine months to ex-service men if they desire. The American Legion, as such, has taken no part or side with the so-called various cash bonus measures. I intend to mention that subject briefly in just a moment. In reviewing this legislative program, I want particularly to express the appreciation of the National Executive Committee, which I know will be your voice, to comrade Thomas W. Miller, who has worked incessantly at Washington on these measures. *(Applause)*

There will come up before you here, gentlemen, a vast number of problems. I am only going to touch, for reasons you will see, a few of them. The country expects the voice of this Convention to indicate how The American Legion stands on a number of matters and one of them, I think I may say, is the future military policy of the United States, and no committee can be more important than the committee which will have placed in its charge the recommendations which will be made to the Convention on that subject. An important matter that you will consider will be what participation, if any, members of The American Legion, officers of The American Legion, can take in party politics. Whatever is done, the thought, the fundamental thought of The American Legion, certainly must always be borne in mind, that this great organization shall never be prostituted to party politics or support of any individual seeking political preferment. *(Applause)*

There is one matter, gentlemen, which most solemnly I want to call to the attention of this Convention as a whole and that is the industrial situation in the United States. Certainly, there is no subject which comes closer to the hearts of every American than the distressing situation which now confronts us. The American Legion will be no partisan in conflict between labor on the one side and capital on the other. *(Applause)*

The American Legion to an extent never known before in the history of this country is drawn from every class and represents every section and every party in the United States. The American Legion, however, as has been said by the governor, has steadfastly set its face for law and order, in the United States. *(Applause)*

Drawn as these five million potential members are, my friends, drawn as they are from every section of the country, from every political party in the country, from every class in the country, can there not properly come out of this Convention a resolution which will start a movement, put in the hands of the next executive committee or put in the hands of a special committee, to make a study of industrial conditions of the United States with the thought, not small thoughts, not a question of hours alone, not a question of wages alone, not a question of living conditions alone, important as those things are, but the mightier question of a common understanding between those who labor and those who employ labor?

There is in our country today a condition which threatens the industrial life of the nation and America should live up to this great opportunity and see that no strife of class against class prevents the United States from fully realizing that enormous productivity which it has today, far exceeding, very far exceeding anything else in the world, and this country, gentlemen, will welcome from this body of men, it will welcome a resolution and a program which will be against no class, which will be for all classes, and which will endeavor in the immediate future to so understand and present the principles involved that there may be in our country one great class, the American citizen. *(Applause)*

I want to touch very briefly a matter that will come before an important committee and that is the War Risk Act. It is important that throughout this country The American Legion, not only get behind the Sweet Bill, but that they demand further legislation relative to this act. Unquestionably those who carry term policies should be permitted to have them payable in a lump sum if they want to have them payable in a lump sum. *(Applause)*

The theory of this law is that every man pays for what he gets and with the exception of paying overhead expenses those who are paying for this insurance are paying actual cost. But that does not go far enough. This converted insurance is not going to be accepted by any vast number of these five million men unless it is not only the best, but the cheapest insurance in the United States. I have given that subject a great deal of consideration and I present to you the thought which I shall present in writing to your committee, that it is the

duty of the secretary of the Treasury of the United States and he can do it without act of Congress, to make the rate on the converted insurance twenty-five per cent less than the rates that have been promulgated. *(Applause)*

I shall not attempt in these few minutes to go into any technical matter, but simply put this thought, that these rates are based on the American experience table of mortality with interest at three and one half per cent. Every company in this country that is successful has a mortality savings of from twenty to forty per cent. We have the most splendid risks that have ever been gathered together in this country and that the government can well assume a mortality saving and interest earning equivalent to twenty-five per cent of these premiums and I am very certain that unless the government does substantially that and permits these policies to be payable in a lump sum, practically none of this vast amount of insurance will be preserved. *(Applause)*

I am going to touch briefly, gentlemen, on a matter that has been discussed all over the United States and I want to be very certain that my position relative to it is understood. I am speaking of the so-called cash bonus matter. I think it was perfectly proper at the St. Louis Caucus that that matter should be deferred, and I was one of those who participated in having it deferred. It is for this Convention to determine what it may desire to do relative to that matter, but I think this is fundamental that we should not dodge any issues whatever. *(Applause)*

That is not only expected by the Congress, and it may be said that Congress should not pass the buck to the Legion and perhaps it should not but the country does expect that this representative Convention shall consider all matters of soldiers' beneficial legislation and shall determine those things which, taking everything into consideration and all of the people of the United States, those things of that program which are fair and I hope that that committee on soldiers' beneficial legislation will go into every phase of that matter and in one resolution present to this Convention what it believes to be a correct solution of the entire problem

There is an affirmative side to compensating these men who served in this country and overseas in excess of what has already been paid them, and I have prepared, at the suggestion of some members of the committee, a short paper covering that phase of the situation which will be handed to the committee which will handle the subject. At the meeting, gentlemen, of the Advance Committee here on Friday, the most important thing that came out of that little gathering of a hundred men, the most important thing that was evidenced there was the spirit. The most important thing that we can have in our minds here in this Convention is the spirit of the Convention and the spirit which goes to this nation as the result of the Convention.

I want to say to you, Mr. Governor, and mayor of this city, that Minneapolis and Minnesota have, I think, the honor of holding the initial annual Convention of an organization which is more largely going to turn the trend of thought in the United States than any aggregation of organizations of which we have knowledge. *(Applause)*

There is no mistaking the power of The American Legion. When you meet in your committees and consider whether you will do this or that in the way of recommendations, don't for one moment fear to do it, because you have got the power. Consider it from the standpoint of a power so great that it rests with you as a tremendous responsibility. View every single act that can come out of this Convention, so that when you go to your homes throughout the United States you will not go as an apologist, so that no man going from here will bow his head in shame, so that before any man or any group of men he can stand for the things in The American Legion in Convention assembled decided to do.

This is a momentous Convention. We are accustomed to think, my friends, that the Declaration of Independence was the unanimous thought of those who considered that document. It is not so. There was one man who said, "I won't sign it, because it may lead to war and I am opposed to war"; and another said, "I won't sign it, because it might be considered an act of treason by Great Britain and I might be hanged for treason"; and there were others who refused to sign their names. They are not even known in the halls of infamy, but those who attached their names to that document became thereby part of the

immortal instrument itself, and their children's children look on those names with pride and they are known to all lovers of Liberty throughout the world.

In the years to come, you who are gathered here will harken back to these three days, as you pass toward the shadows. The immensity of your acts here will assume greater and greater importance. In fifty years from now those of us gathered here will have passed into the great beyond, but there will be some who, approaching the last resting place, will look back on busy and useful lives. May those of us assembled here, that on that distant day are reviewing all the things that have grown out of this Convention, know that the spirit of The American Legion had in it the spirit of the American people and that not a single thing was done which in the years to come would make an American patriot blush with shame. That is the spirit, gentlemen, that is the spirit that is expected by the American people from this Convention.

All over this land without the exception of a single state, city, hamlet or village, on every farm, it is going to be known what The American Legion, what these five million men, for potentially we are that, what they represent in American life, what they are going to strive for, what they are going to stand for, what they are going to put the heel of their condemnation on, as unpatriotic and un-American. With that thought ringing through every meeting of this Convention, with that thought in every single committee meeting there will be no mistakes, there can be no mistakes made by a body of men such as this, when every side of the question is thoroughly considered and analyzed and when in the end it has been determined that that which is done will be worthy of our great country.

I appreciate the honor that you have given me to start this great Convention, to labor as your servant during these past six months, and as your comrade. I may say here to you now, it has been a very, very sweet work and a wonderful inspiration, when at National Headquarters there came a time, and there were many, when we were rather uncertain of how the Legion was going, from every part of this land there came voices of those who let us know that in their particular states or places the spirit of The American Legion was alive.

In conclusion, and it is but a repetition, I would ask you as delegates to this Convention to know that every single subject that comes before you in some way should be disposed of by you, not acted upon affirmatively necessarily, but not postponed. We asked you to do that in the St. Louis Caucus, the time is to do it now. The American Legion has found itself. The American Legion has its stride, The American Legion recognizes its power and its responsibility to the people of this country and in this Convention The American Legion will, I am sure, meet every situation as Americans would have those situations met. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CA): Point of order, Mr. Chairman speaking for the California delegation, I wish to say that we are in sympathy with that which has been done, but we are not in sympathy with taking up anything further that concerns our welfare until we have recognized those men and women who have paid the supreme sacrifice. As was done at the state convention at San Francisco I suggest, for your consideration, that in the silence of our own hearts we express ourselves and suggest that we rise at this time and remain standing in silence for one minute in respect to those who gave their lives men and women alike.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You will all rise, gentlemen.

...The Convention rose for a minute of silence.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will read the report of the Advance Committee.

SECRETARY WOOD: The report which I am instructed by the chairman to read is the report of the Advance Committee, composed of the several state chairmen or acting state chairmen.

Report: Advance Committee

The amount of work to be handled by this Convention is so great and its time so limited that many committees must be selected and the limit of their work defined. It is suggested by the Advance Committee to the Convention that each committee consist of one member from each state, to be selected by that state's delegation in any manner it may desire, that each committee after assembling elect its own chairman and secretary and finally that each committee report direct to the Convention in an advisory capacity, the Convention accepting or rejecting or modifying its recommendations as it sees fit.

It is further suggested that states having delegations, the number of which is less than the number of committees, may place the same delegate or alternate upon more than one committee, the term "state delegation" to cover delegations from the several territories and from the District of Columbia and from foreign countries.

The committees suggested are nineteen in number Credentials, Rules of the Convention, and Officers of the Convention. These three committees being necessary to the organization of the Convention before the Executive Session can be begun and after that committees on Emblem, Eligibility, Auxiliaries, Political Restrictions, Finance and National Dues, Constitution, Legislation, Next Meeting Place, Permanent National Headquarters, Post Activities and Memorials, Employment, War Risk, Beneficial Legislation, Military Policy, Anti-American Propaganda, and Resolutions. The Advance Committee of secretaries recommended that the bulletin on Convention arrangements as of October 17 be adopted as a basis of temporary roll call.

The following order of business is included in the suggestions: First, report of the Committee on Credentials, Rules and Permanent Organization, followed immediately by election of the officers of the Convention. While those three committees are out, the reports of the secretary and the treasurer are to be read and a recess taken if necessary. Following the election of the permanent officers of the Convention, the Advance Committee recommends an adjournment until committees are ready to report.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the reading of the report of the Advance Committee, gentlemen; what is your pleasure?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CO): I move the report of the Advance Committee be adopted. ...*The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask before putting the motion that every delegate in rising will call his name and state, regardless of the chairman knowing his name and state.

SECRETARY WOOD: I have here a list of blanks for distribution to the state chairmen containing a roll of these committees to facilitate the nominations.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: This report, gentlemen, is being printed and circulated. If you want the secretary to re-read it, that would be done, but I think that you understand the preliminary report of the Advance Committee. The next order of business would be the selection of these committees, the first three committees. Gentlemen, if you will verbally announce the members that you desire to designate on these three committees, the committees can immediately go to work. I will ask first that the committee on Credentials will be determined. The place of their meeting will be named and they can go immediately to this place and organize.

DELEGATE WALLACE (MN): I suggest, in order to expedite matters, that the Committee on Credentials be made up of the acting secretaries of the states.

SECRETARY WOOD: The chairman requests that the Committee on Credentials gather in committee room one on the fourth floor of this building; that the Committee on Rules gather at the Y.M.C.A. , which is one block from here; and that the Committee on Officers of the Convention meet at the School of Music at 806 Nicollet Avenue, also one block from here.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask the secretary to call the roll of the states and have the chairmen name the member of the Credentials Committee. Those committees will proceed to their several meeting places.

DELEGATE MATHEWSON (CA): In order to avoid confusion, I move that the secretary for the various state delegations immediately transmit the names of these committees to the temporary secretary of the Convention.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, don't leave the hall. This meeting is not over. We are merely collecting the names from the secretaries. The Convention will be immediately called to order, as soon as we have the names. Gentlemen, the report of the Advance Committee having been adopted, I want to ask if every state has handed in the list of the various committeemen. Any state that has not handed in the list, will please do so immediately.

SECRETARY WOOD: Gentlemen, the chairman has asked me to announce again in order that it may be perfectly clear that the first three committees are now meeting. The Credentials Committee is now meeting on the fourth floor of this building; the Rules Committee is now meeting at the Y.M.C.A. and the Officers of the Convention Committee is meeting at 806 Nicollet. Those committees are now meeting. Gentlemen, we have not yet received the nominations of committees in full, from the following states; North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Wisconsin, Nevada, West Virginia, Arizona, North Dakota, Iowa, Virginia, Georgia, Arkansas, Kansas, New York, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Indiana, Florida and Missouri. Those states have not yet put in their complete list of committeemen in accordance with the adopted report of the Advance Committee.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Will you please get those reports in immediately, gentlemen?

DELEGATE BOYLE (WA): I move you that we adjourn until two o'clock.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: These committees, gentlemen, are in session and will make their reports in a few minutes. His report of the Advance Committee which you have adopted provides for committee meetings this afternoon and not for the Convention, so we are facilitating that in every way, but I think we should wait until we get those reports. *...The motion is seconded and carried.*

SECRETARY WOOD: The following states have not turned in their list of committeemen: North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Nevada, Arkansas.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: One of the committee reports is here. We expect the others in just a moment but waiting for them I wish to announce that the banner which was offered by the National Executive Committee to that state which had the greatest percentage of its quota in the million drive will be presented now. I appreciate the fact that all over this country there was splendid service done in filling the quota and exceeding it, but one state was not satisfied with the quota, and it got one hundred and sixty-five per cent and it is Vermont. Vermont gets the banner! *(Applause)*

...The banner is presented to the Vermont delegation.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will have the report of the Committee on Credentials.

Report: Credentials Committee
Michael Provosty, Louisiana, Chairman

The Committee on Credentials recommend the adoption of the following as the permanent roll of the Convention.

Alabama	6	Georgia	6
Alaska	4	Hawaii	4
Arizona	6	Idaho	6
Arkansas	10	Illinois	22
California	18	Indiana	15
Colorado	6	Iowa	25
Connecticut	11	Kansas	14
Cuba	4	Kentucky	6
Delaware	6	Louisiana	4
District of Columbia	9	Maine	9
Florida	6	Maryland	7

Massachusetts	65	Oklahoma	9
Mexico	4	Oregon	13
Michigan	24	Pennsylvania	50
Minnesota	36	Rhode Island	9
Mississippi	5	South Carolina	5
Missouri	14	South Dakota	10
Montana	9	Tennessee	8
Nebraska	12	Texas	12
Nevada	5	Utah	6
New Hampshire	10	Virginia	9
New Jersey	14	Vermont	9
New Mexico	7	Washington	12
New York	47	West Virginia	6
North Carolina	5	Wisconsin	8
North Dakota	8	Wyoming	4
Ohio	45		

We further recommend that the following resolution be adopted by the Convention, which was adopted by your Committee: **That the members of the joint National Executive Committee of Thirty-four and members of the National Executive Committee of One Hundred arising out of the Paris Caucus and the National Executive Committee of One Hundred arising out of the St. Louis Caucus shall be seated with the delegations of the states in which they reside but they shall have no vote unless a duly chosen member of that state delegation.**

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the reading of the report of the Committee on Credentials, gentlemen; what is your pleasure?

DELEGATE SHAW OF (MN): I move the report be accepted.

...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will have the report of the treasurer, Mr. Bacon.

Report: E.C. Bacon
Treasurer

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the treasurer's report giving the general statement of the assets and liabilities of The American Legion and the Legion Publishing Corporation, a general statement giving the revenue and expenses of the Legion and the Legion Publishing Corporation from its inception to October 31 and a statement giving the cost of the Legion Weekly up to October 31, have been prepared from the books of the Legion and by well-recognized public accountants of New York City. This report has been printed and there is a copy available for every member of this delegation and these copies will be distributed at any time that you are ready to receive them.

The report of the treasurer and the report of the editor of the Weekly will be submitted to the Finance Committee, which will be elected by this body. The whole financial condition of the Legion and the newspaper will be gone into carefully and thoroughly by that committee. I therefore would suggest for your consideration that I postpone the reading of the treasurer's report until that committee has had an opportunity to go into this large and complex financial situation and until that committee has reported to this body. If you vote or choose to do anything else, I have the treasurer's report here and I will gladly go into it to any extent that you see fit, either now or after the Finance Committee has reported.

DELEGATE MARSHALL (MA): I move you, sir, the report of the treasurer be deferred until after the report of the Finance Committee comes before this Convention.

...Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that the report of the treasurer be deferred until it has been properly presented to the Finance Committee.
...The motion is unanimously carried.

DELEGATE GALBRAITH (OH): I move an amendment that the copies of the financial report be distributed so that the delegates may have an opportunity of going over them.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the amended motion. Are you ready for the question? The amended motion is that the report of the treasurer be referred until it has been passed on by the Finance Committee and that in the meantime copies of this report be distributed to all the delegates here. *...The motion is unanimously carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will have these distributed right now, gentlemen, while we are waiting a moment for the report. Gentlemen, we will now have the report of the national secretary. *(Applause)*

SECRETARY WOOD: Gentlemen of the Convention, the secretary's report, covering in detail the work of National Headquarters for the last six months is fairly voluminous. This report in its entirety was read to your Advance Committee. While perfectly willing, as far as I am concerned, to read it in full I would respectfully suggest that in view of the fact that it has been heard by at least one member of each delegation that you permit me to read or to make a brief summary of that work.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The report, gentlemen, is voluminous. Now there are copies here and copies can be multigraphed and put into the hands of every delegate of this Convention if desired. The question with you now is whether you desire the national secretary to make a condensed report or whether you desire the entire report read.

DELEGATE BRADLEY (NY): I move the secretary be instructed to make a verbal report. *...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.*

Report: Eric Fisher Wood
Secretary

The present organization of The American Legion was formed in May by the amalgamation of a committee of seventeen emanating from the St. Louis Caucus with the other committee of seventeen which had been appointed and resulted from the Paris Caucus. Those two committees met and amalgamated in May and selected as they were authorized to do the officers of the Legion to act until the convening of this Convention. They selected unanimously Mr. Lindsley as chairman, Mr. Bennett Clark of Missouri as vice-chairman, Mr. Bacon of New York as treasurer and Mr. Wood of Pennsylvania as secretary.

Their campaign to carry out the directions of the St. Louis and Paris Caucuses began on the first of June. We were instructed to take all steps necessary for the convening of a truly representative convention but were forbidden to commit the Legion to any permanent policies pending the convening of this Convention. We analyzed our work into five parts; first of all, the organization of a National Headquarters; secondly, to assist the various states in organizing an active state branch; third, to assure at least one local post in each and every county of the Union; fourth, a membership campaign with one million members as its objective; and lastly, the holding of state conventions by those members in order to select the delegates for this Convention.

We assigned one of those tasks to each of the five months which intervened between May and November. In June we built up a National Headquarters staff covering twelve thousand square feet of office space and having nineteen departments, in the period of one month of June. In the month of July, before the end of the month, due to the splendid work of the various states there was an active state branch in every state of the Union. By the end of August, there was an active local post in ninety five percent of the counties of the Union. In the month of September, our membership drive resulted in over a million

registered members and in something like five or six hundred thousand actual paid up members. In the month of October, the state conventions took place.

Gentlemen, the reason for this program was that although we had been instructed by you that every soldier and every sailor and every Marine should be given the opportunity to vote for delegates here, we didn't deem it enough. We felt that to assure a representative delegation we must actually have at least a million members. So, it was true that every soldier and every sailor and every Marine had an opportunity to vote for these delegates and to instruct them in his wishes and it also is true that we assured a membership of a million so that at least that million would actually exert their franchises. That covers, gentlemen, the summary of the work which we set for ourselves and which with the splendid cooperation of the state branches and of the past officers, whom I am forced to admit did at least ninety per cent of the work, that is the past which we succeeded with their help in finishing on schedule time month by month. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, you have heard the report of the national secretary. What is your pleasure?

DELEGATE LYONS (IA): I move the adoption of the report. *...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.*

DELEGATE VAN DYKE (CA): We are making history in this hall, and I think we should realize to what extent we are affecting the destiny of this nation. I was very much interested in the report of the Committee on Credentials and when I heard the list of American states beginning almost with that state whose name shall not be changed and going down the list and we came to California, Louisiana and the other states, I heard the name of "Mexico" sounded, and I found that, coming from that country we had brothers, represented with us in this Convention of The American Legion, that country with which we had so much friction in the past, meets here in the bonds of comradeship, through its delegates, and I feel therefore that the bonds of friendship are being cemented with a nation which must forever be our neighbor, giving place perhaps to those elements of dissention which at times have existed. I feel therefore it is suitable for us to send a special message of greeting and welcome to our brothers from Mexico and I so move.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): This discussion is entirely out of the business of the Convention and we are losing a great deal of valuable time.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Was there a second to the motion as made?

...The motion was not seconded.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, just this moment we are informed that the Committee on Permanent Organization is ready to report. That applies only to officers of the Convention. It is ready to report on officers of this Convention. The Committee on Rules is not ready to report, so that if you want to act now on the report of the Committee on Officers it would be proper for you to adopt Robert's Rules of Order or such other rules as you may desire to govern this Convention until the report is made by the Committee on Rules. What is your pleasure?

DELEGATE WAUMSLEY (LA): I move you, sir, that pending the report of the Committee on Rules that this Convention adopt Robert's Rules of Order for its procedure.

...The motion is seconded and carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will now have the report of the Committee on Officers of the Convention.

Report: Committee on Permanent Organization of the Convention
Cornelius W. Wickersham, New York, Chairman

The Committee on Officers of the Convention reports for first vice chairman, Mr. Sullivan of Washington. *(Applause)*

For the other officers the present officers of The American Legion to serve during this Convention. The committee has not completed its work and I will ask the committee to meet again immediately outside on this side. Respectfully submitted.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Do you desire, gentlemen, to take action on the report as made? *...Chairman Wickersham of New York takes the Chair.*

DELEGATE GARI (MD): I move that the committee's report be accepted as made. *...Second.*

DELEGATE BRYANT (MO): I see that every member of this committee that was on the old committee has been chosen except one and that one was overseas and lead a regiment. That was Bennett Clark and he should be the vice commander of this organization, this temporary organization, as he is today, and I so move that the report be amended to substitute instead of Mr. Sullivan from Washington, Mr. Bennett C. Clark of Missouri, for vice commander.

CHAIRMAN WICKERSHAM: Is the amendment seconded?

DELEGATE CARR (PA): Will you state what is the motion before the house, so that we may vote intelligently?

CHAIRMAN WICKERSHAM: The motion before the house is to approve the report of the Committee on Permanent Organization, which I stated a few moments ago, which I will state again, for chairman, Mr. Lindsley of Texas, Mr. Sullivan of Washington for first vice chairman, and the other present officers to continue throughout this Convention. as follows: For chairman of this Convention, Mr. Lindsley of Texas What is your pleasure?

DELEGATE CARR (PA): I rise to make a Parliamentary inquiry. Is the Convention to understand that the adoption of the report of the Committee would preclude the nomination of others for the positions to be filled?

CHAIRMAN WICKERSHAM: The gentleman is correct

DELEGATE HATFIELD (CA): We have no objection to any of the officers, but we do not believe that this is the proper way that the report should be rendered, and we therefore move an amendment to that, that the permanent officers of the Convention should be nominated from the floor, individually and elected individually.

...The motion is not seconded.

CHAIRMAN WICKERSHAM: Are you ready for the question? All those in favor please say aye. Contrary no. *...The motion to accept the report of the committee is carried ...Chairman Lindsley resumes the Chair.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We have ready the report of the Committee on Rules. The report will be made by the chairman of the Committee on Rules. The secretary will read the meeting places of the committees of this Convention.

SECRETARY WOOD: The Committee on Emblem is assigned a committee room at the Soldier and Sailor Inn, Tenth and Mary Place; Committee on Eligibility at the Manufacturers' Club, 607 2nd Avenue; the Committee on Auxiliaries, the Builders' Exchange at 607 2nd Avenue; the Political Restrictions Committee at the Y.M.C.A. Building, Ninth Street and Mary Place; Committee on Finance at the Baptist Church; Tenth and Harmont Place; Committee on Constitution is the same church; Committee on Legislation in the committee-room on the fourth floor of this building; Committee on Next Meeting Place at the Loyal American Club, 818 Hennepin Avenue; Committee on Permanent Headquarters, at the same club and avenue; Committee on Post Activities and Memorials, Room 404, Essex Building, Tenth and Nicollet; Committee on Employment, Minnesota Public Library, Tenth and Hennepin; Committee on War Risk, Vocational High School, Fourth Avenue South and Eleventh Street; Committee on Beneficial Legislation, on the twelfth floor of the Metropolitan Bank Building, at Sixth Street and Second Avenue, South; the Committee on Military Policy at the Minneapolis Club, Eighth Street and Second Avenue; the Committee on Anti-American Propaganda at the Minneapolis Athletic Club, Second Avenue, South, near Sixth Street; Committee on Resolutions in the cafeteria room of this building.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is the statement made by the secretary relative to these meeting places of committees perfectly clear? It is for you to decide when they will meet. Has the chairman of the Rules Committee come? If we can get by the report of the Committee on Rules, gentlemen, you probably would not meet in Convention assembled until tomorrow morning. That would let the committees meet immediately. Now it is with you to wait those few minutes, having waited this long until the report can come.

DELEGATE CARR (PA): I move that when the committees meet this afternoon they meet at 3:30 o'clock P.M. *...Second.*

The reason is this: most of these committees will have matters referred to them by their respective delegations. It is important particularly with regard to resolutions that men who come from the various delegations of that committee be appraised by their respective delegations what they are standing for or what they are going to advocate and in order that there may be a full attendance of all the delegations at a caucus to be held by them, I suggest that we have these meetings called at 3:30 PM so that every member of the Convention can attend the meeting of his own state caucus.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion before you, gentlemen, is that these committees will meet, all of them at their designated places at 3:30.

DELEGATE MILLS (NY): I should like to call to your attention that it is now almost a quarter of two; that if these committees meet at 3:30 and this Convention adjourns until after the report of the Committee on Rules, until tomorrow morning, it will preclude the possibility of any resolutions being introduced from the floor of the Convention, and the only matters to be considered by the Convention will then be the reports of the various committees. It deprives the Convention of all opportunity of initiating questions to be considered by the Committee. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? All those in favor will vote aye. Contrary no. *...The motion is carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will put that again, gentlemen. *...The question is again put.* I construe that the ayes have it. The motion was that at half past three o'clock this afternoon all of these committees meet in their respective places.

DELEGATE MILLS (NY): Question of information, under the rule just adopted we would thereby not have an opportunity to present resolutions for the consideration of the Committee on Resolutions.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Yes, tomorrow morning.

DELEGATE MILLS (NY): But isn't the Committee on Resolutions to meet at 3:30 this afternoon?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It does meet and organize; it does not need to do a thing, if it does not want to.

DELEGATE HOPPS (OK): If I may suggest it, gentlemen, I think the proper place to present resolutions in the first instance is before the Committee on Resolutions.

DELEGATE VAN DYCK (CA): There ought to be some convenient method by which the members of this Convention who desire to introduce resolutions for the considerations of the various committees might do so the committees could commence the consideration promptly. I therefore move, because we don't all know where each of these committees is meeting but have simply preserved the location of our own personal committee, that any member of the Convention may, by submitting a resolution in writing signed by himself and one of the delegates, file it with the secretary of the Convention, who shall refer it to the proper committee. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): I rise to a point of order. That work was given to the Rules Committee which is now ready to report covering the motion.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Will you withdraw the motion? Postpone it until we hear from the committee?

DELEGATE VAN DYCK (CA): The motion will be withdrawn until that time.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chairman of the Committee on Rules will report from this vantage point.

Report: Committee on Rules
Frank B. Nelson, Arkansas, Chairman

Recommendation of the Rules Committee that Robert's Revised Rules of Order, as modified herein, be adopted. That debate be limited to five minutes for each speaker and that not to exceed two delegates from any state on any subject and that no delegate be permitted the floor but once on any one subject. That nominating speeches be limited to five minutes and speeches seconding nominations be limited to two minutes. That the floor be allowed only to delegates, alternates, delegates at large, or a member of the National Executive Committee, and all resolutions offered on the floor of the Convention or otherwise shall be automatically and without debate be referred to appropriate committees or in the absence of such committee to the Resolutions Committee for immediate action and report. That any resolution not presented on the floor must be presented in writing to the secretary signed by its author, not later than the close of the morning session of November 11. That the votes on any subject be taken on the floor or the Convention by the chairman announcing the vote of his delegation. That the report of the Advance Committee on order of business and committees to be chosen be adopted as recommended to the Convention.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the report of the committee, gentlemen, what is your pleasure?

DELEGATE BOYLE (WA): I move that the report of the Rules Committee be accepted. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE NEW YORK: I understand the rules limit to two men from any one state. I would like to amend that and increase that number to a maximum of four. *...The amendment is not seconded and the original motion to accept the report of the Committee on Rules is carried.*

DELEGATE SULLIVAN (WA): Your special committee appointed to investigate the Japanese situation as regards American citizens is ready to make recommendations, but in order that the work might not be duplicated I move you, sir, that the recommendations of the special committee be referred to the Anti-American Propaganda Committee and that it there be considered. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion is that a committee to investigate and report on the anti-Japanese situation do not report to this Convention but report to the appropriate committee. *...The motion is carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I wish to say to all of those who are particularly interested in Auxiliary matters, particularly the ladies here as delegates, alternates or delegates at large, or interested otherwise, to appear before the committee which will have to do with the report on Auxiliaries of The American Legion. Is there any other matter you want- to take up gentlemen before adjournment? A motion should be made to adjourn till tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

DELEGATE GILLORY (NH): I will make a motion at this time that we adjourn this meeting until nine o'clock tomorrow morning. *...The motion is seconded and carried.*

...At 1:50 P.M. the Convention recessed to reconvene on Tuesday, November 11, 1919, at 9:00 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS
Second Day

Tuesday, November 11, 1919
Morning Session

...The Convention is called to order by Chairman Lindsley at 9:00 A.M.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, we have a supplementary report from the Committee on Organization of the Convention.

Report: Committee on Permanent Organization of the Convention
Cornelius W. Wickersham, New York, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the Committee on Permanent Organization of the Convention reports further as follows:

Recommend as Chaplain, Thomas Houston Wiles of Colorado: as Sergeant-at- Arms, Mr. Johnson of Rhode Island, with power to appoint six deputies; for six assistant secretaries, the present six assistant secretaries, who are here assisting the secretary now.

The committee further reports that the recommendation is made for the appointment of an Executive Committee of the Convention to be composed of one delegate from each state, such member to be elected by the delegation from his state. The name of the member so elected is to be reported to the chair.

DELEGATE FOREMAN (IL): Is that Executive Committee to be a Convention Executive Committee?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Only a Convention Executive Committee.

DELEGATE FOREMAN (IL): I move you, sir, that the supplementary report of the committee be concurred in. *...The motion is seconded and carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I want to read this telegram to this Convention: "Chairman of the National Convention, American Legion, Minneapolis; On this first anniversary of Armistice Day, my best wishes go out to the delegates of the First Convention of The American Legion. May the same patriotism and devotion with which you were inspired as soldiers in the Great War guide and direct your deliberations in this Convention. Signed, Pershing." *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN MILLER (DE): The Committee on Legislation is ready to submit its report.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Before starting these reports, several of which are ready, I wish to make this personal statement: I have been honored by this Convention in a way that I shall always appreciate as one of the dearest things that has come to me in life. I had the honor at your hands, or those who then represented The American Legion to be chairman of the St. Louis Caucus. I have had the privilege during the past six months of being that one whom you designated as head of The American Legion. I feel that the Legion has honored me in every possible way and in order that there shall be no question with regard to my position, I wish those delegates here assembled to know that I am not in a receptive sense a candidate for the next head of The American Legion and that I want you to consider finally that my name will not be presented and will not be considered at the time when you will elect a head of The American Legion for the next year. I feel, gentlemen, that I should make this statement now because there is nothing so important to me, nor ever will be in life, as doing everything within my power to make this Convention itself a tremendous success. *(Applause)*

There should not be, and I am sure there will not be, in this Convention a single thought of trading with regard to place of permanent Headquarters, with regard to national commander, or any other matter that may be considered and I suggest now that anything of that sort ought not to be considered. But in full appreciation of those honors which have come to me from you, I wish to make now the definite statement that I shall not be a

receptive candidate and shall not expect to be nominated for the next head of The American Legion, and I say this with all appreciation of the splendid support which has been given to me during the past six months as your head.

DELEGATE PECK (OR): I wish to announce that by reason of the fact that the Baptist Church is unavailable this afternoon for committee sessions because of some Sunday School work, that the Constitutional Committee will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at room four-M, in the Andrews Hotel. I also wish to further state on behalf of the Constitutional Committee that we are now awaiting the report of the Eligibility Committee, the Auxiliary Committee, the Political Restrictions Committee, and the Finance Committee to this Convention before we can complete our report.

DELEGATE CARR (PA): I move that this Convention appoint a committee of seven to be known as the Committee on Resolutions of Thanks and if the motion is seconded. I will explain the purpose of the committee. ...*Second.*

DELEGATE CARR (PA): Mr. Chairman, this is a committee which will in appropriate terms express the appreciation of this Convention to the people of Minneapolis and others for the provisions that they have made for our comfort and enjoyment.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion is that a committee of seven be appointed to express appreciation of this Convention for the hospitalities that have been extended to us by the people of this state.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IN): A subcommittee of the Resolutions Committee met and drafted such resolutions.

...The motion is withdrawn by Mr. Carr and the second agrees.

DELEGATE SULLIVAN (WA): The Committee on Combating Anti-American Propaganda sent out a couple of scouts and we will meet at Sailors and Soldiers Inn, Tenth and Mary, and our committee will congregate in the right-hand corner and will go there now and get on the job.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We have the report from the Committee on Legislation.

Report: Committee on Legislation
Thomas W. Miller, Delaware, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and delegates, the Committee on Legislation of the National Convention of The American Legion submits the following report, embodying recommendations of the committee covering the method by which the national organization shall carry into effect the decisions of the National Convention effecting national legislation as well as recommendations to the states covering the promotion of appropriate legislation in several states.

1. Your committee recommends that the national commander appoint a committee on legislation whose duty if shall be to represent The American Legion in Washington, and that such committee be authorized to establish a Washington bureau, rent offices and employ such personnel as it deems necessary for the furtherance of the legislative program of The American Legion.

2. Your committee further recommends that the national adjutant or secretary be instructed to send copies of all resolutions adopted by this Convention on the subject of national legislation to each state adjutant or secretary; that each state adjutant or secretary be directed to send copies of such resolutions to each local post; and that each local post be directed to use its best efforts to facilitate the enactment of such proposed legislation through contact with the member of Congress from their district or the United States Senators.

3. Your committee recommends that each state organization be directed to appoint a legislative committee in such manner as the state organization may elect with such powers as may be necessary to facilitate the enactment of legislation before its state legislators. Your committee ratifies and approves the work conducted by the National Legislative Committee of The American Legion at Washington and directs that the following statement

be included as a part of this report: The National Legislative Committee of The American Legion, consisting of Luke Lea of Tennessee and Thomas W. Miller of Delaware, Joint Chairmen, was authorized in June 1919. The first work of this committee was to obtain from Congress an act incorporating The American Legion as a national corporation. Such a measure was introduced on June 27, 1919, and became a law on September 16, 1919. The rapid passage of this measure through both houses of Congress is significant of the strength of The American Legion among our national legislators.

To carry out the recommendation of the St. Louis Caucus on the subject of alien slackers, proper measures were introduced and pushed by your committee. A bill providing for the deportation of naturalized citizens or aliens convicted under the Espionage Act has already passed the House and favorably reported by a Senate committee. Concerning those slackers who withdrew their first citizenship papers when called upon to serve the country, a measure was introduced and properly advocated through public hearings, but due to purporting infringement of treaty rights the State Department has opposed the enactment of it.

The bill amending the War Risk Insurance Act in the manner advocated by the Legion has passed the House and is now pending before the Senate Committee on Finance.

The Legion's interest in the treatment of disabled soldiers and the deplorable conditions existing in connection with this matter has received attention of the National Legislative Committee with a view to an early bettering of the conditions of disabled men.

Your committee has cooperated with the congressional committee investigating the conduct of the war with a view to bringing speedy justice to officers and men who were responsible for the diabolical treatment meted out to our soldiers in prison camps abroad and in this country, and for future investigation in connection therewith.

The American Legion has obtained amendments to the proper bills which provide that Civil Service Preference be given to honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and Marines in federal positions throughout the country.

The American Legion desires that the officers and enlisted personnel who served in this war and who were disabled retire under the same conditions as the men under the regular establishment and have been advocating through the Legislative Committee appropriate legislation of this character.

There has been close cooperation between the Legion representatives and the War Department in the matter of re-employment of ex-service men.

There are numerous other matters with which the Legislative Committee has dealt in Washington, but in whatever work the committee is engaged it has only reflected the will of the individual members of The American Legion as expressed through the temporary National and State Organizations.

Respectfully submitted Thomas W. Miller of Delaware, chairman, Newton Jenkins of Illinois, secretary. This report is submitted as the unanimous report from your committee, forty delegates being present.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I move the adoption of the report.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is there a second to the motion to adopt the report?

...The motion is seconded and carried.

SECRETARY WOOD: The chairman directs that I read the names of the assistant secretaries: Mr. R. Patterson, Jr., of New York; Mr. Lemuel Bolles of Washington state; Mr. Dalshaw of Iowa; Mr. L.G. Day of Connecticut; Mr. E.E. Gauche of New York; Mr. C.L. Truesdale of Minnesota. He has asked me to introduce to you the Senior Sergeant-at-arms, Mr. Johnson of Rhode Island. Mr. Johnson will read the names of his appointments as assistant sergeants-at-arms. All those sergeants-at-arms come to the stage as their names are called. *(Applause)*

SENIOR SERGEANT-AT-ARMS JOHNSON (RI): Gentlemen of this Convention, I wish to make the following appointments as assistant sergeants-at-arms: Mr. J.A. Miller of Wyoming, Mr. D.W. Carty of Vermont, Mr. A.L. Boyce of New York, Mr. Parvis of the

District of Columbia, Mr. J.M. Hogan of Washington state and Mr. H.A. Saidy of Colorado. These gentlemen will be respected and obeyed accordingly. General Orders Number One, please omit smoking in the hall. *(Laughter)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The Committee on Next Meeting Place will report.

Report: Committee on Next Meeting Place
Harold C. Zulauf, New York, Chairman

Before announcing the result of the deliberations of your Committee on Next Meeting Place, as chairman I would like to say that the seven cities who requested and desired that the next convention should be held in their respective cities, I believe I express the sentiment of this Convention when I say that we appreciate very much those efforts which they have made. Their offers have been very magnificent and every one of them has agreed and desired to entertain and receive The American Legion in national convention assembled royally. Now, this committee, after a rather stormy session yesterday for about three hours, finally reached the unanimous decision. I might say that we finally arrived after a process of elimination to two cities. The vote was absolutely tie and therefore your committee presents to you for decision the name of both of these cities, San Francisco, California and Cleveland, Ohio.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (ME): Regarding having the next convention at San Francisco, the men from New England would rather have it in Paris.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The Convention will come to order. You have heard the report of the Committee; what is your pleasure?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I make a motion that the report be amended to read that the next convention be held in Cleveland, Ohio.

...The motion is seconded by Mr. Bean of Michigan.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): I desire to insert the name of Seattle, Washington, as the next meeting place of The American Legion.

DELEGATE GALBRAITH (OH): Mr. Chairman, before the matter is finally determined, Ohio believes that the fair and reasonable way to decide the matter is on the facilities that the cities can present, on their location, and I therefore move as an amendment that five minutes be given each to Cleveland and San Francisco to present before this Convention the information that they have, before the matter is finally voted upon. We want no advantage. We want the Convention to go where it can best serve the majority of the servicemen. *...Second.*

DELEGATE WAUMSLEY (LA): I move you, sir, as an amendment that New Orleans, Louisiana, be included in the report of your committee for the consideration of this Convention and that we too be allowed five minutes to present our claims.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): There is only one amendment to an amendment permissible. The third amendment is not permissible.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The point or order is well taken. The motion before you, as I understand it, is that these two cities be given five minutes each to present their respective claims for this next meeting place. Are you ready for the question?

DELEGATE WAUMSLEY (LA): I move, you, sir, as a substitute for all motions, that the names of New Orleans, La., Cleveland, Ohio, and San Francisco, California, be reported to this Convention for ballot for the next meeting place.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): Point of order, Mr. Chairman. That motion is equivalent to an amendment. The same objection applies.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The Chair will rule that that substitute is before the Convention. The substitute is that the Convention will consider three cities: San Francisco, Cleveland, and New Orleans. Are you ready for the Question? Those favoring will vote aye. Contrary no.

...On the second vote the ballot is declared by the chairman as defeating the motion.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: There is no motion at this time before the Convention, what is your pleasure?

DELEGATE ROGERS (CO): I move you that the cities of Cleveland, San Francisco, New Orleans and Denver be introduced. *...The motion is not seconded*

DELEGATE IVERS (OR): I move that it be the sense of this Convention that if a desire for the Convention be given, that the privilege of five minutes in stating what advantages they have to offer be granted. *...The motion is not seconded.*

DELEGATE MILLS (NY): Point of order, Mr. Chairman, there is a motion before the house. The motion before the house is that the represents of San Francisco and Cleveland be given five minutes in which to present their case. The substitute was lost and therefore the original motion is now before this body.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion before you, gentlemen, is that these two cities be given five minutes each to present their respective claims.

...The motion is carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Who will present the claims of Cleveland?

DELEGATE GALBRAITH (OH): Mr. McQuigg.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. McQuigg will present the claims of Cleveland within five minutes.

DELEGATE McQUIGG (OH): Ladies and gentlemen of the Convention, the Convention of The American Legion to be held in 1920 will be one of the most important ever to be held by that organization. Within the next year a multitude of questions will come forward on which this Legion will want to be heard. It will be highly desirable that we have at the next Convention not only the delegates but as many men of the rank and file of the Legion as we can get there. *(Applause)*

In order to do that, we must have a place that is accessible to the largest possible number of the rank and file of the Legion. *(Applause)*

We have that requirement. Within a radius of five hundred miles of Cleveland there live more than half the population of the United States. It naturally follows as the army was selected that more than half of the army resides in that same territory. Cleveland can be reached in an overnight journey from the Atlantic seaboard or from any state east of the Mississippi. We have all the facilities for transporting that any city could desire. We have more than eighty-three passenger trains a day. As I say, it can be reached in an overnight journey by more than half the men of The American Legion. As for accommodations we have hotels sufficient to accommodate a convention ten times the size of and give every one of you a first-class room. *(Applause)*

They will not only do that, but we will furnish a committee room for every committee that the convention may desire to have and each one of those committees will meet in a hotel assemble room. As for the meeting place, we can give you anything you desire, from an auditorium seating twelve thousand people to a hippodrome seating five thousand and another hall seating twenty-five hundred or three thousand. All of these places will be within fifteen minutes' walk of the public square, which is the center of Cleveland.

In addition to that we extend you the hearty invitation of more than a million people. We do not want you to come to Cleveland for the sake of the money that we may derive from the Convention. We want you to come because Cleveland believes in The American Legion. *(Applause)*

We want you to come on behalf of the two hundred and fifty-six thousand men who went into the service from Ohio, on behalf of the fifty-five thousand men who went into the service from the City of Cleveland. I have in my pocket the invitation of the mayor of Cleveland and a more cordial one you wouldn't ask. I would read it if it were not so long. I also have the invitation of the chairman of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce. As for expense, Cleveland will agree and does agree to raise all the money necessary to defray the expenses of such entertainment as your Executive Committee will prescribe. We extend to you now the invitation on behalf of all these people and if you come to Cleveland, we will give you such a reception as you will never forget. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will now have presented the claims of San Francisco.

DELEGATE MATHEWSON (CA): Mr. Chairman, delegates of The American Legion, I want to assure you once and for all that San Francisco, the Metropolis of the Great West, is a part of the United States of America. *(Applause)*

I want to assure you that no city on the face of the earth has the hotel accommodations that the City of San Francisco possesses twelve months in the year. We can assure you the greatest freedom of action, so far as your personal pleasure is concerned. *(Laughter)*

San Francisco, California, is known all over the world for its great hospitality and how it has taken into its arms conventions of ten and fifteen thousand without ever having to double and triple up and quadruple up. We have one of the greatest auditoriums where all of this vast assemblage could be seated on the ground floor, without using the galleries that seat fifteen thousand additional people. We have all the necessary accommodations for giving committee space. We will take care of all the incidental expenses of the National Headquarters so far as it is necessary to make that a profitable proposition for them, for having come so far.

You may say that San Francisco is out on the edge of the continent. Some time or other you are coming to San Francisco, the same as we are likely to go to Portland, Maine. We can't take one section of the country and say because "the center is all around here" the Convention should be held here. We have been to St. Louis, we have been here, why shouldn't we go to some other direction than stay right around the center of the population where all the boys are supposed to have come from. Let me tell you that the Ninety-first Division came from the West. *(Applause)*

Gentlemen, one word more, you will never have to wear overshoes and overcoats in San Francisco for the 1920 Convention. We have got the greatest climate on the face of the Earth for conventions. Come to San Francisco and we will show you what the rest of the United States looks like. We will teach you something of the privileges of being out in the West so that you people in the East will understand some of the problems that affect the wild and wooly West. We invite you to come to San Francisco. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (TX): Mr. Chairman, Texas isn't a candidate for the next National Convention, but some things have come to the attention of Texas which make it take a definite stand as follows:

Mr. Chairman, in the first place the way to select a National Convention city is to get guarantees in writing from the contending cities. Where you have something that the cities have got to live up to, where a committee over a period of weeks can make its own investigation of the facilities, of the arrangements that will be made, of the number of people who can get there and then make its decision.

That is the businesslike way of doing it, but even aside from that, the reason why the Texas delegation objects is the amount of politics that is going on in this Convention. Within the last ten minutes I have known of at least six different propositions to trade convention cities for questions of policy and national chairman. Mr. Chairman, none of those propositions that I have heard was accepted, but the point is this: if this body isn't going to keep its inside workings free from politics it doesn't make any difference what our outside policy is going to be because we are going to get cliques and the organization will be wrecked on the inside.

The Texas delegation believes that the thing for this body to do is to confine itself largely to matters of policy. It believes that the only body which should be elected by this Convention should be the national chairman and that he should be elected without reference to politics. It believes that the vice chairmen should be elected one from each district. It believes that the secretary and treasurer of the National Organization should be appointed by the Executive Committee.

DELEGATE RYAN (NY): I believe the gentleman is out of order in his remarks inasmuch as they are not binding in any way, shape or manner on the motion that is before the Convention.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (TX): I make a motion that the choice of the convention city be referred to the National Executive Committee for their selection.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The question before you, gentlemen, is on the amendment, which is that the selection of the next convention city be left to the National Executive Committee, the choice being, as I understand it, between the cities that have been presented.

DELEGATE BASSETT (MT): I suggest that we vote by state and each state vote the allotted number of votes it has for that state.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will put the motion first and then the roll call will be made if necessary. I will state the amended motion is that it be left to the National Executive Committee to choose between these two cities.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (TX): The motion is that the matter of selecting a convention city be referred to the National Executive Committee.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chairman didn't get the amended motion correctly. The amended motion is that the selection of the next convention city be left entirely to the National Executive Committee. *...The motion as amended is lost.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is your pleasure as regards balloting on these two cities?

DELEGATE CARNEY (MI): I move that a roll call be taken of the Convention on San Francisco and Cleveland. *...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.*

The roll call has been ordered for the purpose of voting on these two cities.

...The roll is called by the secretary.

...At 10:58 a.m. the chairman interrupts the calling of the roll.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, one year ago at this time the world was in expectancy of the cessation of hostilities in the greatest war in all history. We are approaching the moment when the world ceased that great conflict, the result being a victory for democratic peoples all over this world. I am going to ask every delegate here to rise and bow his head or her head in silent prayer as that moment approaches, thinking of what it has meant to the world, what it means to our country, and particularly thinking of our comrades who on the other side gave their lives not only that the world might be safe but that we as a nation might continue to live as a free people. And our hearts and our prayers should go to those who are bereaved throughout our land because these men, our comrades, went there and gave the supreme sacrifice. The delegates will rise.

...The delegates all rise for a minute of silence.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will continue the calling of the roll.

...The secretary continues the calling of the roll.

...The ballot results in 512 votes for Cleveland and 168 votes for San Francisco.

DELEGATE MATHEWSON (CA): On behalf of San Francisco, I wish to thank the delegates that have supported us for the next convention and assure you that San Francisco will come to the front for the Convention of 1921, and I move that Cleveland, Ohio, be the unanimous choice of this Convention for the 1920 Convention. *(Applause)*

...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Will the chairman on the Committee on Eligibility please announce the time and place of the next meeting?

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON ELIGIBILITY: The Eligibility Committee has completed its work and adjourned.

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Committee of Political Restrictions to meet this afternoon?

CHAIRMAN COMPTON (NY): That committee has completed its work and is ready to report.

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Finance Committee to meet this afternoon?

CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee meets at 2:30. No place has been selected except the Rogers Hotel, which is not large enough for the committee.

SECRETARY WOOD: I will shortly announce a committee room for the Finance Committee. Is the Constitution Committee to meet this afternoon?

CHAIRMAN OF CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE: At 2:30 P.M. at the Andrews Hotel, Room 4-M.

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Committee on Permanent Headquarters ready to report?

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS: The committee is ready to report.

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Committee on Post Activities and Memorials to meet this afternoon?

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON POST ACTIVITIES AND MEMORIALS: Ready to report.

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Committee on Employment to meet this afternoon? Is the Committee on War Risk Insurance to meet this afternoon?

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON WAR RISK INSURANCE: The subcommittee of the War Risk Committee is to meet immediately upon adjournment at the Ohio Delegation station on the floor of the Convention. The whole committee or the war Risk is to meet at four o'clock this afternoon on the floor of the Convention at the Ohio station. We have no other meeting place as yet because the authorities at the high school advised us that that building would be closed for today. We would be pleased to have the secretary of the Convention advise us what committee room may be available so that we can be in some better station than on the floor of the Convention.

SECRETARY WOOD: I will do so.

DELEGATE HOPPS (OK): The Finance Committee will meet at 2:30 at the Y.M.C.A. on Ninth and Mary Place. It also requests that because about ten of the states didn't have representation on that committee at the meeting yesterday and for the purpose of enabling the committee to properly voice the opinion of the Convention that every state have a representative on that committee at that time and place.

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Committee on Beneficial Legislation to meet this afternoon?

CHAIRMAN LEA (TN): The Committee on Beneficial Legislation is to meet on the twelfth floor of the Metropolitan Bank Building at 3 P.M, That is the same place where it met yesterday afternoon.

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Committee on Military Policy to meet this afternoon? Is the Committee on the Anti-American Propaganda to meet this afternoon? Is the Committee on Resolutions to meet this afternoon?

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN INZER: The Committee on Resolutions will meet at four o'clock in the cafeteria downstairs in this building.

SECRETARY WOOD: May I have the attention of the chairman of the Committee on War Risk? I have a committee room on the fourth floor of this building. Is that satisfactory?

WAR RISK INSURANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Yes, for the full committee at four and the subcommittee immediately upon adjournment.

SECRETARY WOOD: Are there any committees that are to meet this afternoon and the titles of which I have not read?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (TX): I wish to offer from the floor for reference to the proper committee the following resolution: That in the future the choice of the convention city should be left to the National Executive Committee. I know that no discussion is allowed but I want to say just this: if you don't believe there has been politics, talk to the chairmen of the Ohio and California delegations and ask them what propositions have been put up to them and then congratulate them on their Americanism in refusing them. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion is made that in the future the choice of the convention city shall be left to the National Executive Committee.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): This Convention cannot prescribe the rules of procedure for future conventions.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen of the Convention, I would like to have a motion made authorizing the chairman of this Convention to appropriately respond today to the cablegram of Marshall Foch. We should send, I think, from this Convention a response to the cablegram which came to us from Marshall Foch, and I should like to have a motion made authorizing that that be done in the name of the Convention be authorized to send such cablegrams as he in his judgment may deem appropriate to those with whom the Allied Armies operated. *...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will have the report of the chairman of the Committee on Permanent Headquarters.

Report: Committee on Permanent Headquarters
James A. Gary, Jr., Maryland, Chairman

Your Committee on Permanent Headquarters met at 3:30 as instructed. James A. Gray, Jr., of Maryland was elected chairman and T.C. Lemon of Alabama was elected secretary. After some discussion the following cities sent forth claims for permanent headquarters: Minneapolis, New York, Kansas City, Indianapolis, Washington, D.C., and Detroit. It was decided that a majority should be necessary to determine which city should be selected and that the city receiving the fewest votes should be eliminated on each roll call. Under these rules, Minneapolis was chosen as the city for permanent headquarters. A motion to make this unanimous was defeated. Respectfully submitted.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the report of the committee.

DELEGATE MYERS (IN): Point of order, the minority report is here to be presented.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We have, gentlemen, a minority report and before taking further action we will hear the minority report.

DELEGATE MYERS (IN): Gentlemen of the Convention, on behalf of those who voted for Indianapolis, the undersigned recommend the selection of Indianapolis, Indiana, as the place for permanent headquarters of The American Legion. Signed by Walter Myers, member of this committee from Indiana, and Harry Wishhart, member of this committee from California. I move, Mr. Chairman, that the minority report be substituted for the majority report. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): The chairman of the delegation, I believe, omitted the city of Detroit which was considered and debated on the floor, and I move you now that all the cities presenting their names be allowed five minutes on the floor of this Convention, to present their claims.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I rule the point of order well taken.

DELEGATE ROBERTS (MN): The deliberations of this committee no one can claim were not thorough. The ballot was taken as I remember it four times. Minneapolis presented her claims, not for the sake of Minneapolis, but for the sake of The American Legion. I was present on that committee and where a vote was in doubt, I went to that committee member and I said, "If you conscientiously can vote for Minneapolis, Minneapolis wants your vote." Mr. Chairman, I move you that the majority report be accepted.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): Point of order, the report of the committee is incorrect. The name of the City of Detroit should be included in that report.

DELEGATE HOUSTON (MO): I move you that the majority and minority reports be both rejected and that the matter be taken up on the floor of the Convention. *(Applause)*

...Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chairman will rule the last motion as out of order. The motion before you now is to substitute the minority report for the majority report.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MO): I move that both reports be laid on the table.

...Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion has been made to lay both reports on the table. Those favoring will vote aye, contrary no. *...The motion is carried.*

DELEGATE CONDON (MO): I move you, sir, that Kansas City, Missouri, be selected as the permanent headquarters for The American Legion. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): I appeal to the chairman that we have a roll call on the last vote.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The vote has been announced.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): I move, as a substitute, that all cities applying for National Headquarters be permitted three minutes to place their nominations and that the Convention then recess for fifteen minutes to permit the delegates to canvas.
...The motion is seconded and carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, the secretary will call the roll of states and the state will announce whether they desire to nominate any city for national headquarters.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CO): Any city within the borders of that particular state?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Any state. These announcements will be made by the respective chairmen. *...The roll is called by the secretary.*

SECRETARY WOOD: The following cities have been nominated by direction of the chairmen of the various delegations. By direction of the chairman of the Convention they will, in the order named, be accorded three minutes to present their qualifications: Tucson, Arizona; Indianapolis, Indiana; Washington, D.C.; Kansas City, Missouri; Detroit, Michigan; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Wheeling, West Virginia.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (AZ): Arizona, where the sun shines, will not take three minutes of this Convention's time in putting forward the claims of "Tomb-stone." To the countless thousands who read about XL in last week's issue of *The Saturday Evening Post* and every other person in the United States, we present it to you, "Tomb-stone," Arizona. *(Laughter and applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Before Indianapolis is heard from, the secretary will announce the rules.

SECRETARY WOOD: When the three minutes begins, the chairman directs that this light *(indicating light on chairman's desk)* be turned on one minute before the termination it will be flashed. At the termination of the three minutes, it will be put out.

DELEGATE HOLSTEIN (KY): Mr. Chairman and fellow members of The American Legion, before those events which resulted in cementing the interests of this country and the formation of this body, every great issue affecting national interests arose under the spectre of sectionalism. The East wanted recognition, the West clamored to be heard, the North and the South threw rocks at each other. I am from the South. I have been raised on the south side of the Mason and Dixon Line, where, among the chief things that I thought I learned as I grew up, was to throw rocks at my Northern neighbors in Indiana. But things are different now, since those events have come, since we have passed through the furnace that has driven out this sectionalism. There is no East. There is no West. There is no South, and there is no North. There is no Kentucky. There is no Indiana. There is only the land of the Flag and that is the land The American Legion stands for. And I nominate, not the center of population of the United States, but the center of the Land of the Flag, Indianapolis, Indiana. *(Applause)*

DELEGATE LEA (TN): Mr. Chairman, Indianapolis has been kind enough to divide its time in two. On behalf of Tennessee, I desire to second the nomination of Indianapolis, not because it is Indianapolis but because it is for the best interests of The American Legion. We want this great organization to be so democratic that every man from the lowest buck and gob can come to National Headquarters, and therefore we want it located at that place that is most available. In the second place, we want it located in that place where it will be the great thing, the home of The American Legion, and that it will not be overshadowed or be an annex of any other institution, and therefore on behalf of another southern state, Tennessee, I desire to second the nomination of Indianapolis. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The claims of Washington, D. C., will be presented.

DELEGATE DONOVAN (DC): Chairman and comrades of The American Legion, there is only one place in the United States, there is only one place in the world for the headquarters of The American Legion, and that is in the city that is owned by all the people of the United States, the capitol of the United States of America. You talk of locating the headquarters of this Legion in Indianapolis and other cities. Well and good. If their arguments are more meritorious then I am for the one who has the best argument. But I say to you that there is only one soil on which you can erect and dedicate the headquarters of The American Legion and that is in the City of Washington, the capitol of the nation. The charge has been brought against Washington that it must not have the headquarters because it is a place of political corruption and rottenness. It is not the District of Columbia. Gentlemen you have heard the other delegates with courtesy and attention and the least that I am entitled to is the same thing. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, we will have order. Any time that is taken up in demonstrations will not be counted against the speaker. Let us have absolute order in the Convention.

DELEGATE DONOVAN (DC): I ask you, gentlemen, to decide this question not as matter of today but as a matter of tomorrow, as a matter of all time. I ask you to decide this question in the spirit that Washington would decide it, in the spirit that Lincoln would decide it, in the spirit that Roosevelt would decide it. *(Applause)*

If Washington, D.C., the capital city of the nation, is a place of corruption and a place of rottenness, as has been charged in the committee, Washington, D.C., is not responsible. The states that sent such men to Washington, D.C., are responsible. *(Applause)*

You are afraid of contaminating, so the charge has been made, the officers of The American Legion if you place your headquarters there. Then don't elect men in whose integrity you have no confidence. Kick them out as the Congress of the United States kicked out the traitor Berger.

I ask you, comrades, view this question in all fairness. The geographical question, its geographical location, has nothing to do with it. Nothing has anything to do with it but the spirit of one hundred percent American patriotism. That is the question and the only question and the only ground on which you should decide this question. I ask you and I ask you again in the spirit of the great men that have gone before us, who have lived in Washington, who have made our government what it is today, our nation and our people what they are today, I ask you to take to yourselves what those men would say to you if they were here asking you to set up a place of permanent headquarters for the greatest organization that the history of the United States knows or ever will know. I place before you the name of the national capital. I ask you to support it in the name of one hundred percent American patriotism. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The claims of Kansas City, Missouri, will be presented.

DELEGATE HOLLOWAY (KS): On behalf of the Kansas delegation, I want to say that that delegation came up to this Convention seeking nothing whatever for itself. We have no axe to grind but I want to say that we have a city bordering our great state which is a candidate for the permanent headquarters of this body. I refer to Kansas City, Missouri.

I want to tell you briefly why we are for that city, and I think this is a serious matter and should be studied from the standpoint of the good to be derived by The American Legion and not the advertising that may come to any city where this permanent headquarters may be located. First, Kansas City geographically is at the center of the nation. It is right at the hub of the wheel. You have a railway going to all parts of this nation. If you are going East and West, nine-tenths of the travel goes through that city. A letter that happens to be mailed in Kansas City, going to each coast will arrive at each coast at about the same time. The same is true with mail going North and South. Now then as to the arrangement down there, the housing facilities. I want to say that that city recently raised a memorial fund of $2,600,000 in honor of those whose lives were spent in the service of their country and that memorial building fund as oversubscribed $100,000, the

total being $2,500,000 and Kansas City, Missouri, stands ready to erect that building in such a manner as to house the National Headquarters of The American Legion, if it comes there, and to suit the convenience of this great body. I want to thank you very much, gentlemen, and ask you to give Kansas City, Missouri, serious consideration. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The time for presenting the claims of Kansas City has been divided and we will hear from Mr. Bixby of Oklahoma.

DELEGATE BIXBY (OK): Comrades of The American Legion, Oklahoma wishes to second the nomination of Kansas City absolutely unsolicited by Kansas City. We believe that the National Headquarters of this association should be in a city that will serve The American Legion, not that will benefit the city, or the state.

Kansas City has a slogan, it is "The heart of America," the very pulse of this nation throbs through Kansas City. We want the pulse of The American Legion to throb all over this nation. Kansas City can get out dispatches, can get out bulletins, all over this country quicker than any other point and reach every part of the United States. That is where the headquarters of this Legion should be. Furthermore, Kansas City is the greatest all-American city in the United States. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, the claims of Detroit will now be presented.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MI): Mr. Chairman and comrades, this is an awful job to hand a mere doughboy on Victory Day but this election of your permanent headquarters is one of the truly big things that you have to determine here today. We are here, if you please, as the voice and the representatives of the 600,000 who have now paid their membership in the Legion. You are here to plan for the future, when it shall be the potential four million that you are working for and in selecting your permanent headquarters, I take it that there are three things you must consider. First, that it be centrally located. Secondly, that it have no political influence, no outside influence at all, that it will be free from all taint. After those two considerations there remains only the third one. Can it do the business, can it entertain the gob, doughboy and the leatherneck as they come, and will it be one hundred per cent Americanism that he will touch elbows with?

I can take issue with everybody. Whatever has been said about Cleveland as your convention city can be said for Detroit. Whatever has been said for Indianapolis, no North and no South, why, bless you, when a boy from Dixie and his sweetheart want to get away from the South in the summer they come to Detroit and the Lake Region and Michigan. You are welcome for no selfish reason. We will offer you free accommodations if it wouldn't insult your patriotism and your citizenship. The mayor of the City of Detroit, in a state of more than five million, and a city of more than a million. Remember that, a city that led in most of the war activities. That sent more than seventy thousand men into the service welcomes you, wants you to come there, says it is no financial center, no state, national headquarters. It is the home of a million home-owning citizens, so democratic that every man and woman there is a citizen and has a vote. If you want to come to that city, God bless you. We in Detroit want you permanently and you will there keep the watch fires of Americanism burning right. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The claims of Minneapolis will now be presented.

DELEGATE ROBERTS (MN): Gentlemen, I am placing the claims of Minneapolis in front of you on the ground that if in your estimation Minneapolis is the best place for Headquarters for the sake of The American Legion, we want you. We have gone into this thing somewhat differently than the other cities did. We have secured the lease on two floors of a building in the center of the city with eleven thousand square feet of floor space on which the rental I am informed will be $7,500 per year, which I submit will constitute a considerable saving over what we are now paying. In addition to that, we have on foot now a permanent memorial proposition which will take the form of an auditorium in which, I am assured, The American Legion will be gladly granted permanent National Headquarters on the same basis as it would in any other memorial building.

As for location, Minneapolis has as much in its favor I think as any city. We are accessible to all parts of the United States. There is no material time to be saved when you

are using wire communication. Our mail communication is very good. It will be possible to send representatives anywhere. We don't claim to be the only American city. We will say this, that we stood fourth in the list of states in the number of men we sent into the service and that something over 33 percent of our men were volunteers. I was one of the men the mayor referred to yesterday morning when he spoke about the first meeting of The American Legion. We went to the Caucus in St. Louis with a membership total of about fifty men and today we have over 40,000 out of 102,000 total, and we have 36 votes. That I think, gentlemen, answers as to the patriotism of Minnesota.

One thing more to be considered is this, the men who are going to be employed in this Legion headquarters have got to live. A man can live in Minneapolis cleanly, healthfully, without having all the money in the world. The city stands probably first in the country for its park system. It is a city of natural beauty, beautiful enough to be the site of any organization. Its mortality records, I think, are lower than any city in its class. It is the center of the solidest population we have in the country today, which is a great agricultural population of the entire country. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will now have presented the claims of Wheeling, West Virginia.

DELEGATE CUNNINGS (WV): Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of The American Legion, these gentlemen have all presented very wonderful claims on behalf of their respective cities. The claims to the advantage of the cities and to The American Legion have been made, but they have overlooked in great part one great advantage and that is that you men of The American Legion know that you can work better if you have good tobacco to chew and good tobacco to smoke. *(Applause)*

Wheeling, West Virginia, is the home of Mail Pouch Chewing Tobacco that is known to every man in The American Legion. It is the home of the famous Wheeling stogie and therefore gentlemen on behalf of Wheeling, West Virginia, I ask you to bring the National Headquarters there and your work will be better performed. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary has an announcement to make.

SECRETARY WOOD: There still seems to be doubt in the minds of many committee members as to the place of meeting of their committees. In order to facilitate their work, the chairman has directed that I again read the list of committees. Will the respective chairmen please reply? I understand that the Emblem Committee is finished and ready to report.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The Emblem Committee consisting of Mr. Shaw who served on the old committee and a gentleman from Illinois were appointed and instructed to make the report of the Emblem Committee to this Convention today. They are ready to report.

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Eligibility Committee ready to report? ...*Yes.*

SECRETARY WOOD: I understand that the Auxiliaries is ready to report. ...*Yes.*

SECRETARY WOOD: Is Political Restrictions ready to report? ...*Yes.*

SECRETARY WOOD: The Finance Committee meets at 2:30 in the Y.M.C.A. at Ninth Street. The Constitution Committee meets at 2:30 in Room 4-M in the Andrews Hotel. I understand that the Committee on Post Activities and Memorials is ready to report. ...*Yes.*

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Committee on Employment ready to report? ... *Yes.*

SECRETARY WOOD: The War Risk Committee is to meet on the adjournment of this caucus. That is the subcommittee and the committee of the whole meets at four o'clock. Both meetings on the fourth floor of this building. The Committee on Beneficial Legislation, as I understand it, is to meet at four o'clock on the twelfth floor of the Metropolitan Bank Building. What is the status of the Committee on Military Policy?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The Military Policy Committee will meet at three o'clock at the Minneapolis Club.

SECRETARY WOOD: What is the status of the Committee on Anti-American Propaganda?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The Committee on Anti-American Propaganda will meet at 2:30 at the Sailors and Soldiers Inn, but we have two resolutions to present to this Convention.

SECRETARY WOOD: The Committee on Resolutions is scheduled to meet at four P.M. in the cafeteria of this building.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN INZER (TN): According to resolutions adopted here, no resolution will be considered unless it is turned in at one o'clock today. You have forty-five minutes if you have any outstanding resolution to come in.

SECRETARY WOOD: Those resolutions should be delivered to the secretary's office off stage. The chairman directs that the first meeting of the Executive Committee of this Convention shall be at 3 P.M. at the Knights of Columbus Building at 428 South 8th Street.

DELEGATE FOREMAN (IL): Have the names of this Executive Committee been announced or isn't it the intention to announce them?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The names of the Executive Committee in accordance with the resolution as passed consist of the chairmen of the various delegations here present.

CHAIRMAN WICKERSHAM (NY): Point of order, the chair is incorrect in his statement of the resolution passed this morning. The resolution passed this morning was that one member of that committee be elected from each state delegation.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chair stands corrected.

SECRETARY WOOD: I have twice requested that those names be sent into the secretary and have received so far only six names. I respectfully suggest in order to facilitate this business that the roll of that committee be made up at its first meeting. That suggestion is respectfully made for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: For your information, gentlemen, you understand that this Executive Committee is only during this Convention. It has nothing to do with the selection of the permanent Executive Committee of The American Legion.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (ND): Point of order, I'd like to know what is the function of the Executive Committee of this Convention?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Did you determine that, Chairman Wickersham?

CHAIRMAN WICKERSHAM (NY): No, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that the Executive Committee of this Convention was to act in the first place only during the Convention and would act on any matter that might be referred to it by the officers or by any committee or by the Convention, without any definite instructions.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will now vote by states on the selection of Permanent Headquarters for The American Legion. ...*Roll is called by the secretary*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: While the secretary is counting the votes, the assistant secretary has an announcement to make.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: With reference to the parade this afternoon, will Mr. Roberts of Minnesota rise and give us some of the details?

DELEGATE ROBERTS (MO): The parade will start on the Third Avenue South and Tenth Street at two o'clock and proceed to Third Avenue South and Twelfth Street, two blocks, and then will go down Third Avenue to the gateway and out to the parade ground where there will be a presentation of medals. The delegates are asked to assemble in front of the auditorium at 1:30. The order of march will be in column of eight and as a column forms it will move down to join the parade. There will be a band and the marshal waiting for you. Inasmuch as this Convention has a great deal of important business to transact and an adjournment for the day may not meet with the wish of some of the delegations, Minnesota will offer a motion that the Convention adjourn at the direction of the chair to reconvene at four p.m. ...*The motion is not seconded.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will announce the vote.

SECRETARY WOOD: The total vote of the Convention is 684. 343 would be a majority. The vote is as follows: 282 for Washington, D.C.; 226 for Indianapolis; 88 for Minneapolis; 49 for Kansas City; 39 for Detroit.

CHAIRMAN WICKERSHAM (NY): I move that we drop all cities except the first two and that we proceed to a roll call on those two. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion is that all cities be dropped except the two highest. ... *The motion is carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will call the roll. ...*The secretary calls the roll.* The secretary will announce the vote.

SECRETARY WOOD: Waiting until the tally is completed, I wish to have the chairman of the Committee on Post Activities and Memorials and the secretary of that committee report to Assistant Secretary Day in the secretary's office. As a result of the last ballot, 361 votes for Indianapolis and 323 for Washington. *(Applause)*

DELEGATE JONES (DC): Comrades, the spirit of The American Legion shall reign. While we would have like to have had the headquarters in Washington, believing it was for the best, we feel that Indianapolis is a good place and I wish to put this motion, that it be made unanimously for Indianapolis.

...*The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.*

DELEGATE WELLS (MN): The Minnesota delegation has had it intimated that it is entirely obvious to all of us here that it will be exceedingly difficult if not impossible to conclude the business of this Convention by tomorrow night unless advantage is taken of every available moment. Out of deference to Minnesota and to the City of Minneapolis, which is acting as host, I understand that delegates from other delegations have hesitated to offer resolutions looking to the reconvening of this meeting at a later hour in the afternoon. Appreciating the necessity for action and believing that it is showing no disrespect for the members of this body to pass the afternoon in deliberation looking to the welfare of the service man, I move you Mr. Chairman that when this meeting adjourns it adjourn to reconvene at four o'clock this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You are making that as a motion to adjourn now until four o'clock?

DELEGATE WELLS (MN): I am making a motion that when we do adjourn that we reconvene at four o'clock. ...*The motion is seconded and carried.*

DELEGATE WANAMAKER (SC): I move that we adjourn.

...*The motion is seconded and carried.*

...*At 12:55 P.M. the Convention recessed to reconvene on Tuesday, November 11, 1919, at 4:00 p.m.*

PROCEEDINGS
Second Day

Tuesday, November 11, 1919
Afternoon Session

...The Convention reconvened at 4:10 p.m.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, I am going to ask each delegation to immediately appoint, through its chairman, a sergeant-at-arms of the delegation and I am going to ask you, gentlemen, to please immediately be seated when you come in here, and to remain seated and to remain quiet. We want to expedite in every way that you desire the business of the Convention. Will the chairmen of the respective delegations immediately appoint a sergeant-at-arms who will see that the respective delegation is promptly seated and at all times preserves proper order?

DELEGATE COON (NJ): I have a matter which I believe is of general interest to the Convention and through the courtesy of the chairman I should be glad to present it in just one moment, if I may.

A year ago today many of us were far away from this spot on the other side and I feel that it is worthy of us now that we have without equivocation or mental reservation or secret evasion of mind whatsoever decided upon the permanent home of the convention and also the city for the convention next year. We might well at this time have one bring before us the American flag, which has been recognized by Congress as the one which first went over the top in La Belle, France, in 1914, with the Canadian contingent. We feel proud, sir and gentlemen, to have this flag, which was asked for by the Canadian Government, with us. A flag that was offered to the State of New Jersey by the mother of the lad who died in carrying it over the top, and the governor of our state, in his customary gentle way, said he thought it belonged to the little woman whose son died in the service carrying Old Glory over the top.

Gentlemen, we are in momentous days and I happen to be on the Anti-American Propaganda Committee of this Convention and I want to say that we are in the most strenuous days of the United States of America, and the next ten years doubtless will be the most critical in the history of our country, and if one hundred percent Americanism was ever needed in the history of this country, when men should stand shoulder to shoulder and fight, it is at the present time, and no better place to be found to demonstrate that. Mr. Chairman, I sat at a banquet not so many weeks ago and was talking one hundred percent Americanism, when a man who sat at the table with me placed his fingers at his lips and pointed his thumb over his shoulder. There was someone sitting at that table, who, because his father, mother or grandfather, grandmother, or great-grandfather or great grandmother was born on the other side ought to be taken into consideration. And I want to tell you gentlemen here this afternoon that if I have to watch my step in what I say in regard to America and the flag and Old Glory and one hundred percent Americanism, then I don't want to live in the country where I am. If I were a line officer instead of a chaplain, I would say here that I would be damned if I would allow anyone to tell me what I could say regarding Americanism. Now then, gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure, if I may sir, to introduce a man of Irish blood who went over the top a couple of times and who was wounded in the service and who happens to come from the same state and the same town and from the side of the little mother who owns this flag, Mr. A. B. Conlin of Westerly, New Jersey.

DELEGATE CONLIN (NJ): Brothers in The American Legion, the mother of Martin Wallberg has given me his flag to bring before the Convention today and I want to tell you in just a few words the story of the man who took the first American flag over the top and died.

He enlisted early, long before the American Government heard the call to war and one day when he was over in the front-line trenches he got a parcel from home, and he opened

it up with the buddies around him to see what he had gotten and there was a little old American flag sent to him from his mother back home. He picked it up from off the ground and he said, "Boys, it is just a little rag; it is just a little rag: but it means everything to me—my country, my people, many over there in the United States, and the next time I go over the top that flag goes over with me."

And men, it was not but a week later Martin Wallberg was down in the mud of the front-line trenches. They'd got the signal to go over the top in ten minutes. He took this little American flag and put it on the end of his bayonet, and then he waited for the signal to go over, and that day Martin Wallberg's heart was full, because he knew what he was going against, and he knew that even if he were lucky enough to live through that hell that some of his pals were going to fall, and then the signal came and he went over the top with a good old Yankee yell, "Over the top, boys, with the best of luck and give 'em hell!" *(Applause and cheers)*

And the lines were with him and they went down and Martin Wallberg carried his gun in one hand high above his head with the old American flag blowing in the breeze, and he advanced, advanced, up, up, up that ridge, and he fell. He fell mortally wounded. He pushed the butt of the gun forward into the mud, and the last glimpse we had of his life was up against the little American flag that he had just gotten from his home town, Westfield, New Jersey, and one of his pals came along in the second wave and said, "Martin, old man, I hate like the devil to do it, but the flag's going on. I have the touch of Americanism in me today, too." And he took the flag and carried it and planted it two hundred yards ahead, half of the objective. Here it is, men! *(Applause)*

DELEGATE JOHNSON (IN): I make a motion that the Associated and the United Press be specially requested to get the subject matter of those gentlemen's remarks into the newspapers verbatim. *...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I wish to say to the gentlemen that were to have met the chairman at the Knights of Columbus Building that there was evidently a mistake as to where we were to go. I went to one Knights of Columbus hall and met some six or eight members of that executive committee. I understand some fourteen representatives on that committee went to another building. I wish to make the statement because I of course would have been with the committee. We will have the report on Anti-American Propaganda. Is that committee ready to report?

SECRETARY WOOD: The Committee on Anti-American Propaganda reported this morning as ready to report.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE: That committee reported this morning that they had a partial report to submit. They are not yet ready to report.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: There are two announcements to be made. One is with reference to the dance to be held this evening at the Armory at nine p.m. for all delegates of The American Legion. I have been asked to announce regarding the dance tonight that the Minneapolis delegates have arranged to have fifteen hundred ladies there and the delegates must be present. The other announcement will be made by Mr. Inzer.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN INZER (TN): I want to be sure that every resolution is acted upon. Last evening when the Resolutions Committee met we had some three hundred resolutions and we divided them out as to where they should go as to subject matter to other subcommittees and our secretary made every effort to get them to the proper committee but we find that some of them reached the committee after the committee had closed its report. If any of these committees hold the resolutions that you didn't act upon or consider, it is only just that you return them to the Resolutions Committee in order that every resolution shall have consideration. We are in session downstairs now and will be all afternoon.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask the secretary to read the report of the Emblem Committee.

Report: Emblem Committee
Frederic Shaw, Washington, Chairman

We have two reports, a majority report and a minority report. I will read the majority report first.

The chairman of the Emblem Committee, elected at the St. Louis Caucus, Mr. Frederick Shaw of Washington (State), being present with the records of that committee's proceedings, he was elected to continue in office and preside over the new Emblem Committee. Mr. J. D. Cooney of Iowa was elected secretary.

The chairman made a brief statement of the work accomplished by the old committee, covering action taken at the St. Louis Caucus and a nationwide competition for designs for an emblem.

Your committee recommends that the awarding of cash prizes authorized by the St. Louis Caucus for designs submitted be left to the two members of the old committee and that the payment of expenses incurred by the old committee be approved. Your committee further recommends that the present button as adopted and issued by National Headquarters be adopted by this Convention as the permanent emblem of The American Legion. We further recommend that National Headquarters in the future requires a higher standard and a more uniform quality in the manufacture of buttons. The committee further recommends the adoption of a permanent Convention badge, of a design similar to the present badge, with an approved design at the head.

The matter of the national, department and post standards was discussed and the following recommendations are made: For the national standard, one of a design and similar to the membership standard presented to the State of Vermont, except that it shall have a field of red and above the emblem the words "National Encampment." For the department standards, one of similar design and size to the national standard except that it shall have a field of white and above the emblem the name of the department. For the post standard, one of similar design, except that it shall have field of blue and above the emblem the name and number of the post.

Your committee recommends as a slogan and that part of the preamble of our National Constitution as adopted at St. Louis, "One Hundred Percent Americanism."

Your committee recommends the appointment of a committee to edit and publish a ritual covering all national, department and post ceremonies. We recommend further the adoption of a standard membership card of similar size and material to that issued by benevolent and protective orders of Elks, this card to be published and issued by National Headquarters annually, each succeeding year's issue to be of a different color or of material other than its predecessor.

Mrs. Fannie O. Perkins of Maine appeared before the committee with the request that it recess to hear a song of her own composition. The committee so acted and upon her request that her song be adopted as a memorial to comrades that gave their lives in the service, the committee voted to request the Convention to extend to Mrs. Perkins at some time the privileges of the floor in order to hear her song. Signed, Frederick Shaw, State of Washington, chairman; James D. Cooney, Iowa, secretary.

I will now read the minority report. This is signed by the two members of the Emblem Committee appointed at St. Louis.

Only two members of the Emblem Committee appointed at St. Louis in May of this year have appeared at this Convention and in the light of past events these members desire to file for your consideration this minority report. The St. Louis Caucus authorized its emblem committee to proceed with a competitive nationwide contest for an emblem, cash prizes to be awarded to competitors who in the judgment of the committee submitted the most meritorious designs. Through publicity gratuitously extended, the emblem committee of St. Louis, by the leading publications of the country, the terms of this competition were

made known. As a result, over ninety designs were submitted, some of these being of great merit and could well be adopted to the uses of the Legion.

The action of your Emblem Committee in session this November tenth is, in the opinion of your chairman and other members submitting this report, both precipitate and unwarranted considering the merit of the other designs submitted. There are ideas incorporated in some of these designs that are excellently well-suited to our use, and we believe should be given further and more deliberate consideration. It is our opinion that the good faith of The American Legion is at stake in thus hastily acting upon a matter of such great importance and that those who submitted these designs are deserving of better consideration. We further argue that the present design is a paganism and does not express the originality that has in the past characterized all the actions of The American Legion and further that the present design is not suited to withstand the ravages of time, because of the present enamel as has been amply proven in the past few months. It is our belief that these buttons should be numbered consecutively.

DELEGATE DUNN (PA): I arise to a point of order. The minority report had no standing in the Emblem Committee and that report should not have gone in. I ask you in the majority report, why the chairman or the acting chairman of that committee didn't comply with the binding instructions of the Emblem Committee which appointed and authorized Mr. Settley of Illinois to join with Mr. Shaw in making a report of the action of the Emblem Committee, and I want to know why Mr. Settley's name is omitted from that majority report?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: This minority report is authenticated by the chairman of the committee.

DELEGATE HOLSTREET (NY): At this committee meeting there was a committee of five, appointed to go over these so-called designs. The minority report embraced it. I beg to say that most of these designs were submitted by school children. It was an imposition on our part to be asked to go over these designs. There was not a design of merit in the lot, and I believe there were ninety of them.

I also wish to say that in regard to the design that we are now using, if this design was good enough for the government of the United States to put out I believe it good enough for The American Legion. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask the secretary to finish the minority report.

SECRETARY WOOD: It is our believe that these buttons should be numbered consecutively. These numbers to be registered both in Headquarters and in every post with which a member may become affiliated as a further protection against their illegal use. We believe the fact that the present design has been issued in some quantity isn't a sufficient argument in support of its retention in the light of the potential membership of The American Legion to warrant its perpetuation and if the design of our emblem ever is changed it is obvious that now is the proper time.

We therefore recommend that you refer this matter of an emblem design back to a committee composed of competent men for further and more deliberate consideration who by reason of their civil occupations are eminently qualified to act in the final selection of a design. Signed, Frederick Shaw, State of Washington, chairman.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (VT): Both the signers of that report are not members of the Emblem Committee of this Convention. Mr. Shaw was made chairman through the fact that he was acquainted with the work already done by the St. Louis Committee.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The committee report is before you, gentlemen. What is your pleasure?

DELEGATE POWELL (MD): I move the adoption of the majority report.

...The motion is seconded and the majority report is unanimously adopted.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will read the next report.

Report: Committee on Employment
Edward W. Rudolph, Missouri, Chairman

WHEREAS, considerable numbers of discharged service men are not placed in employment suitable to their abilities and needs and large numbers of service men are in need of help and information regarding many matters other than employment,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That The American Legion in National Convention assembled, does hereby urge that the efforts that are now being made by the Service and Information Branch or such other agencies as may be established be continued under its present arrangement until the situation as to employment of service men shall have been corrected and the number reduced to normal conditions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That The American Legion, each state organization, each local post, and each individual member, be urged to cooperate in every way possible with the service and information branch in the office and agency they maintain to provide for the adequate handling of employment for discharged service men, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That funds to maintain and to develop these agencies under the Service and Information Branch of this office of the Assistant Secretary of War, if not already provided for, be so provided for by an appropriation of Congress as an emergency measure and further,

BE IT RESOLVED, That all civilian clerks or employees required for the work be ex-service men who have secured an honorable discharge and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That national, state and local welfare agencies maintaining service of any nature for the benefit of former service men be urged to continue their activities during the present period of uncertainty and unrest, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the question of employment as regards The American Legion will become after the period of organization of the Legion a matter concerned among members of the Legion only and that after such period of organization it shall become a matter of responsibility for each post to assure itself that no member of such post is unemployed.

There is a second resolution also included in this report.

WHEREAS, The government even more than private employers owes an obligation toward its discharged soldiers, sailors and marines, to afford them an opportunity to earn a proper living, particularly in the case of those who have suffered any permanent disability and,

WHEREAS, military experience and training have made the veterans of the World War better able to render loyal and efficient service in public employment, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion desires to uphold the highest standards of governmental service and to avoid fostering the claim of the unfit and the undeserving under cover of patriotism, be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion in National Convention assembled declares its belief that in making or providing for appointment to position in the civil service, national and state governments, by legislation or other appropriate action, should allow a preference over candidates otherwise equally qualified to veterans of the World War and to the widows of those who laid down their lives in the service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the several civil service commissions should be authorized and directed to provide in the regulations covering all civil service tests that special recognition be given to patriotism, discipline and similar military virtues and that in the rating of candidates under those headings a certain percentage must be allowed to all veterans of the World War and be it further

RESOLVED, That the World War veterans who through wounds or otherwise have been permanently incapacitated by their military service should have absolute

preference for appointment in any civil service position for which their physical disability does not otherwise disqualify them.

There is a third resolution.

WHEREAS, The American Legion in all its branches has occasion to employ services of various clerks, typists and stenographers, and

WHEREAS, These organizations of The American Legion have heretofore employed assistants who are not members of the Legion and

WHEREAS, all concerns throughout the country have been asked by The American Legion to employ ex-service men and women wherever possible and The American Legion is some instances has not as yet set the example to this end,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That The American Legion in all its branches employ wherever possible the services of American Legion members in good standing and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the present staffs of the national, state and county organizations be so altered as to conform to this resolution.

There is a fourth resolution.

WHEREAS, It having come to the attention of The American Legion that there is now being employed in the various quartermaster depots of the Navy Commissary stores of our country, men who are not ex-soldiers, ex-sailors or ex-marines,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That The American Legion condemns the hiring or continuance in service at these Quartermaster Depots and Navy Commissary stores of the said men and insists that ex-soldiers be employed exclusively in these positions.

BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of these resolutions be furnished to the War Department, to the various welfare agencies concerned, and to the public press.

Signed, Edward W. Rudolph, chairman.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): Before proceeding to that, I'd like to call attention to a grammatical correction in the first resolution. I believe the resolution states "former ex-service men." It ought to be former service men or ex-service men.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is your pleasure with regard to the report, gentlemen?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OH): I make a motion that the report be adopted. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MT): There is a mistake in that fourth recommendation about employing ex-soldiers. It should have "ex-service men," or you will have the sailors hollering at us.

DELEGATE OBRIEN (MO): In the second resolution it says the "World War veterans." There is an organization by that name, and I suggest that that it be changed to "veterans of the World War."

DELEGATE GOLDSTFIN (NY): I amend the motion that wherever the term "ex-soldier" is used it should be amended to read "ex-service men."

DELEGATE NEUWIRTH (NY): "Ex-service men and women." Some of the women did wonderful work. *...The amended motion is carried unanimously*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IN): I make a motion that a copy of that report be submitted to the Navy Department.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will do that without a motion if you please. The secretary will read another committee report.

Report: Committee on Post Activities and Memorials
Frank A. Sullivan, Massachusetts, Chairman

1. Keep the preamble before the members. It tells them what The American Legion stands for.

2. The matter of post activities should be left entirely to the local post, with the proviso that matters of policy affecting The American Legion be passed on by the state or national organization.

3. Each state organization shall appoint a committee on post activities and welfare whose duty it shall be to recommend to local posts stimulating influences for membership such as entertainment, athletics, athletics, social events, inter-post competitions, etc.

4. We recommend that space be devoted in *The American Legion Weekly* to the publication of post activities setting forth what the different posts accomplish throughout the country in malting their post activities attractive.

5. We recommend that the National Executive Committee fix a National American Legion Week at which time the national, state and local organizations shall concentrate through all mediums of publicity to further by personal solicitation an enrollment membership campaign to be carried on by each local post in the country.

6. We recommend that May 30 be designated as the American Legion Memorial Day and that the American foreign legations in countries where our dead comrades rest be instructed through the proper departments at Washington to cause fitting memorial services to be held.

7. We recommend the consideration of a memorial to our soldier dead in France to the National Executive Committee, to be reported upon at the next annual convention.

8. We recommend that each state individually determine for itself the nature, form and construction to be used in memorials erected to their fallen comrades.

Signed, Frank A. Sullivan (Massachusetts), Wilbur Brucker (Michigan)

DELEGATE RYAN (NY): I move that the report as submitted be adopted. *...Second.*

DELEGATE BRADLEY (NY): It seems to me that there is one thing that has been omitted in the report, that it might be well to include and I want to suggest that it might be well to provide that there shall be in the national organization and in each state and local organization a committee on community improvement whose duty it shall be to investigate as to improvements needed, to present reports to membership meetings, conventions, etc., and to carry out the instructions of the organization in regard to matters relating to community improvement, referring to school buildings and anything that makes for civic improvement.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Do you offer that as an amendment?

DELEGATE BRADLEY (NY): Yes sir. *...Second.*

I am speaking on paragraph two. I see no reason why a post should be limited by the state or county organization, provided it takes the responsibility for its own action. I move you, sir, that the provision in that second paragraph be stricken out, and that your report be so amended. I ask for a vote on the amendment.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The vote would first be on the report as amended.

DELEGATE NEUWIRTH (NY): I move to amend the resolution so as to read…

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You can't have an amendment to an amendment.

DELEGATE NEUWIRTH (NY): I am making another amendment to the resolution, sir.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You can't do it. You can move a substitute if you want to.

DELEGATE FULLER (MN): Point of order, I call for a vote on the amended motions as they are offered. I state that, Mr. Chairman, as a point of parliamentary practice.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask the proponent of the amendment to read it again. *...Mr. Bradley of New York repeats his amendment, and the amendment is lost.*

DELEGATE NEUWIRTH (NY): I move to amend the resolution so that post be directed to indicate their activities so as to prevent men in uniform from using the uniform for panhandling. I think it is a disgrace that that condition is still existing throughout this country and some attention should be called to that fact, and local posts should direct their activities in that direction so that the uniform would be respected and continue to be respected instead of being brought into the disgrace in which these men are using it.

...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, it is now in order to adopt the report as a whole. A motion to that effect is in order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I move the adoption of the report as a whole.

...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will have the next report.

DELEGATE PALMER (PA): As a member of the committee that has just made its report, I wish to suggest to all the delegates present that they view the exhibit of war memorials and plans on the second-floor front here, which is given under the auspices of the National War Camp Community Service. There are some splendid ideas there that the boys ought to take back home. *(Applause)*

Report: Committee on Political Restrictions
George Brokaw Compton, New York, Chairman

Your Committee on Political Restriction recommends that an article be incorporated into the National Constitution as follows: While requiring that each of its members perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding, this organization shall be absolutely non-partisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment; and no candidate for or incumbent of a salaried elective public office shall hold any office in The American Legion or in any branch or post thereof. Respectfully submitted, George Brokaw Compton, (New York) Chairman. Frank L. Sieh, (South Dakota) secretary.

The minority report of the Political Restriction Committee reads: From Article III of the present Constitution, While requiring that every member of the organization perform his full duty as a citizen according to his or her own understanding the organization shall be nonpartisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principle or for the candidacy of any person seeking public office, or preferment. The minority in making this report believes that the American principle is to encourage the best men of the country to run for public offices and The American Legion has at present officers of this caliber in their state and local organization who are best fitted in the district in which they live to serve the public needs and who are best fitted to serve the Legion in an official capacity.

They are in a position to perpetuate the principles for which the Legion stands. Should the majority report be adopted, it would disorganize many permanent state and local organizations of The American Legion. We further believe that this is a situation that must be met in the separate states as the conditions and election laws of those states are different and in the state branches of the Legion should be vested the powers to meet their local conditions. It must also be brought to mind that members of The American Legion fought to uphold the principles of democracy and are in better position to uphold these principles at the present time and in the future and are going to have the administration of the affairs of this government in their hands and not in the hands of those who not only took no part in the active service and in some cases used every influence possible to escape from service of their country. Signed by four members of the committee.

DELEGATE SEAMAN (IL): I move you, sir, that in lieu of the majority or minority reports the following be accepted: "While requiring that every member of the organization perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience, this organization shall

be absolutely non-partisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment and no candidate for or incumbent of a salaried or appointive public office shall hold any of the national or state offices in The American Legion or any branch thereof."

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary desires to make a point.

SECRETARY WOOD: This substitute is identically the same as the majority report except for the inclusion of the word "appointive" That is correct, isn't it? What other difference?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I move that the minority report be substituted for the majority report. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MA): Point of order, I make a question whether or not the motion, when you recognized me, to adopt the majority report was seconded?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I didn't so understand it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): In my move that the minority report be substituted for the majority report, which was seconded, I would like to state that I don't believe that we should try and bar men, some of the best men of The American Legion from holding office, because of the fact that they are in politics.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IA): I seconded the motion of the man from Massachusetts.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I didn't get that point of order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IA): I seconded the motion of the gentleman from Massachusetts.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion before you is to adopt the minority report.

DELEGATE FULLER (MN): I move to amend by striking out the word "non-partisan" as first used and substituting therefore the word "nonpolitical."

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Those favoring the minority report…

DELEGATE FULLER (MN): Point of order, the motion to substitute was in order and seconded. The way to get rid of the minority report is to vote down the motion to substitute. That then leaves the original motion before the house. I call for the question on the motion to substitute.

DELEGATE FAIR (MN): What are we voting on?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chairman will state what you are supposed to vote on and then you can have your point of order.

SECRETARY WOOD: The parliamentary situation is that a substitute has offered. It is moved that the minority report be substituted for the majority report, and the chair is endeavoring to hold a vote on the adoption of the minority report in place of the majority. *...The motion to adopt the minority report is lost.*

DELEGATE FULLER (MN): I make a motion to adopt the majority report. I move that the report be amended by substituting the work "nonpolitical" for the word "non-partisan" as first used. I want to call you attention to the fact that in addition to the fact that you already know that the word "non-partisan" is in very bad order in this part of the United States.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is there a second to that amendment?

DELEGATE ELLER (PA): Point of order, I request that the majority of the resolution be re-read for the benefit of the Pennsylvania delegation.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will read the majority report first.

SECRETARY WOOD: The majority report recommends the inclusion in the Constitution of an article as follows: *...The secretary reads the majority report.*

The situation is that the delegate from Minnesota has moved as a substitute that the majority report be adopted with the single exception that the word "non-political" be substituted for the word "non-partisan."

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MD): I move that the report be laid on the table. *...The motion is not seconded.*

DELEGATE GERMAN (PA): Pennsylvania delegation on this motion on this committee and I want to say to you that it is of vast importance that we do not permit officers in the Legion to run for public office for this reason: This Legion can accomplish in this United States a great amount of good, provided it keeps out of politics. *(Applause)*

The potential power of this organization must not be exhibited. If we have a man for office running for office and tentatively, he has the support of the Legion in any community in which that vote is taken they then can easily determine the influence the Legion has. Now, you will know that the greatest political organization in this country keeps out of politics, and you know that they exert the most tremendous influence in this country. It is the American Federation of Labor.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion before the house is to adopt the majority report substituting for the words "non-partisan" the words "non-political."

...The chairman is unable to determine the ballot so the secretary is ordered to call the roll.

SECRETARY WOOD: At the request of several delegates the chairman has directed that the state of this motion be again announced. The delegate from Minnesota moved as a substitute for the majority report the majority report itself with the substitution, the single substitution, of the word "non-political" for "non-partisan." If this motion is carried, the majority report will be adopted by the Convention with that single alteration. The chairman of the committee has accepted that amendment, has approved it.

DELEGATE WELDEN (PA): I beg to call the attention of this Convention to the fact that we are going into action without knowing anything about it. We have not had any chance to know anything about this.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will read the report again.

SECRETARY WOOD: The chairman requests that I read the report as rendered once more. If the pending motion is passed, the following clause will be inserted in the Constitution: "While requiring that each of its members perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding, this organization shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment; and no candidate for or incumbent of a salaried elective public office shall hold any office in The American Legion or in any branch or post thereof."

DELEGATE COMPTON (NY): I simply wish to correct a statement of the secretary. He said that the chairman of the committee accepted the amendment. He meant to say that the mover of the motion accepted the amendment.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of order, there was a substituted motion before the house before the substitute of the gentleman from Minnesota.

SECRETARY WOOD: It was lost.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Do you want discussion, gentlemen?

DELEGATE POWELL (MD): I move the question be laid on the table.

DELEGATE O'BRIEN (MO): I second the motion that this whole business be laid on the table.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, it has been moved and seconded that the report be laid on the table.

CHAIRMAN WICKERSHAM (NY): Point of order, no motion is in order. The roll call has started.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The point of order is well taken.

DELEGATE WELDEN (PA): Under the rules of this Convention there should be speeches in support of it and I call upon the chair to have that carried out.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The question has been moved.

...The roll is called by the secretary.

SECRETARY WOOD: The vote is 507 votes aye and 177 votes no.

...The motion is carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: May I make a statement for a moment? The previous question, gentlemen, was raised at that time and the chairman had to put the vote. There was no thought of stopping discussion in any way.

DELEGATE DONOVAN (NY): I move that we adjourn until eight o'clock tonight.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): That the public press might know that this Convention is working in perfect harmony I move you that it shall be the sense of this Convention that the ayes have it unanimously. *...The motion is seconded and lost.*

ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN (WA): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, your Committee on Combating Anti-American Propaganda in the United States noticed in the press today that there was mentioned about a convicted criminal Victor Berger an article and they deemed that inasmuch as he would be expelled from the House of Representatives and thought the conviction of Victor Berger should also be given publicity and we therefore ask unanimous consent that we present two resolutions to you at this time.

WHEREAS, Victor Berger has been duly tried and convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, and disloyalty to our country, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion in convention assembled hereby demands that the proper authorities take all legal steps to cancel his citizenship papers and bring about his deportation. *(Applause)*

Your committee was of the unanimous opinion that even though some of the legal minds of this country might take it that it were not legal to do this, yet we know that federal courts in our country during the war held that when men who claimed citizenship and were the mantle of citizenship so had conducted themselves that they were in favor of the Germans winning the victory and took away that citizenship, even though the man had held it for twenty-five years, that it was prima facie evidence abroad, we felt that in this case Victor Berger's action, his conduct during the course of this war, showed that when he foreswore allegiance to the foreign crown or king that he committed fraud upon our United States Government and we say, "Let's give the damned socialist lawyers that are protecting these men a chance to go to court and protect Victor Berger."

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WI): The entire delegation from Wisconsin considers it a signal honor and we move the adoption of that resolution. *(Applause)*
...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The following resolution was unanimously adopted by your committee.

WHEREAS, Edward Voigt has shown by his vote on the motion to unseat the criminal Victor Berger that he is not in sympathy with our form of government and the ideals for which we stand and said Edward Voigt continues to draw the emoluments resulting from his seat in the House of Representatives, and

WHEREAS we believe that the said Edward Voigt is unfitted to hold his seat in Congress, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion in Convention assembled hereby demands that the House of Representatives expel the said Edward Voigt and declare his seat vacant. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE OKLAHOMA: Gentlemen, this is a republic and we in our minds may not feel particularly enthusiastic over this other Wisconsin Congressmen's refusal to help oust Congressman Berger but under the Constitution that was his constitutional right and The American Legion stands by the Constitution and we do not propose under our circumstances to be an organization demanding a government simply of prejudices.

DELEGATE JENNINGS (WI): The Wisconsin delegation in all consideration of the remarks previously made are of the opinion that this Convention can condemn as we do condemn the acts of Edward Voigt in sustaining the position of Victor Berger and we move the adoption of the resolution.

DELEGATE GALBRAITH (OH): As the gentlemen said, this is a republic. Has the committee presented all the facts in connection with the action of this man? No man here condemns the man for disloyalty more than another. Every man in this room, and woman, thank God is an American, but we want to be sure before we condemn a man that we know what we are condemning and I move, as a substitute, that a committee from Congress investigate this man and his record and if it is true that he is a disloyal citizen that he be expelled. I don't think we have any right to take the other action.

...The motion is seconded and carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. Stewart of Virginia will make a statement.

DELEGATE STEWART (VA): I have a very brief statement to make following which I desire to offer a resolution. The matter which I have to present is one which will grip the heart of every delegate in this Convention. There was presented to the executive committee at its meeting this afternoon an offer from the French government.

The committee unanimously endorsed an acceptance of the offer and directed me to present it to the Convention. This offer is one which could only have come from the French people. The offer is that the French people, through their government, desire to present to the family of every man and every woman who lost his or her life in the military or naval service of the United States during the Great War a certain suitable engraved parchment with an inscription of beautiful dignity and simplicity to the effect that it is given by the French government in memory of these dead of her allies, the United States of America.

I believe that this offer could only have come from that great heart of the French people which, wrung as it has been with more than a million heartthrobs from its own sorrows and bereavement, can yet extend its sympathy to the dead of its allies. The plan, very briefly, is that the certificates be presented by The American Legion. The French government requests that the War Department take it up with The American Legion and that the presentation be made by The American Legion wherever possible. The presentation according to the plan offered is to be made on the twenty-second day of February 1920. This will give a matchless opportunity to bring home to every member of the Legion a realization of the circumstances from which this organization sprung and the responsibility which it has upon it, consecrated as it is by its heroic dead. The resolution which I desire to offer, therefore, is as follows:

That The American Legion undertake on February 22, 1920, to distribute these certificates in every community where a local post is in operation and that the National Executive Committee be instructed to work out the details of the distribution and to forward the appropriate instructions to the various stale organization.

I will just say in further explanation that the War Department is now preparing the lists of the dead for every community and is prepared to furnish these lists to The American Legion.

DELEGATE PICK (NV): I move that the resolution be adopted. ...S*econd.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): Would it not be a very courteous thing to thank the French government for this very thoughtful offer and if I may, and if the chairman of the committee will accept, I should like to add a vote of thanks to the French government for this very thoughtful and touching offer.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The amendment is accepted by the chairman of the committee. *...The motion is unanimously carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will read the next report.

Report: Committee on Eligibility
J. J. McSwain, South Carolina, Chairman

We recommend the adoption of the following article in the Constitution:

Membership—Section 1—Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted or commissioned, and who served on active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States at some time

during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States, at the time of his entry herein, served on active duty in the Naval, Military or Air forces of any of the Governments associated with the United States during the Great War; provided, that no person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during said period, refused on conscientious, political, or other grounds, to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

Section 2—There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership as hereinabove provided.

Section 3—All questions of eligibility arising under this article shall be finally determined by the Executive Committee of the state or territorial possession in which such question arises.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE COLORADO: I served on the Eligibility Committee and I wish to make a minority report and I wish to call your attention to Section III of this article. Section III says "All questions of eligibility should be finally determined by the Executive Committee." That means if the committee sees fit to discriminate against any man whether he has the proper authority to belong to the Legion or not, they have the power to do so, regardless of whether he is black, white, yellow or red.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: There is a minority report here, the secretary informs me. We will have it read.

SECRETARY WOOD: The following is offered as a minority report of the Eligibility Committee. "To amend the third section of the article by inserting the word "National" in line two. This would alter the third article to make doubtful questions to be decided by the National Executive Committee instead of by the Executive Committee of the state or territory.

DELEGATE ROBERTS (MN): I want to know whether under Section I, a man must have been a citizen of the United States at the time he enlisted and I also want to know whether the filing of his declaration of intention to become a citizen shall constitute an interpretation of citizenship and if that is not a case, I serve notice that I shall want to enter an amendment.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will read that report; I believe it does so state.

SECRETARY WOOD: That clause reads: "or who, being a citizen of the United States, at the time of his entry herein, served on active duty in the Naval, Military or Air forces of any of the Governments associated with the United States during the Great War."

DELEGATE ROBERTS (MN): That is the part I want information on. I want to know whether that man must have been a citizen of the United States at the time that he enlisted in such allied army and I want to know furthermore whether it means that a man who served in such an army and who has filed his declaration of intention cannot become a member of The American Legion until a period has elapsed and he secures his second papers?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask the secretary to attempt to interpret that.

SECRETARY WOOD: The verb is in the past tense. I would infer that he had to be a citizen at the time of enlisting in the foreign army. The chairman directs that I read the clause the third time. *...The secretary reads the clause again.*

DELEGATE ROBERTS (MN): I move you, Mr. Chairman, that the clause be amended to this effect: "That any man who served honorably in the Army, Naval or Air Service of an Allied nation shall become eligible to membership upon the filing of his declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States." Gentlemen, there are thousands of men who so vow.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask you to put your motion in writing and send it up.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): I wish to ask the chairman whether or not your construction of this clause would enable a man who is today in the service of the Army of Great Britain and who was at the time of enlistment a citizen of the United States, provided he enlisted yesterday, can he become a member of The American Legion? I believe he should have done this service prior to the eleventh of November 1918.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That is what it says.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): I was a member of the Royal Air Forces and there were a great many members of that Royal Air Force who had been American citizens before entering the Royal Air Force. There were also a number who preferred to go into the Royal Air Force and have a chance to do their bit in an allied way. They went into it because they were organized. Our Air Service was not organized. I tried it myself and could not make it because it was not organized.

I went into the other and a great many of the boys that I served with in France were good Americans. I think if we bar them from The American Legion, we are doing them a gross injustice. I belong also to the Great War Veterans of Canada who have not barred me on account of my citizenship in the United States. It is an organization similar in policy and similar in conduct of the work for the soldier legislation in Canada and I don't think that we should bar men who made their declaration previous to going into that service and have taken the means of getting into that Air Service over there or some other preferred service and went through with it and did their bit in an allied way.

DELEGATE ROBERTS (MN): The article as I have amended it is as follows: "Section I—any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was regularly drafted, inducted, enlisted or commissioned and who served in the military or naval forces of the United States at some-time during the period between April 6, 1917, and October 11, 1918, or who served in the Naval or Military forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War, upon filing his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States."

I want to ask you how you gentlemen regard this American Legion. You come out and you say you are a force for Americanism. I claim that a man who has served in the cause of the Allies and contributed to the triumph of the allied arms should be taken in when he comes to this country and in good faith with an honorable military record states, "I like your country and I intend to become a citizen of that country." I claim that instead of erecting around ourselves a Chinese wall of caste that we should open our arms to that man and we should say, "God love you, brother, we will help you to be an American." That is my attitude, absolutely. The amendment that I have presented does not alter the conditions of a man's eligibility one bit as to the fact that he must have served honorably and well between April 6 and November 11, but if we are going to make Americans we must do something to attract them to America.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): Point of order, this gentleman has spoken more than once on this subject.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The only way to handle the Convention is in an orderly way and the only way we will reach results is in an orderly way. This gentleman has the floor, and he will keep the floor until he makes his statement.

DELEGATE ROBERTS (MN): I merely want to make this so that we can grab this man by the hand and keep him under a good influence instead of repelling him and putting him out where he is going to be the prey to the radical agitator and the Bolshevist, holding to him and saying, "Well, you did your bit and now you come to the land of the free and you can't sit at the table with The American Legion."

DELEGATE VAN ZANDT (NY): There is a section of the National Guard that was called into duty, active duty, shortly after April 3, 1917, to guard public utilities that the War Department deemed necessary.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will have to dispose of the amendment first and the address is not to the amendment. The vote is on the amendment and the discussion is on the amendment.

DELEGATE FULLER (MN): Point of order, the previous point has been moved and seconded.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): We will give them an opportunity to join The American Legion if they have served in the Armies associated with the United States, provided they become citizens of the United States. It is not necessary that a man declare his intention. We want to see if he has passed the test.

DELEGATE FULLER (MN): I arise to a point of order. The previous question has been moved and seconded.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask the secretary to read the question. The question is to adopt the amendment to the majority report, the amendment which was read here.

DELEGATE FULLER (MN): The question is merely one to close debate. That is the previous question which has been moved. The passage of that motion on the previous question brings the original motion to a vote and the pending motion is the amendment.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It brings the amendment before the house. I will ask the secretary to read that amended part which is all you are voting on.

DELEGATE FULLER (MN): The question is merely to close debate. That is the question.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The debate is closed.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE WASHINGTON: I move that we adjourn until eight o'clock tonight. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It has been moved and seconded that the Convention adjourn until eight o'clock tonight. ...*The motion is lost.*

SECRETARY WOOD: The chairman requests that this report as amended be read so that the delegates may know upon what they are voting. ...*The secretary reads the amended motion*.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, you are voting only on the amendment and the adoption of the motion only adopts the amendment and then the matter in one way or another would come to the original motion.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): That particular part stating honorable discharge, would that admit to membership a so-called conscientious objector?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That is not involved in the amendment.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CO): Section III was not read.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Section III was not amended. ...*The amendment is lost.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MD): I now move you to amend that resolution by providing at the beginning "Any man who is a citizen of the United States at the time of his application in The American Legion" and strike out any further qualification that might refer to his American citizenship. Any man who is a citizen at the time he applies is qualified to come into The American Legion because The American Legion is for Americans and Americans only and if the United States Government says that we are going to put restrictions around the declaration, a certain number of years, to test him, then the Legion should likewise test him. ...*Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MD): I ask that this amendment read "any person" instead of "any man."

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WY): When the previous question was called it was not moved on the amendment only. Consequently, we should vote on the original motion without further discussion or amendment.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: There was no motion to adopt the majority report and therefore there is no motion before the house, I am informed.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): I ask you, gentlemen, if you are going to bar men who in good faith took out their first papers, the papers of declaration to become citizens of this country and then in good faith went into allied armies for the preferred service I spoke of, and if you are going to bar them after their declaration has been accepted by the United States government? They are tentative candidates for citizenship.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion before the house is to amend the original motion only to this extent: Beginning with "any person who is a citizen of the United States at the time of his application for membership," and the remainder is the same as the Committee's report.

SECRETARY WOOD: The motion before the house. I am requested to state by the chairman, is that the report of the committee, the first section of the report of the committee, be adopted with the single amendment that it begins "Any person who is a citizen of the United States at the time of his application for membership." The other clauses are the same. That is the motion before the house. *...The amendment is carried.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): We ask for a roll call.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: A roll call has been asked for gentleman. I will ask the secretary to read it again. *...The secretary reads the amendment again.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): The secretary has stated that if this amendment is carried that the clause that he has read will be a part of the Constitution. I ask you, sir, if this amendment if carried if the matter will not be still open until further amendment?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It will be still open. You are only voting on the amendment.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will call the roll.

...The secretary calls the roll.

SECRETARY WOOD: The amendment is lost by 400 to 250.

DELEGATE GALBRAITH OF (OH): Mr. Chairman, I move that the report be referred back to the committee with instructions to report back to the Convention.

...The motion is seconded and carried.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I move that we adjourn until eight thirty this evening. *...The motion is seconded and carried.*

...The Convention recessed at 6:54 p.m. to reconvene on Tuesday, November 11, 1919, at 8:30 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS
Second Day

Tuesday, November 11, 1919
Evening Session

...The Convention is called, to order at 9 p.m. by Chairman Lindsley.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary has an announcement to make.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: The chairman has requested the following announcement. The Committee on Eligibility will meet tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in room one, top floor of this building. All members of the Resolutions Committee who are at present in this room will kindly adjourn to the cafeteria in this building to continue their session.

A telegram has just been received by Chairman Lindsley from the acting president of The American Legion in Lincoln, Nebraska, in which it says: "The Lincoln Post, American Legion, enrolled twelve hundred new members today, Armistice Day." *(Applause)*

Another telegram to The American Legion reads: "Victory Day greetings to The American Legion, which made this day possible. We hope that you will make it also a day of victory for the American Women's Legion by officially approving our Legion, founded April 6, 1918, to help you win and aid the wounded."

Another telegram reads: "Mr. Henry D. Lindsley, the W.A. Hutchins Post of Anderson County, South Carolina, assembled in the celebration of Armistice Day at Anderson College, sends to the National Convention of The American Legion loyal greetings. Your voice is our voice and the voice of true Americanism." *(Applause)*

Another telegram reads: "The Rocky Mountain Club of New York City had the esteemed privilege of entertaining large numbers of the Expeditionary Forces on their way to France and again upon their return from the war. We believe that the most important agency in Americanization and in safeguarding the institutions of our country will be your organization. On behalf of the Rocky Mountain Club, I send best wishes for the prosperity of The American Legion. (Signed) John Hays Hammond." *(Applause)*

"American Legion Convention, International Rotary extends to the soldiers of liberty in the Great War its heartiest congratulations and sincerest good wishes. Your organization can render a greater service in defense of liberty and the preservation of our institutions today than even during the war in whatever stand you take on the side of respect for law and authority and for the upholding of the government. You may count on the earnest and aggressive support of every Rotarian, and may your convention give inspiration to us all. (Signed) Albert S. Adams, President International Association Rotary Clubs." *(Applause)*

"Citizens of Williamsport present Garritt Cochrane Post with a $50,000 home. Celebrate for us. Thirteen hundred and twenty members to date, Armistice Day."

The dance at the Armory tonight is due to start at nine o'clock. I have been requested to re-announce that. It has been announced this afternoon and all delegates that can be present are very cordially invited by the Minneapolis delegation.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: May I make an announcement? I am speaking, gentlemen, particularly to the chairmen of the various delegations here. We have got an enormous amount of business to do tonight and tomorrow before this Convention adjourns. We can proceed orderly and rapidly and fully understand what is done. It is very difficult the way this have not been fair to those who are in the rear of this hall, to those in the balconies.

I know that you realize that I in every way am endeavoring to be fair. It is almost impossible to tell whether a man in the rear of the hall is standing or is seated. It is very difficult to hear his voice, if there is any voice. I am personally, as you see, quite hoarse, but that is incidental except as it affects my ability to serve you. Now, may I ask each chairman, if he will not personally see that his delegation is promptly seated, as quickly as the gavel falls, that his delegation keeps absolutely quiet, and I shall endeavor in an orderly

way to recognize every delegate here on any subject that is before you under such regulations as you have prescribed or as you may prescribe.

We can get through this great volume of business and do it properly if you will kindly observe that and I appeal to the chairmen of the various delegations personally to help me in every way so that I may serve you to the best of my ability as chairman of this Convention. *(Applause)*

DELEGATE YORK (NY): The American Legion has gone on record many times as being against the use of military titles and I note in reading the newspapers tonight that they print the names of various committeemen and various members of the Legion here assembled and term them by their military titles and I hereby move that this Convention request that the newspaper men of the United States at the present time and at all times to refrain from calling members of the Legion by their military titles when they refer to them on Legion matters. *...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: May I say further, gentlemen, that one committee, one of your most important committees, is going to work all night tonight with a force of secretaries in order to have its report ready for you tomorrow morning. I mention that only in connection with my request to you to be quiet and expedite the business of your Convention.

DELEGATE CANE (NY): Gentlemen of the Convention, we are enjoying the privileges of a well-organized organization but we should stop to consider the patience, and the trouble and the work it has taken to perfect this organization and those who are responsible for it and I think it no more than fair that this Convention, this first National Convention of The American Legion, give a vote of thanks to all those men who had the foresight to see the possibilities in this organization and who were responsible for organizing it.

DELEGATE HALLAWAY (KS): I'd like to ask the gentleman from New York if he will put that in the form of a motion?

DELEGATE CANE (NY): I will do so. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I make an amendment to the motion that it be done by a standing vote. The reason I say that is that the question is not clear. Are we to infer that this gentleman wants to write a personal letter to the organizers of The American Legion, or is it the sense of the Convention that we do it by a rising vote?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: May I suggest, gentlemen, that there will be a number of resolutions perhaps of similar character that you will want to take up with more expedition and propriety tomorrow. I will put the motion, if you desire it, to be placed. This is my suggestion. We have got a number of reports ready here.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): In view of that fact, I withdraw the motion.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I want to state to the members of the Anti-American Propaganda that they are requested to meet at once at Soldier and Sailors Inn. We have a report ready, gentlemen, on the Committee on Auxiliaries. I will have the chairman of the committee read the report.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OH): I wish to call the chairman's attention to what was told you before the opening of the meeting for the benefit of the delegates of The American Legion regarding the pick-pockets.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I have been told, gentlemen, that a number of wealthy members of The American Legion here have had reasonably large sums abstracted from their pockets and the suggestion is made that those who have similar sums be careful. The secretary will read the report.

Report: Committee on Auxiliaries
C. J. Martin, Kansas, Chairman

Your Committee on Auxiliaries respectfully submits the following: It recommends that The American Legion recognize an auxiliary organization to be governed by the rules

and regulations prescribed by the National Executive Committee and to be known as The Women's Auxiliary of The American Legion. to which shall be eligible mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters of members of the Legion and of all men and women who died honorable deaths in the military and naval service of the United States between the declaration of war and the formal conclusion of the World War; That the National Executive Committee is hereby authorized and directed to call at the earliest practicable date a convention for the purpose of organizing such an auxiliary organization, to which it shall invite the attendance of all women eligible to membership under the foregoing regulations, the place for such convention to be designated by the said National Executive Committee and be it further recommended, That the convention extend an official vote of thanks and appreciation to the various women service organizations that rendered such conspicuous patriotic and self-sacrificing services during the recent conflict.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the report of the committee, gentlemen; what is your pleasure?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CO): I move that we accept the report. ...*Second.*

DELEGATE SQUIRES (SD): I would like to call your attention, gentlemen, to the character of the eligibility test made in that resolution. It provides a test upon relationship. I would like to call your attention to the fact that there are millions of women in this country who rendered more able service to this government to this government through the various auxiliaries, just as much as the boys did on the battlefield. This resolution would forever bar those women from participation in the women's auxiliaries of The American Legion. We have Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of the Revolution and if you want that kind of society, get it. But we are a working body, and we have a great voice. We have got to fight for America, and we need every woman who was willing to work for America squarely with us and we are here today to see that that is done. Now, gentlemen, as a substitute for that eligibility test, I submit the following:

RESOLVED, that an evidence of war work well done and thorough loyalty to The American Nation, submitted to a committee of The American Legion by the local chapters of the women's auxiliary shall be a sufficient test of the eligibility of any member.

I want to say, my friends, put the stamp upon service and if you want to go on and organize your mutual admiration societies test and scrap about the officers, go on and organize this. On this floor today was the ex-commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Mr. Adams. He was a soldier, a soldier in the Civil and Spanish-American Wars and a soldier of the Great World War and he told me that in '66 they formed an organization for the eligibility test that is in that resolution.

Now, gentlemen, he said, "We failed utterly. We didn't accomplish the thing we went for. We were a general failure."

He said, "In 1883 we got liberty, we organized that women's society and we put it so that any patriotic woman who had stood back of the Grand Army could go in and they went in and accomplished their ends," and he told me not to make the initial error, to start where they left off and take any loyal American woman who did service. There were women who didn't have any blood relatives. There are hosts of women in this country who didn't have a chick or child, but they gave all their money, time, they were presidents of our Red Cross organizations and gave all they had and I am here to plead for those loyal American women. They are going to bear your sons: they are the ones who will rock the cradle. Let them come in. *(Applause)...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I'd like to ask the chairman of that committee if he would come to the platform and make a statement relative to that report, if he would desire to do so.

COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARIES CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Gentlemen of the Convention, this committee met and organized and after it had organized extended an invitation to all women's organizations who are represented here at this Convention,

seeking to be auxiliary bodies of this organization, an opportunity to appear before this committee and to explain their various organizations and what they wanted.

They were given ample time and opportunity to do that and the committee after they had listened to these various organizations went into executive session and carefully went over all of the matters in connection therewith. Several hours were consumed in the consideration of this matter by the committee. These organizations are excellent organizations. Every member of the committee recognized the fact that they were and that they had done good service during the war and since the organization of The American Legion. But after a consideration of the question, it was recognized of course that all of these organizations could not be recognized, that The American Legion could not accept the name of all of these organizations, that it must get the organization under one name.

It was thought by members of the committee that there might be some feeling on the part of organizations if the name of one organization was accepted and the others excluded, so the first thing that was decided by the committee was the question of whether or not The American Legion should have a ladies auxiliary. The committee decided that that was advisable and then the next question considered was as to who should be eligible to membership in this organization, and it was the sense of the committee, and when I say the committee I don't intend to say there was not argument pro and con on this question, but in the final vote of the committee it was the sense of the committee that the eligibility to this organization should be confined to the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of the men who served. *(Applause)*

And the committee decided that those eligible should be that relationship to members of The American Legion. Now, there might be some argument to the effect that women who had relatives in the service would be barred from coming into this organization on account of that restriction, but I think, gentlemen, that you will realize that if a lady has a relative who is eligible to The American Legion and she wants to become a member of this auxiliary that she will see that that relative becomes a member of The American Legion, *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, unless the Convention decides otherwise the chairman has not ruled that the chairman of a committee in presenting a matter of this sort will be limited to the three minutes. This chairman has exceeded the three minutes and has not been stopped for that reason.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I move you that we allow the gentleman three minutes more. *...The motion is seconded and carried.*

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTIN: I want to say, gentlemen, that I am not attempting to make an argument one way or the other, as to what this Convention should do in regard to this matter, but to explain to you what took place in the committee and the deliberation that the committee had on that question and that after that deliberation it adopted the resolution which is presented here. The committee feels that it is important that there be an auxiliary adopted. Now, as to the membership of that organization: As I said, there was argument pro and con as to whether or not the membership should be confined as is indicated in this resolution. It was said by some that all women who had been loyal during this war should be admitted to membership in this organization.

It was contended by others that The American Legion was confining its membership strictly to those who served during the war and that the membership of the auxiliary should be confined to those closely related to those men who served. It was contended that if all war organizations were permitted to come into this auxiliary that men who served on draft boards, men who were chairmen of committees that made the drives for loans and raised money for the various organizations, should be permitted to come into The American Legion.

I wish to say that I am not arguing this question one way or the other; I simply wanted to bring before this Convention what was brought before the committee. I have nothing more to report.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (RI): I understood him to say the wives, daughters, mothers and sisters of those who served, if my memory is correct, I didn't hear the word "widows."

SECRETARY WOOD: Widows are included in this clause "and the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of all men and women who died honorable deaths in the military and naval service."

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): Am I to understand by the adoption of this report that the auxiliary will be a completely separate organization from The American Legion as a whole? Will they form their own posts, and will they have their own county headquarters, etc.?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I would so understand that this report would leave the working out of the details to the executive committee but I would assume that the thought was it was to be carried out as you suggest.

DELEGATE WANAMAKER (SC): Gentlemen of the Convention, I represented South Carolina on the committee of Auxiliaries. I wish to make a few remarks in regard to the amendment offered by the gentleman on my right. We discussed this matter pro and con for about five hours and a half. We thought of the splendid work that was rendered by those who will be excluded under the eligibility clause to be adopted. We also thought of the fathers, brothers, who will be excluded from The American Legion because they were not in the army and navy of the United States. There were many who rendered most excellent service on the draft boards carrying out Red Cross drives and things of that kind, exemption boards.

We realize that that was a splendid work and if we were going out to organize an American party we would take them into The American Legion. If we were going out to organize all the patriotic women of the United States we would, of course, have to modify and change our eligibility clause as we have presented it to you, but we are organizing an auxiliary of The American Legion. We can't open the doors wide and say to everyone who rendered patriotic service, "Come in and join our auxiliary." *(Applause)*.

Gentlemen, I simply ask for my time. I shall not take but just a minute more. Do you realize as I have stated that you would keep out some but this organization is to be an organization closely affiliated with The American Legion. The committee that rendered the report that you have before you is a representative committee. We had on that committee a member from every state, a member from every delegation here, and for that reason, and for that reason alone, Mr. Chairman, I move that we table the amendment as offered. ...*Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I beg to ask the gentleman that made the amendment whether the amendment as stated was a substitute amendment excluding wives, etc., or whether it excluded wives and people who did war work. If it is as I stated, I am heartily in favor of the amendment. We have an auxiliary in Richmond that has worked right along with the Legion and done wonderful work and if that amendment were adopted it would cut out half of the auxiliaries.

DELEGATE DUGAN (MO): Gentlemen of the Convention, the gentleman from South Carolina stated that the ladies auxiliary was to be an auxiliary that is close to The American Legion. We concur in that view that it is to be an auxiliary close to The American Legion and we answer the gentleman's question by asking who was closer to the boys in service, regardless of the branch.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (SC): Point of order, a motion to table is not debatable.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion is not debatable, gentlemen. I will ask the secretary to read the amendment so that you will understand it clearly, gentlemen.

DELEGATE MILLS (NY): I arise to a point of order. I suggest to the gentleman that a motion to table the amendment carries the original proposition with it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (SC): I understood the gentleman who offered the amendment to offer it as a substitute motion.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: As a substitute motion, I had it too.

SECRETARY WOOD: The motion before the house is a motion to table the substitute. That motion is not debatable. *...The motion is carried.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MA): I arise to a point of personal privilege. It has been obvious during the last five minutes that the delegates from Massachusetts have not been accorded the floor upon this question. A delegate from Massachusetts, Mr. Choate, at one time had the floor and was recognized by the chair, at the time a delegate from another state arose at a later moment and he was recognized and allowed to speak. Now, I say to you, Mr. Chairman, that I believe a square deal should be given to the men of this delegation here.

DELEGATE VICKERS (NJ): This is a one hundred percent American organization. I trust that no other organization whether an auxiliary or otherwise will receive the endorsement of this Convention unless it likewise is one hundred percent American. I therefore suggest that there be an amendment, or the language of this resolution be changed so that it read, "Provided that such prospective member of the auxiliary organization was during the time that we were in this war a citizen or resident of the United States," for the reason that alien enemies under the resolution as it stands are eligible to auxiliary membership in this organization which should not be so.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MO): Missouri desires to offer the following amendment, "Membership in the ladies auxiliary shall be limited to blood relatives."

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is the previous question moved?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MI): Yes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The previous question is on the adoption of the report of your committee on Auxiliaries. If the vote is in the affirmative that report is adopted by the Convention. *...The motion is carried and the report of the Committee on Auxiliaries is accepted by the Convention.*

SECRETARY WOOD: Mr. Chairman, there are no committees ready to report which have not already been heard and acted upon.

DELEGATE BRADLEY (NY): As long as there are no more committees to be heard from this evening, I move that we adjourn. *...The motion to adjourn is seconded and lost.*

DELEGATE FULLER (MN): I suggest that the chairman instruct the sergeants-at-arms to round up some of these committee chairmen looking towards getting at least a part of their reports. I move that. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that the sergeants-at-arms get in immediate touch with the various chairmen who have not reported and ask them to facilitate sending their reports. *...The motion is unanimously carried.*

DELEGATE HOFFMAN (OK): I ask unanimous consent, that you hear Comrade Josh Lee of Oklahoma on an original poem.

...Josh Lee recited "The Battle of Cognac" and "Sandy Jones." (Applause)

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We are waiting for the chairman of the Finance Committee. He has a report here not signed.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IL): Pending the arrival of the chairman of the Finance Committee in a few minutes, may I beg the indulgence of the Convention for just a moment for an announcement by one of our lady delegates here. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED GUEST (IL): I am not delegate at all. I came up on my own hook. I wrote a little song which I think has a little pep. I am from the Signal Corps. I feel as though this organization ought to have a song. I think an organization as strong and wonderful as this ought to have one and as one man said to me, "Of course it isn't very important business; we have to talk about the money first."

I think in a big convention like this we should have had a wonderful song to begin and when that band went down the street today, I said "We ought to have a Legion song." I have one copy, the original words and music, but I have five hundred copies of the words. Now tomorrow morning you will find a copy on each chair of the words and the organist from Illinois is going to play the song and I am going to find a singer. I know there must be some singers here. If you weren't all so very modest!

You know I am going to ask in the old-fashioned, vaudeville style, as you have probably heard, if anyone wishes to sing the song, will he kindly step forward. One of the men from Illinois is going to sing and play the song over on the organ a few times and I do so wish that one or two of you who do sing will rehearse it for tomorrow morning and we will open up with a bang-up song and will join in the chorus.

I want to say this: I don't like and don't ask you to adopt this song because adopting a song for The American Legion is a very serious matter. All I ask is for you to hear it and sing it and then when you do make a selection of your song to give my song equal chance with the others. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IL): I wonder if it would be possible to have the Oklahoma delegation turn into the Memorial Committee a copy of that incomplete poem and have it mimeographed and turned over to the various state chairmen.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Will the Oklahoma committee do that?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OK): I will state for the benefit of everyone here that Mr. Lee has several poems similar to the one that he has recited this evening and they are published in book form.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MA): I want to take just a moment to call to your attention that tomorrow you will have presented to you a resolution that has been brought from France by an American who received the same from a very high French official. All of the French people are behind it, a movement for a memorial in France, and they further desire an expression from The American Legion if they will give their cooperation, so tomorrow when you hear this resolution pay attention to it because it is really from those who appreciate all that we have tried to do over there. Please give it your serious attention.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IA): Is this memorial that was proposed by Dr. Prince to the committee on Post Welfare and Memorials the one?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MA): Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IA): That is contained in the reports of the Committee on Memorials.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: There are no committee reports at this time here for your consideration. I want you to know that because otherwise of course they would be immediately presented to you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MI): Inasmuch as the Minnesota delegation has gone to the trouble of having the big dance tonight and they are going to have fifteen hundred women present at this dance and all the Legionnaires are requested and supposed to be there by the ladies, I move that we adjourn. *...The motion is seconded and lost.*

DELEGATE LASALLE (KS): I desire to present this resolution for the consideration of the Convention. The campaign is going on for the raising of funds for a memorial to that great American, Theodore Roosevelt. In some sections of this country this proposition is now under way. In that connection I desire to make a motion that it be the sense of this Convention that the posts of The American Legion get into action to further propagate this proposition of raising funds to the end that this Roosevelt Memorial Fund all over these United States be a success. *(Applause)*

...The motion is seconded and unanimously carried.

DELEGATE CONDON (MO): Gentlemen, as an All-American organization I have a resolution to submit. Mr. Chairman, I move you, sir, that the chairman be instructed to send a message of sympathy to the president of the United States. *(Applause) ...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IA): That was the matter upon which I arose. I believe that it was an oversight, that the man who commanded the Army, Navy and the Marine Corps, his name was not mentioned in this hall. I come from one of the biggest Republican states in the country, but we sympathize with President Wilson in his illness and we think that it is the duty of this Convention to say to our commander of the Army, Navy and the Marine Corps a message of our deepest sympathy and with the hope that he will have a speedy recovery. *(Applause) ...The motion is unanimously carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The report of the Committee on Military Policy will be read by the chairman of that committee.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman and members of the Convention, I want to say that I have been asked by the chairman to present this report in the absence of the chairman of the committee, the report of the Committee on Military Policy.

Report: Committee on Military Policy
L.V. Patch, Idaho, Chairman

Your Committee on Military Policy met at the Minneapolis Club at three thirty P.M. Monday afternoon November 10, 1919, and chose as its chairman Mr. L.V. Patch of Idaho and as its secretary Mr. B.W. Eddy of Louisiana.

It was agreed to confine the committee's thought and action to statements of policy rather than statements of detail. The following resolutions were adopted and are submitted for your consideration:

1. That a large standing Army is uneconomical and un-American. National safety with freedom from militarism is best assured by a national citizen army based on the democratic and American principles of the equality of obligation and opportunity for all.

2. We favor a policy of universal military training, and that the administration of such policy shall be removed from the complete control of any exclusively military organization or caste.

3. We are strongly opposed to compulsory military service in time of peace.

4. We have had a bitter experience in the course of unpreparedness for national defense and the lack of proper training on the part of officers and men and we realize the necessity of an immediate revision of our military system and a thorough house cleaning of the inefficient officers and methods of our entire military establishment. We favor a national military system based on universal military obligation to include a relatively small regular army and a citizen army capable of rapid expansion, sufficient to meet any national emergency on a plan which will provide competitive and progressive training for all officers, both of the regular army and of the citizen forces. We believe that such military system should be subject to civil authority. Any legislation tending towards an enlarged and stronger military caste we unqualifiedly condemn.

5. The national citizen army which should and must be the chief reliance of this country in time of war should be officered by men from its own ranks and administered by a general staff on which citizen soldier officers and regular army officers shall serve in equal number. We recommend that Congress pass such legislation as will make the United States Air Service a separate and distinct department of our system of national defenses, under control of a member of the president's cabinet appointed for that purpose alone.

6. We favor the continuance of training camps for the training and education of officers to serve in case of national requirement. We recommend that military training in high schools and colleges be encouraged. The national citizen army should be organized into corps, divisions and smaller units composed in each case of officers and men who come from the same state or locality and preserving local designations as far as practicable.

7. The national citizen army should be trained, equipped, officered and assigned to definite units before rather than after the commencement.

8. The selection and training of men for the national citizen army should be under the local control and administration of its own officers, subject to general national regulations.

9. That a committee of seven be appointed by the executive committee of The American Legion to consult with and advise the military committee of both houses of Congress as to the working out of the details of organization and training of the future army and navy of the United States, using as its basis the resolutions accepted and adopted by this Convention.

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of this report. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Before that motion is put, there is a minority report here which will be read.

SECRETARY WOOD: The minority report suggests the substitution of a new article for the tenth, read by the chairman of the committee as the ninth, and last article of the majority report. This substitute is for the tenth and last article to be as follows:

"That before any detailed system of any universal service or training is submitted to Congress as the views of The American Legion, that the same be submitted to a referendum vote of the several posts of The American Legion." Signed by G.C. Parsons of Minnesota, W.C. Price of Pennsylvania, Bennett C. Clark of Missouri, and Mr. Emery of Wisconsin.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask before there is any other discussion for the chairman of that committee to make a further statement

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I move that the minority report be tabled. *...Second.*

DELEGATE GALBRAITH (OH): I move the question on the original resolution.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. Galbraith is out of order. It is moved and seconded that the minority report be tabled. *...The motion is carried.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The matter now comes to the adoption of the majority report.

DELEGATE MULLER (MN): I move that this Convention act upon the majority report section by section.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: There is no second to that motion.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE SOUTH CAROLINA: Point of order, there is already a motion before this house, that the majority report be adopted.

...A motion is properly made and seconded that the majority report be adopted.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The matter is now before you for discussion on the adoption of the majority report.

DELEGATE BRADLEY (NY): Gentlemen, the part of that recommendation that I object to is where it speaks of universal military training. Now, universal military training and universal military service may mean different things, but carry the same spirit with them, and I claim here and now that it is un-American. I do recognize and all of us must recognize that there is need of a change in our system of education, I am sure. I am in favor of keeping that a civilian education from the time that they get into the kindergarten until they get from the university, and I am in favor of a plan that will provide for physical culture at least five hours a week.

DELEGATE O'BRIEN (NY): Question of privilege, is the gentleman who has been addressing the Convention a delegate or an alternate? He represents himself as from New York State. We know nothing of him in New York. I rise to be informed.

DELEGATE BRADLEY: I will inform you, then. I was elected to the national committee from the State of Texas, my home state. Now let me talk and then you can talk. I am a student at Columbia University and belong to the post there. I came here to serve on my committee but being with Columbia they advised me to sit with the New York Delegation but is was provided that men who were on that committee should have the privilege of the floor but not voting power.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I would suggest that the gentleman's credentials be inspected.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (TX): Mr. Bradley isn't a delegate from Texas.

DELEGATE DONOVAN (NY): Point of order, on behalf of the New York Delegation I wish to state that the gentleman who has the floor (Mr. Bradley) was permitted to sit with us as a matter of courtesy, but I think that I bespeak the opinion of this delegation when I say that in no respect does he represent the opinion of this delegation. *(Applause)*

...The majority report is accepted by the Convention.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IA): The gentleman who attempted to address us has had his integrity questioned. I want to know if he is an accredited delegate If he is not by what right does he speak?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will answer that question?

SECRETARY WOOD: The report of the Committee on Credentials contains the following clause: "That members of the Joint National Executive Committee of Thirty-four and members of the Executive Committees of One Hundred, arising out of the Paris Caucus, and the St. Louis Caucus, shall be seated with the delegations from the state in which they reside but that they shall have no vote." Mr. Bradley is a member of the Executive Committee of One Hundred arising from the St. Louis Caucus and was elected to that committee from the State of Texas.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (DC): Point of order, I will ask the chair in recognizing speakers who represent other delegations that he don't recognize them from the place where they are speaking in the Convention hall. There are several persons speaking from the hall allotted to the District of Columbia who belong to other delegations. Several speakers have been recognized right here in our two or three rows in the Convention and now we find that one of those men was not an accredited representative.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I shall be very careful about that. Is the chairman of the Finance Committee here? Gentlemen, may I make a statement? We have no further business to bring before this Convention tonight unless this committeeman is found.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): I move adjournment until nine o'clock tomorrow morning. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It has been moved and seconded that we adjourn until nine o'clock tomorrow morning. All those in favor say aye, contrary no. It is unanimously carried.

...The Convention recessed at 10:40 p.m. to reconvene on Wednesday, November 12, 1919 at 9:00 a.m

PROCEEDINGS
Third Day

Wednesday, November 12, 1919
Morning Session

...The convention was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairman Lindsley.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Sergeant-at-Arms, require the delegates all to be seated. Sergeant-at-Arms, all those in the aisles will be seated. The convention is now called to order. I recognize Mr. Thompson, the attorney general of the State of Washington.

ATTORNEY GENERAL THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, this morning it becomes the sad duty of the Washington State delegation to inform you of an occurrence which happened yesterday, which constitutes an outrage that is almost beyond comprehension. I desire to read to you a telegram which the delegation has received from our representative in the City of Centralia, Washington. The first telegram reads as follows: "This afternoon in Centralia American Legion Parade fired on from I.W.W. headquarters. Three former soldiers including Warren Grimm killed. Three other former soldiers including Dale Hubbard son of Lumberman seriously injured. No provocation 13 I.W.W. in jail. Start something. Olympia American Legion, Oakshott Adjutant."

The second telegram read as follows: "American Legion Headquarters, Minneapolis, Minn. At 9:30 town quiet posses rounding up Wobblies from list captured at headquarters. Bill Scales in command. Local post urges law and order on part of Legion men. Civil authorities have situation well in hand. One man has been hanged. Sixteen in jail but no positive evidence of killing on their part. Government has ordered out Tacoma guard. Christensen assisting prosecuting attorney. Fullerton." *(Applause)*

Gentlemen, I am not much on oratory, but we feel that the Convention should recognize this situation, and we have expressed the sentiments of the Washington delegation in this short resolution which, with the consent of the convention, I will now read.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Proceed.

ATTORNEY GENERAL THOMPSON: WHEREAS, This convention is informed that at Centralia, Washington, on Armistice Day, 1919, the American Legion parade was deliberately fired upon by members of the I.W.W. and other anarchistic organizations, and four former soldiers of the United States, were, without provocation, deliberately murdered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The American Legion in national convention assembled, that we extend to the citizens of Centralia, Washington, members of the Centralia Post and to the members of the families of our deceased comrades, our profound sympathy in their bereavement, and our whole-hearted support in their efforts to bring the guilty outlaws to justice;

That we enthusiastically commend and approve the action taken by William Scales, commander of the Centralia Post, and his comrades, in the preservation of law and order displayed on the occasion of this parade;

That the secretary be instructed to send copies of this resolution to the Centralia Post and to the immediate families of our deceased comrades.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I move you that this resolution be adopted. *...Second.*

DELEGATE SULLIVAN (WA): Mr. Chairman and comrades, Warren Grimm went to the University of Washington with me, and he played on the football team with Wakely Coyle, commander of our post, who spoke here as one of your delegates. After the war he went on with the forces to Siberia, and just returned last Thursday.

It is hard for us to speak this morning, because we feel keenly the blow that has come upon our comrades who perished in that city, but we wish to say that this Convention, in no mean terms should send out a warning to our country, and tell our congressmen in Washington as well, in our advices which will be presented, as our Propaganda Committee. In the olden days it was the vigilante method. "Down the Canyon" was the method. It was

just. It was efficacious. That method now is obsolete. We want the vigilante method in our laws, and I trust that Congress will act now, and see to it that these villifiers, those who destroy not only our institutions but the boys as well, are summarily dealt with. I believe that this Convention is going to go on record in such a way that never again will they suffer the humiliating disgrace of having our comrades murdered on Armistice Day. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the motion as made will vote aye. Unanimously carried.

DELEGATE HOGAN (WA): I would rise to a point of personal privilege, I come from the city of Everett, Washington. Possibly some of you have read this morning that this parade in Centralia brings to mind what occurred in the city of Everett three years ago this month. I, this morning, received from my post this telegram, and I want to ask your indulgence to read it: "We call your attention to the terrible outrage on American Legion members at Centralia. Use every effort to expedite the passage of legislation for deportation of criminal enemies of the country and foreigners who are not satisfied with us."

Just one word more, gentlemen. Now, that the resolution is passed. Now, that we are going to ask for action, I want to say that I believe it a particular privilege to have been a citizen of Everett in 1916, and a particular privilege to have served with those citizens who so fearlessly met the onslaught of the Reds. And I want to say to you, as one distinguished member of our American Legion has already said, I refer to Mr. Roosevelt, that the only way to meet this situation is to meet it head-on, and that is what the citizens of Everett did in 1916. *(Applause)*

DELEGATE BAKER (CA): I have a telegram here from my own post, concerning the trouble of yesterday, and I would like to read it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: All right, read it.

DELEGATE BAKER: "American Legion, West Hotel, Minneapolis. The whole nation shocked by the deliberate premediated murder of three comrades during the Armistice Day celebration at Centralia, Washington. This element must be curbed now, and Local Post No. 16 will take all action in this. We respectfully urge that the National Convention will initiate legislative action that will completely and forever destroy this murderous element. It is the crying need of the hour, and we stand as a body. Kindly have this telegram read on the floor."

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask the secretary to read two telegrams.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: There are still two telegrams for Mr. John Shern and Mr. Thadds.

"Headquarters, American Legion," this is from Centralia, "The Second Division Association, in convention at its first annual reunion, sends The American Legion most cordial greetings. The president of the association, in an address, strongly urged all Second Division men to join the Legion."

Davenport, Iowa, "Sixteen hundred members of Davenport Post No. 26, Scotts County, Iowa, send greetings over the top for America first."

Battle Creek, Michigan, "American Legion Convention, Minneapolis. Sincere congratulations. May your deliberations meet with success in the fullest measure. The sacred mission of your assembly must impress the nation and all the inhabitants thereof, citizens and aliens alike, with the profound duty of the rededication to American ideals, traditions and principles, one hundred percent in letter and in spirit the endurance of our doctrines for which the Legion is civilization's best insurance policy. Good luck. (Signed) Harry Cutler, Jewish Welfare Board."

The Committee on Eligibility meets at ten o'clock in room one, top floor of this building.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is the Committee on War Risk Insurance ready?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): Mr. Chairman, may I ask consent? It was obviously the intention of the committee to cover the navy as well as the army yesterday in their report. However, I feel that we should strengthen the hands of our legislative committee on this point, and I therefore ask consent to offer this short resolution. It simply

says, "It is the sense of this body that the principles set forth in the Committee on Military Policy, so far as applicable, should apply to the Navy as well as the Army." It is very obvious, and I am sure the committee intended that these principles should apply to the navy. Therefore, I offer this resolution and ask unanimous consent to put it in.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Do you make that as a motion? Do you offer that as a motion?

DELEGATE: I offer that as a motion. I would like information from the chairman. If it is unnecessary, then I would withdraw it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will pass that for the moment. Is the Committee on War Risk ready to report? War Risk ready?

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY POLICY: For the benefit of the gentleman from New York, who just offered this resolution to which, of course, the Committee on Military Policy can have no possible objection, except that I think the desire of the gentleman is covered in the final paragraph of the resolution which you have already adopted. I will read that final paragraph, with your permission, and ask the gentleman from New York if this does not cover the point he has raised. "That a Committee of seven be appointed by the Executive Committee to consult with and advise the Military Committee of both Houses of Congress as to the working out of the details of organization and training of the future army and navy of the United States, using as its basis the resolutions accepted and adopted by this Convention." Does that meet the situation?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I should say, as long as the Convention understands it thoroughly, it does; and I withdraw my motion.

DELEGATE PEYSER (DC): You ought to state, "Before the Military Committee and Naval Committee of Congress."

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is the Committee on War Risk ready to report? Is the Committee on Anti-Propaganda ready to report? The report will be made.

Report: Committee on Anti-American Propaganda
John J. Sullivan, Washington, Chairman

This is a resolution introduced by the State of Washington delegation and concurred in by the entire committee:

WHEREAS, there appears to be a growing tendency toward lawlessness and disorder in this country, as evidenced recently by numerous riots in various localities, and by the nefarious activities of a small minority of anarchists and traitors to our country; and

WHEREAS, obedience to law and liberty, and the maintenance of law and order, and the upholding of duly constituted governmental agencies and the defense of the flag are basic principles of this organization; and

WHEREAS, we stand as ready to fight the enemies of the Republic within our gates as we did to face the foes without; and

WHEREAS, in order to make The American Legion an effective guardian of American institutions it is necessary not only to talk Americanism, but to act; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that every post of The American Legion be and hereby is urged to tender and volunteer its services and the services of its individual members to the constituted governmental authorities for use in any time of public crisis to preserve law and order, and that a scheme of organization and preparation for such crises be immediately worked out so that in case of need, the full force and power of the Legion can be swiftly mobilized and used on the side of the constitutional government and American liberty, so that our slogan shall be blazoned to the world: "All for one, one for all, all for America."

I move you, Sir, the adoption. ...*Second. (Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question?

DELEGATE VAN DYKE (CA): I would like to know whether you consider this a civilian organization, or one organized for the primary purpose of aiding the National Guard of the United States. You must remember that we have at present not more than one-eighth the membership of the soldiers of the United States in the order. If we continue on a basis like that, we will antagonize them. I feel we are making a serious mistake. I believe this is no time to take a step in that matter. I think it is time to consider and think. It is a big matter that you are doing and you will antagonize a great many men.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NH): There is no doubt that the gentleman who introduced this, and the delegation which fosters it and supports it, has the right idea. There is not the slightest doubt but that every man here wants to see law and order upheld. The main trouble with this particular thing is it has been drawn, if I may use the term, rather amateurishly, and it can be prosecuted for other ends. I am going to talk plainly because we have not any time to waste. The fact is that we can be called upon in any crisis to put down any kind of disturbance whatever, whether the disturbance is a disturbance we ought to put down or not, whether it is a legitimate protest against any condition, or whether it may be a threat to law and order and the established authority of a community. *(Applause)*

Mr. Chairman, it goes too far. We stand by our constitution and bylaws and all the tenets and oaths of our organization, for law and order and Americanism. If we have not made that already manifest to the country, we never will be able to. We have done it in times when it was necessary to go to war to do it. We have had to do it ever since we have been back here in peace times. We stand ready to do it now, and we do not need this resolution, and I hope you will not adopt it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): Mr. Chairman, I listened with a great deal of interest to the remarks of the speaker who has just spoken the spirit of The American Legion. He has spoken a spirit of compromise, and The American Legion will not compromise with wrong. And I want to tell you this, gentlemen, that The American Legion should pass this resolution and give notice that it stands for something concrete in the way of law and order. And this is the best concrete expression of that. I certainly hope the resolution will pass. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NJ): As seconder of that resolution I want to say that The American Legion has in the past demonstrated with fearlessness in its value of personal life, and I do not consider that this organization as a Legion should hesitate about its life as an organization as some intimated in regard to the future members.

I want to say again that the elements of disorder and anarchy are never afraid to assert themselves anytime and anywhere, and I say that the elements of right and the elements of law and order should be equally independent, fearless and absolutely regardless of whatever comes. That means the assertion of their side of the argument. There is too much in this country of the evil side of things being independent and fearless, and too much of the elements of right being fearful of what is going to happen.

I urge upon this convention, when I second that motion, that we be equally fearless to ally ourselves concretely, as we have theoretically on the side of American principles, one hundred per cent, without any discount or illusion of fear. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The gentleman from Missouri has been recognized.

DELEGATE O'BRIEN (MO): Gentlemen of this convention, we have come here and assembled ourselves in a body representing the forty-eight states of this nation and some territories. We have come here to further and to foster that comradeship that arose between the men under arms that served their government from April 1917 until the formal conclusion of the war, and we have come here to further that comradeship, and there is only a million that this delegation is representing, and there are over three million of the potential membership of this organization who are standing out, waiting and wondering whether or not this organization is going to dedicate itself on a military policy, and if this resolution passes in the majority, gentlemen, we have dedicated ourselves to a military policy, and we will fail to perform the great functions that this organization should perform.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Repeat the resolution.

DELEGATE O'BRIEN: Gentlemen, gentlemen, Washington is to be consoled. I feel sorry for you, gentlemen. Indeed, I would give up my life for to get the I.W.W.'s. But, gentlemen, gentlemen, listen to reason. Listen to reason, gentlemen, and do not dedicate yourselves to any military policy.

DELEGATE RYAN (MA): Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Sergeant-at-Arms.

DELEGATE RYAN: I do not believe that this resolution is in accord with the spirit of The American Legion as drawn up in the preamble of our constitution. If you will pardon me for a moment, I will dwell upon the suggestion made by the mayor of this city when he called your attention to the things that are being done right here in your own nation. As this gentleman has just suggested, there are more than 65 percent of the men who served with us who are standing out and refusing to come in and join in this great movement, and we have been charged in this part of the country as being the tool of the capitalists and being financed by capital to put down the laboring men.

Now, we know that The American Legion is made up of the poor and rich. It is made up of the laboring man who labors in the shop or in the office. It is made up of all Americans in spirit who stand to foster and perpetuate the ideals of America, and if we want to succeed in combatting lawlessness and in upholding ideals, let us be clear, let us be definite, and let us be certain, and send out in no uncertain words just what The American Legion is standing for. That clause is responsible for keeping out men who would join. They are members of the World War Veterans, who are worthy to be classed as Americans, but the vast majority of them will not join The American Legion because it has not been definitely stated to them in this part of the country just what The American Legion means when it says that it is going to destroy all lawlessness, because lawlessness to them has been called a legitimate strike. And I think that you will find that some people had in mind when they drew up that proposition that legitimate strikes were against law and against order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Question of personal privilege.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is your question.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: That resolution was presented by the Washington delegation. I desire to resent the statement of the gentleman that we had in mind any mention of strikes. We merely desired to support the law.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I request, first, that the resolution be re-read, and then I ask the privilege of the floor.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The gentleman from New York requests that the resolution be re-read. The Committee on Constitution has also requested that a clause be read which involves the point under discussion. The secretary will read the two instruments. The gentleman from New York will then be recognized.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of Order. Yesterday, several gentlemen were, through parliamentary order, deprived of the floor. The gentleman from Minnesota had not used the floor, consequently the gentleman from New York cannot make his order stand at this time.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The point is not well taken.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MA): I had gotten on my feet to speak. Massachusetts has not been heard from ten times. In this instance Massachusetts will be heard from. Massachusetts is American, and Massachusetts stands against everything, and will combat everything that is un-American, and Massachusetts will stand for law. That is American. My comrades, I know what I am talking about. I have talked to two million laboring men in the last two years, and I know just how they feel. I am not a member of any labor organization, but I know that there are thousands, and my friends in Minnesota will bear me out, that the laboring people in this country, I do not say that they had anything in mind that I am suggesting when they drew up this legislation, but the rank and file of labor will be against this resolution.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State your point of order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The chair has made its decision that this man not be recognized now. Why does not the chair abide by its decision?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): Mr. Chairman, I am more than willing to yield for the present to the gentleman from Massachusetts, on condition, however, that I may then have the privilege of the floor.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The gentleman from Massachusetts has the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MA): I do not want to take up too much valuable time of this convention. I will say only in connection that I am in favor of the support of this resolution, but let this work be certain and definite, and let us know just what we mean by upholding law and order, and that we shall not be a military body within the organization, but that the time comes when it is necessary to restore law and order and to uphold it, that we will do it, but only when that time comes and it is necessary that we shall do it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will have this read, and then you have the floor. The secretary will read the resolution.

SECRETARY WOOD: The resolution is as follows: Be it Resolved, That every post of The American Legion be and hereby is urged to tender and volunteer its services and the services of its individual members to the constituted governmental authorities for use in any time of public crisis to preserve law and order, for use in any time of public crisis to preserve law and order, and

That a systematic scheme of organization and preparation for such crisis be immediately worked out, so that in case of need the full force and power of this Legion can be swiftly mobilized and used on the side of constitutional government and American liberty, so that our slogan shall be blazoned to the world "All for One, One for All, All for America."

The chairman of the Constitutional Committee respectfully suggests that this is a constitutional matter, and he has asked me to read the clause in the constitution which his committee will present, which covers this point.

It reads: This is the second article of the constitution he will submit. "The American Legion is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect or increase the member's liability for military or police service." *(Applause)*

DELEGATE DONOVAN (NY): Mr. Chairman. The essential evidence that this organization must contribute to the country at this moment is sanity and clear-headedness. I feel it to be the sense of this convention that some expression of our opinion on the shooting of these members of the Legion yesterday should be taken. I believe, however, that a resolution such as this goes too far, and it seems to me that the sensible thing for this convention now to do is to refer this resolution to the Committee on Resolutions for redrafting, and I so move. *...Second.*

DELEGATE FOREMAN (IL): I am advised that the constitution will contain a clause which substantially covers the subject matter under discussion. I therefore move you, sir, that, as an amendment, the further consideration of this proposal be deferred and taken up with the constitutional provision on the same subject.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: A point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: There is a motion before the house.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I want the question.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: There is a motion before the House, gentlemen, to refer this to the constitutional committee or to the Resolutions Committee. The motion before you is to refer it to the constitutional committee.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CA): I want to rise to a point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is your point of order?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CA): The point of order is this: That we adopted a rule yesterday that no resolution to be introduced after one p.m. My point of order is that this resolution cannot be introduced except by unanimous consent of the delegation.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: This is the report of the committee.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CA): I mean the report that is introduced by the Washington delegation.

DELEGATE RYAN (NY): Was that a resolution or was it merely a suggestion of that committee?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CA): It was the report of the committee.

DELEGATE RYAN (NY): It was not a resolution, was it?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CA): It was a report of the committee, and its adoption was moved.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, the vote is on Mr. Foreman's amendment to refer it to the Committee on Constitution.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State your point of order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The amendment was not seconded, and the motion before the house is on Mr. Donovan's motion to refer back.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chairman incorrectly stated the motion before you. The amendment is to refer it back to the Committee on Constitution.

DELEGATE DONOVAN: Perhaps the matter may be expedited between Mr. Foreman and myself. May I ask Mr. Foreman a question? Will you be willing, Mr. Foreman, to have this referred to the Committee on Resolutions?

DELEGATE FOREMAN (IL): Certainly.

DELEGATE DONOVAN: All right, then you withdraw your amendment. Then the question will be on the motion.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): Mr. Chairman, the delegation from the State of Washington is not afraid to have this resolution go to the Committee on Resolutions, and have a proper resolution, so there may be no question as to our attitude on the matter.

DELEGATE FOREMAN: My opinion is that it should go to the Committee on Constitution.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. Donovan, Mr. Foreman is speaking to you.

DELEGATE FOREMAN: Just so there won't be any confusion, Mr. Donovan, that is all.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Those in favor of the motion as made by Mr. Donovan will vote aye, contrary No. The ayes have it.

CHAIRMAN OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Gentlemen, just a moment, please. Your Resolutions Committee worked last night until four o'clock, and we discussed this matter from A to Z, and I do not know how long we will have to stay now. You have certainly imposed upon us. We will do our best, as tired as we are, working for fourteen hours. Will the Committee on Resolutions please meet me in the cafeteria downstairs.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The gentleman from Washington.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, I now move you that this resolution as it may be brought back in revised form by the Resolutions Committee may be made a special order of business for two o'clock this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the motion, gentlemen. You have heard the motion which is that when this report comes back it be made a special order of business at two o'clock. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the motion will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The motion is lost. The chairman of that committee will continue his report.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA: Whereas, one of the primary purposes of The American Legion is to disseminate the principles of true Americanism, and to that end to advise and encourage everything that will tend to secure a positive nationalism and a love and respect of flag and country,

BE IT RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this organization now assembled in convention, and legislation to that effect is recommended, that every public and private school in the United States be required to devote at least ten minutes each day to patriotic

exercises, and that the American flag be kept raised over every school during every school day, weather permitting, and that the American flag be displayed at all political meetings and public gatherings.

Concurred in by the entire committee.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (SC): I move you that this resolution be submitted to the Committee on Legislation. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that this resolution be referred to the Committee on Legislation. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring vote aye, contrary no. It is carried. The secretary will read the next.

The secretary informs me there are sixteen very long pages involved in this committee's report. It will take some hours to dispose of them at the progress we are making. I want to advise you of that fact so that you can determine what action you desire to take.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move, Mr. Chairman, that the secretary be directed to proceed with the resolution.

SECRETARY WOOD: I would like the privilege of stating for your information that if my voice lasts and if there are no interruptions or discussions, I estimate it will take me at least an hour and a half to read the report.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (HI): May I take the convention's time to say that among those resolutions there is a resolution presented by Hawaii, and I ask your indulgence for the long distance we have come that that resolution be considered. This organization says it stands for one hundred percent Americanism, and every person who might be asked to join it wants to know "Are you going to just pass resolutions, or what does the one hundred percent Americanism mean?" I have submitted therefore the Hawaiian delegation, a concrete plan for The American Legion on Americanization, to take up a plan of publicity and Americanism for the American people. May I ask the convention to have that one constructive resolution out of all those read at this time?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is it your pleasure we proceed with this report, gentlemen?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (IL): Mr. Chairman, I understand the Committee on Resolutions is now in session, and in the office for this afternoon. In view of the explanation which has been made by the secretary, I move you, sir, that this matter be referred to that Committee on Resolutions.

CHAIRMAN OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Gentlemen, this in one of the functioning committees of your convention. Matters which went before the Resolutions Committee were referred to this committee. These things are just as important as the Committee on Resolutions. We stayed up until one o'clock this morning. All day yesterday we stayed on the job, and we are giving you the benefit of a committeeman from each of the states here.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move we proceed with the business now before the house. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the motion that we proceed with the business before the house, which is the reading of this report. Those favoring vote aye, contrary vote no. It is carried. The secretary will proceed. Gentlemen, will you have absolute order, so that nothing will have to be re-read, and if you do not hear the secretary at any time, stop him and have him repeat then.

SECRETARY WOOD: The subcommittee of the Constitutional Committee is requested by its chairman to meet at once in Committee Room One on the fourth floor of this building.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: Recommendation for a constructive Americanism program for The American Legion, submitted by the Committee on Combatting Anti-American Propaganda. **We recommend the establishment of a National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, whose duty it shall be the endeavor to realize in the United States the basic ideal of this Legion of one hundred percent Americanism through the planning, establishment and conduct of a**

continuous, constructive educational system designed to (1) combat all Anti-American tendencies, activities and propaganda, (2) work for the education of immigrants, prospective American citizens and alien residents in the principles of Americanism, (3) inculcate the ideals of Americanism in the citizen population, particularly the basic American principle that the interests of all the people are above those of any special interest or any so-called class or section of the people, (4) spread throughout the people of the nation information as to the real nature and principles of American government, (5) foster and teaching of Americanism in all schools.

For the purpose stated the commission shall submit to the National Executive Committee a plan, and from time to the supplementary plans, which may include a national advertising campaign, the publication of literature, the organization of lecture courses, cooperation with schools and other agencies, and such other means of carrying out the purpose outlined as may be appropriate. Upon approval by the National Executive Committee the commission shall proceed upon the approved activities. But no funds shall be used for this purpose except those specifically appropriated by the Legion or its properly constituted authorities for the appropriation of funds, or which shall be raised with the approval of the National Executive Committee for members of the Legion only.

The commission may recommend a system of cooperating committees or officers in state branches or posts. The commission shall be elected by the National Executive Committee immediately after this convention and shall consist of not over fifteen members who shall hold office for one year, or until the next National Executive Committee to employ such officers or staff as shall be approved by that committee.

The committee further recommends:

That, as the preliminary organization and planning of the commission will take time, that meanwhile the local posts of The American Legion be urged to organize immediately for the purpose of meeting the insidious propaganda of Bolshevism, I.W.W.ism, radicalism and all other Anti-Americanisms by taking up the problems of:

1. Detecting Anti-American activities everywhere and seizing every opportunity everywhere to speak plainly and openly for one hundred percent Americanism and for nothing less.

2. Making direct appeals to legal authority to take such lawful steps as may be necessary to correct local conditions everywhere.

3. Making every member of each local post a constructive force in the upbuilding of a vital knowledge of the principles of the constitution of the United States and of the processes of law and order obtaining under that constitution.

4. Showing to every person contaminated by un-American prejudice that the welfare of all the people is really the best interest of any class and that government must be conceived in terms of all the people and not for the benefit of relatively small classes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That motion is before you: What is your pleasure?

DELEGATE: I move it be adopted. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted. Are you ready for the question?

DELEGATE WIRTHINGTON (HI): Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you speaking for this resolution?

DELEGATE WIRTHINGTON (HI): May I speak just two minutes to the convention? Gentlemen, the only reason I ask your indulgence here is because I have come 4,500 miles to ask your assistance in every way in carrying the banner of one hundred percent Americanism in a territory where we have over fifty percent alien population.

Now, gentlemen, there are a lot of national organizations like ours that have the patriotic instructors, and those patriotic instructors do very valuable things, but gentlemen, all it amounts to is a resolution such as the one we have here that the flag shall be displayed

in some country schools. Now, here we have a chance to have a thoroughly American proposition carried out by the whole American Legion, chiefly on the ground of the alien, on which there can be no dispute. I want to call your attention, I want it to be known by this convention, and the reason I want to call it is in order that not one cent of money shall be used for this purpose, because we cannot afford to have anybody say that any special interests or any class of population is subsidizing this organization to further any propaganda for its own use. Hawaii is one hundred percent American, and we ask your unanimous support for these resolutions which, I believe, are the way of carrying into constructive action and reality the practice of one hundred per cent Americanism, without which such a resolution cannot be made effective. I thank you. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Those favoring the adoption of the resolution will vote aye, contrary will vote no. It is carried. The secretary will read the next.

SECRETARY WOOD: The next resolution after this report is one on which the delegates from Hawaii and from the Pacific States request your attention and fullest consideration:

The American Legion believes that the privilege of American citizenship should be granted solely upon the basis of fitness for that status, such fitness to include adaptability to American ideals, social and political, American civilization, form of government and standard of living.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by The American Legion, in convention assembled, that: We urge upon Congress a revision of the immigration policy of the United States based upon the revelations of the war as to the adaptability of alien races for American citizenship, and particularly in view of the fact that a policy of peaceful penetration is being carried on by alien races in certain sections of the United States.

Upholding the right of this nation to determine its own citizenship without any alien race having cause for grievance over its exclusion from unrestricted immigration, The American Legion calls the special attention of Congress to the conditions regarding alien penetration prevailing on the Pacific Slope, in the Territory of Hawaii and the Philippine Islands.

To meet these conditions:

1. The American Legion demands immediate action for the abrogation of the so-called "gentleman's" agreement which Japan, now being continually violated especially by the admission of the so-called "picture brides," and the exclusion of Japanese from the United States on the same principle already adopted in the case of other Oriental races.

2. The American Legion demands confirmation and legalization of the policy that foreign-born Japanese shall be forever barred from American citizenship.

3. The American Legion demands that Congress prepare an amendment to Section 1 of the XIV Amendment of the Federal Constitution to the effect that no child born in the United States after the date such amendment becomes effective, of foreign parentage, shall be eligible to citizenship in the United States unless both parents were so eligible at that time.

4. The American Legion requests Congress to send sub-committees of the committees on immigration of both houses to the Pacific Slope, the Territory of Hawaii, and the Philippine Islands in order that they may study conditions and be able to intelligently report legislation along the lines named.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): I rise to a point of personal privilege.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State your point.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): The point of personal privilege is the dissent was a part of that report and should be read with it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chairman of that Committee is here and will make a statement.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA: In justice to the gentleman who has just spoken, as I gave him my word that I would, I want to state, and I would have stated, if I had read the resolution, that the gentleman from Minnesota and four others were of the opinion that this question was a delicate situation, that they had not been given sufficient time during the meeting at this convention to consider this broadly, and they voted against the adoption of this recommendation at this time.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CA): I move the adoption of the resolution, and if it is seconded, I will ask to be heard at once. The motion was duly seconded.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CA): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the convention: This question, I beg you, will not consider this as a sectional or local question. It is not such a question. It is purely a question of Americanism. Today there is going on in a part of the United States an actual invasion of this country, an invasion indeed not of force, it cannot be met by force, and can only be met by brains, and because it is a question of Americanism, we have taken the first step toward meeting the essential underlying proposition in this convention of an organization that stands for Americanism.

Basically, the question which we must meet is this: That today in the whole Pacific Coast tens of thousands of persons are becoming American citizens who are not in any sense American, but who are alien. They are becoming citizens by reason of the fact that Japanese children born in the United States, and who are, in every respect, Japanese and not American, by virtue of our constitutional provision, become Americans. What we ask you to do is this: To petition to submit to the states a constitutional amendment which will make those children cease to be citizens automatically, and by which they can only become citizens by virtue of the acts of Congress.

Today Congress itself is powerless to prevent those Japanese children from being citizens of the United States. The result is that thousands of them are being born, and the alien parents take advantage of that and appear through and under the guise of these so-called American citizens, who are really Japanese. And babes in arms, babes at the breast, own thousands of acres of land along the whole Pacific Coast, and thereby colonization of our country is set up, and there is a great danger that ere long the Pacific Coast will cease to be American. We cannot meet it.

Congress itself is powerless unless this constitutional amendment is adopted. Would that we had the time to present to you the facts and figures. Time is very short but let me tell you that in some counties of the Pacific Coast more Japanese babies are born every year than of all the Caucasian races combined. *(Applause)*

Now, then, today, gentlemen, the Pacific Coast is American. Its thoughts are your thoughts; its blood is your blood. In a few years, unless we take action, it may cease to be American, and a successful invasion of the United States will have been brought about. Today, as I say, it is intensely American. Comrades of the Legion, we ask your support. With your support, with our unceasing vigilance, and by the Grace of Almighty God, that great Pacific Coast shall forever remain American. (*Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the adoption of the motion will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. It is carried. Order, gentlemen. We will have the next resolution presented by that committee.

SECRETARY WOOD: WHEREAS, during the period of the participation by the United States in the Great War many aliens who had already taken steps to become United States citizens experienced a change of heart, and renounced their intention of becoming citizens, and

WHEREAS, This action on the part of said aliens proves that they had no sincere intention in the first instance of becoming citizens, and in their application for their first papers were guided by improper motives, and were guilty of imposition and fraud upon our naturalization laws, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled that we demand of Congress the passage of laws providing for the deportation of

aliens guilty of the fraud and imposition aforesaid to the countries of their origin. *(Applause)*

DELEGATE MILLER (DE): Mr. Chairman. I move the adoption of that report. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the adoption of the report will vote aye, contrary no. Unanimously carried.

SECRETARY WOOD: **RESOLVED, That, we, The American Legion, in Convention assembled, demand that the government of the United States proceed forthwith and immediately to deport all aliens who have already been tried, convicted or interned as enemies of our government, and that all other aliens who are advocating the overthrow of our government by force and violence be tried, and if possible convicted and deported; that in the event the present laws of the United States are not sufficient to cover the situation, that Congress pass such laws as will enable our law enforcing officials to rid our country of this scum who hate our God, our country, our flag, and who prate of their privileges and refuse to perform their duties**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress pass such laws which will effectively punish Americans who have become so lost to common decency and patriotism that they are actually assisting aliens to bring about disorder and revolution in our country, and if such Americans be naturalized citizens that their citizenship be revoked, and they be deported.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recommend to Congress to adopt a system of selective immigration and selective deportation of aliens; that the foreigner who desires to come to this country be physically and mentally examined, and his moral character investigated; that he should fill out and sign a questionnaire, which should be sent to the Board of Immigration, Washington, D.C., which board should be conversant with the needs throughout our country; that said immigrants should be sent to wherever they are most needed, and there remain until they have been naturalized; and that the period allowed for declaring intentions to become citizens be two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recommend a course in citizenship constitute a part of the curriculum of every school in this country, and that all our schools be thrown open to aliens for night courses, and all other persons who care to take advantage of same.

The spirit of this resolution is the Americanization of America, and we feel if the above demands and recommendations are followed, the next generation will see this country rid of the undesirable element now present in its citizenship, foreign colonies a thing of the past, the spirit of true Americanism prevailing throughout the length and breadth of our country, and our ideals of government secure.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MA): I move the adoption of this resolution. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NH): Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the Convention, in the main, this resolution is desirable. It is American enough to suit any American, but I want to call your attention to that part of the resolution which specifies the selection and in the deportation of immigrants. *(Applause)*

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Convention, that sounds innocent enough. It may be, and I think that the sponsors of the resolution mean well, but we have got to look out that we do not over-reach ourselves in this matter. *(Applause)*

And if you allow The American Legion to go on record as selecting immigrants, which I agree to, and think is right and proper, and then distribute them to various parts of this country, whether they want to go there or not, you are going on record for a system of peonage, which this American system will not stand for. *(Applause)*

So, I say I wish to offer, Mr. Chairman, as an amendment to this resolution, that that part of the resolution referring to distribution in this country be stricken out. *(Applause)* The motion was duly seconded.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready to vote on the amendment?

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA: The committee accepts that amendment.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The committee accepts that amendment, gentlemen, so the matter is before you on the original resolution. Are you ready for it? Those favoring the resolution will vote aye, contrary no. Unanimously carried. The secretary will read the next resolution.

SECRETARY WOOD: WHEREAS, the territory of Hawaii is a vital outpost of American civilization in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of that territory have always been pioneers in the furthering of the ideals of civilization upon which the American Government is founded and have more than met every call in men, service and money made upon them in the defense of Americanism and civilization; and

WHEREAS, they are now carrying the almost staggering burden of Americanizing a population of which a great proportion is alien; and,

WHEREAS, The American Legion of Hawaii is dedicating its energies, with other agencies, to this task; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion, in convention assembled, that the Legion pledges itself to give all possible aid to the Hawaii branch in this work; and That the Congress of the United States is urged to extend every assistance possible to the citizens of Hawaii in meeting this Americanization problem by educational and other means and by the encouragement of the settlement in Hawaii of Americans or of peoples whose loyalty to the United States and whose assimilability in an American community is certain.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move the adoption of the resolution. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring, aye, contrary no. Unanimously carried. The secretary will read the next resolution.

SECRETARY WOOD: WHEREAS, there exists in this country at the present time various organizations and isms, whose ultimate aim is the destruction of the principles of law, order and true democracy, and

WHEREAS, these organizations are all known and closely watched by the Department of Justice, and it is said that this department has at the present time in its possession a great mass of facts and evidence regarding these activities, especially those of the so-called parlor socialist and Bolsheviki, which our organization considers by far the most dangerous, for they, under a mask of respectability, insidiously inject infamous teachings into the minds and thoughts of our citizens, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the president of the United States is respectfully petitioned to take such steps as are necessary to change the Department of Justice from a passive evidence collecting organization to a militant and active group of workers, whose findings shall be forcefully acted upon by this, our American government.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): I move the adoption. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY; Are you ready for the question? Those favoring, vote aye, contrary, no. It is carried. The next resolution will be read.

SECRETARY WOOD: Enforcement of sentences of persons convicted of violations of the draft law, and other laws relating to the military and naval preparation of the United States.

WHEREAS, there has been an appeal of considerable strength brought to bear upon the authorities of this country by a seditious element, which is prejudicial to the best interests of true Americanism and of our established customs and institutions; that certain prisoners of a political character be released; and

WHEREAS, these prisoners strove to defeat the draft law, demobilization of American forces or successful prosecution of the war, and other measures contributing to our national defense; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that The American Legion, in national convention assembled, does hereby urge upon Congress that adequate measures be taken to prevent the release of this class of prisoners from confinement; that there be no mitigation of their sentences; that where possible they be deported upon the expiration of their sentences, and that most stringent steps be taken in every dealing with them to show to this and future generations that there is no home in America for sedition, and that the United States is a land of honor that can brook neither treachery nor traitors.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WY) I move its adoption. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that the resolution as read be adopted. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring, vote aye, contrary, no. Unanimously carried. The next resolution will be read.

SECRETARY WOOD: WHEREAS, during the period of the participation by the United States in the Great War, many aliens who had already taken steps to become citizens of the United States experienced a change of heart and renounced their intention of becoming citizens, and expressed a desire to remain citizens or subject of the lands of their origin, and

WHEREAS, it is vital to our welfare that these men who deserted the country which gave them refuge in her hour of need should never again have the opportunity of imposing upon our naturalization laws by expressing intentions which they have no sincere purpose to fulfill;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled that we demand of Congress that passage of laws requiring the Bureau of Naturalization to compile a list of such aliens, giving their names and addresses, to print a sufficient number of such lists, to file a copy of such list as a public court record in every court in the United States authorized by law to grant naturalization, and requiring every such alien, under suitable penalties, to notify the Bureau of Naturalization and the court of the country in which he resides of every change in his place of residence, which change the bureau shall transmit to all courts in the United States aforesaid for their information and guidance in preventing imposition.

WHEREAS, during the period of the participation by the United States in the Great War many aliens resident among us claimed and were granted exemption from the Selective Service law on the ground of alienage, and

WHEREAS, these aliens thereby sought and did obtain the benefits of our laws and institutions while renouncing any obligation to defend the same, thereby proving themselves undesirable and unworthy to become citizens of the country for which we fought and for which our comrades gave their lives, Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we demand of the Congress the passage of laws which shall effectively and forever make it impossible for these aliens to acquire citizenship, and further,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we demand of Congress that passage of laws requiring the Bureau of Naturalization to compile a list of said aliens with the assistance of the War Department, that said list be published, and that a copy thereof be deposited as a public document with the clerk of every United States court in this country.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (DE): Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt that report, and I will ask for two minutes, as chairman of your Legislative Committee at Washington, to bring to the attention of the Convention a very important fact in connection with that resolution Just read.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is there a second to the motion? I recognize Chairman Miller of Delaware.

DELEGATE MILLER: Gentlemen of the Convention, your St. Louis Caucus passed two resolutions covering the point. One set of aliens in Washington are those who withdrew their first papers to avoid military service. Another set are those aliens who, when they were called in the draft, said, "We are aliens, and we do not have to serve." And still a third class are those who were convicted under the Espionage Act and are locked up. That report just read was more or less of a compromise from your committee for this reason: When the legislative committee at Washington was heard by the proper committee of the House, the House Committee on Immigration, and advocated the immediate passage of a bill to deport such cowards from our shores, we were met by opposition from the Department of State; and I hold in my hand the report of this hearing in which thoughts are incorporated from certain Scandinavian Legations at Washington, opposing the passage of such a measure.

We realize, of course, the opposition of the Department of State, and we do not mean to criticize them; but we do say that if you can deport these people forthwith under the law, that their name be published in their communities, and the information in possession of the draft board now on file in the War Department, and the Bureau of Naturalization, be given publicity. Later on, we say that the treaty shall be changed, if the laws of our country cannot be passed. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the adoption of the resolution as read will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. Unanimously carried. The secretary will read the next resolution.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: Resolution in opposition to the promiscuous organization of societies ostensibly for the relief of the civilian population of enemy countries:

WHEREAS, The American Legion views with apprehension the tendency of enemy sympathizers to organize societies ostensibly for the purpose of affording relief to the civilian population of enemy countries, it is therefore,

RESOLVED, that such relief as may be furnished the civilian population of countries now or lately our enemies, be extended solely through the media of agencies incorporated by the Congress of the United States or through agencies authorized for such purpose by Congress.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MO): I move you, sir, the adoption of that resolution.

...Second.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): The purpose of this resolution is that organizations that might spring up under the guise of relief organizations be investigated to see if they are really on the square or whether they are propaganda organizations such as we have witnessed under that guise in the past.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Name them.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NJ): I wish to say in connection with the adoption of this resolution, in my home state we are facing a very serious problem of this kind. There is a society of such nature, and it is the opinion of a great many members of The American Legion that there is some doubt as to the real purpose of this organization. I feel we should, by all means, pass this resolution, and further than that, that we should investigate any man or any proposition which may come up that has anything to do with our alien enemies, and I am very strongly of the belief that some of these societies have for their ostensible purpose the relief of these civilian citizens, who are merely alien enemies, while their actual intention is to further enemy propaganda.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the resolution as offered, will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. Unanimously carried.

SECRETARY WOOD: Resolution on Education.

WHEREAS, it is the belief of The American Legion that a speaking and reading knowledge of the American language is essential to the proper conception of the principles of our government and of American institutions, and that much of the dangerous radicalism now in existence in this country has originated and is fostered by persons of our non-American speaking population;

BE IT RESOLVED, first, that all the youths of this country shall have an elementary education in the fundamentals necessary for citizenship, and particularly in the language of the United States, and that Congress be requested during its present session to pass such acts as will require the basis of all instructions in elementary public and private schools to be the English language. Second. That the Congress of the United States be urged to enact such laws as will require aliens resident in this country to acquire a knowledge of the American language.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): Pennsylvania takes pleasure in moving the adoption of the resolution. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring will vote aye, contrary, No. Carried. The secretary will read the next resolution.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: A resolution demanding that Congress of the United States adopt adequate legislation to prevent any person or organization to carry on propaganda inimical to the interest of the United States.

WHEREAS, there are in the United States a large number of men and women who are endeavoring to overthrow the government of the United States.

WHEREAS, There is apparently not now in the statutes of the United States adequate legislation to prevent any person, organization, association or society, foreign or domestic, from carrying on meetings and issuing printed and verbal propaganda inimical to the interests of the United States and organized government.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in convention assembled, that Congress take immediate action to enact legislation to prevent any person or persons, organizations, or societies, within the United States, from carrying on any verbal, written or printed intercourse or correspondence with any other person or persons, either citizens or aliens, with the intent either peaceably or by violence to overthrow the government of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The American Legion urges upon Congress the necessity for severe penalties for violation of any act or acts which may be enacted in connection with these matters; and that aliens found guilty of violation of any act or acts of this character be summarily deported after their sentences expire.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move its adoption. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted. Are you ready for the question?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NH): Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the convention, I think we do not all understand exactly the difference between the one kind of changing a government and the overthrow of the government. We want to be sure we know what we are doing. I move as an amendment to this; it would be anybody advocating the overthrow of the government by any illegal means or by force.

Just a word on that. Just a word, gentlemen. I know what I am talking about. Mr. Chairman, in the State of Oklahoma and some other states they have got a freedom of action that we do not have in New Hampshire, that some of us would like to get. They have the initiative and referendum. They have that in some other states. Now, by peaceful means they have changed their form of government. That is the right we have under the Constitution you talk about. I want that right in the State of New Hampshire, and I do not want The American Legion to go on record as being against anything of that sort. So, I move you, Mr. Chairman, that the resolution be amended in that particular.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE: We are glad to accept that amendment.

SECRETARY WOOD: The amendment reads as follows, if I have the gentleman's amendment correct. I request that you correct me.

WHEREAS, there are in the United States a large number of men and women who are trying to overthrow the government of the United States by illegal means or direct action.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MA): By illegal means or by force.

SECRETARY WOOD: By illegal means or by force.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the resolution as offered will vote aye, contrary no. It is carried.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: WHEREAS, the War Department, ignoring the resolutions passed by the National Caucus of The American Legion has permitted conscientious objectors who had been legally tried and convicted for disobedience of all orders and of treachery, by a court of competent jurisdiction, to be pardoned, restored to duty, and honorably discharged with all back pay and allowance, and a new outfit, and

WHEREAS, this conduct on the part of the War Department not only has brought shame and discredit to the men who fought to protect this government but has -served to aid and abet and encourage the marked growth of anti-American propaganda from radicals, Bolshevists and anarchists, who are the avowed enemies of our government and,

WHEREAS, the members of the War Department though manifesting great diligence in punishing the defenders of our country for the slightest infraction of military discipline yet persist in showing such anxiety for the safety and welfare of such conscientious objectors many of whom were naught but enemies of this country hiding behind the cloak of religion,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That we, The American Legion, in National Convention assembled, do hereby request that Congress shall speedily and thoroughly investigate the release of the aforesaid conscientious objectors and direct the War Department to recall honorable discharges granted this class of men, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we demand that Congress shall at once enact such laws as may be necessary to prevent ever again enemies of this country hiding behind a religious cloak, to be honored by this country when deserving nothing but disgrace, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request of Congress the enactment at once of such laws as may be necessary to properly punish the conscientious objectors of the past World War who are American citizens and speedily deport from this country conscientious objectors who are aliens, and that the officials of the War Department responsible for such tender treatment accorded the conscientious objectors be summarily dealt with, be those officials high or low, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby announce to the world that The American Legion considers the action of the War Department in this matter as one of the first counts in spreading and encouraging anti-American propaganda.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MO): I take great pleasure in asking the adoption of this resolution. I move it. The motion was duly seconded.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the resolution as read will vote, Aye. Contrary will vote no. Carried. The secretary will read the next resolution.

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The gentleman from Delaware. Order, gentlemen. Chairman Miller of Delaware has the floor.

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it is very evident that it is the spirit of this Convention that the men who spoke "No" to that resolution should be found, and in order to find out who those men were, I think we could arrive at the right conclusion by voting a standing vote on this question; and let the man who said, "No" stand up when the names are called for. *(Applause*)

DELEGATE DONOVAN (NY): Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. Donovan.

DELEGATE DONOVAN: The vote, "No", I am ashamed to say, came from a member of this New York delegation. However, that member has withdrawn his vote. That was the only vote "No" as I understand, and I move, that the adoption of that resolution be unanimous. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that the motion be adopted unanimously. Those favoring vote aye. Contrary vote no. The ayes have it unanimously. The secretary will read the next resolution.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: WHEREAS, certain publications in foreign languages published or distributed in the United States are used by anarchists and revolutionists to preach destruction of American institutions and the government of the United States;

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the consensus of opinion of The American Legion in convention assembled, that all foreign language newspapers, magazines, periodicals and pamphlets published or distributed in the United States be required to furnish a true and correct translation, properly sworn to, of all articles which tend to condemn our form of government and which are of a political nature, and that five copies of said translation be left with the postmaster in the place of publication, and if published abroad, with the postmaster general of the United States, such copies to be opened to public inspection, and that suitable penalties be provided by law for violation of this requirement.

DELEGATE HOLLOWAY (KS): I move the adoption of that resolution. If that is seconded. I want to make one remark. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that the resolution as proposed be adopted. Are you ready for the question?

DELEGATE HOLLOWAY: I would like to make an amendment to that motion to this "American" language.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: American language?

DELEGATE HOLLOWAY: American language. In other words, appear in a parallel column on the same page. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The amendment is, gentlemen, that the translation of any such article be published in the American language in a parallel column. Are you ready for a vote on the amendment?

DELEGATE MILLS (NY): As Mr. Donovan pointed out earlier in the session, this convention wants to be entirely fair and not go too far. The resolution as reported offers absolute protection in so far as sedition is concerned, to require these papers to publish a parallel column means that you will practically put many of them out of business.

If it is the desire of this convention to put every foreign language newspaper out of business, then this convention should so vote. It should not attempt to do so indirectly and therefore, Mr. Chairman, I therefore trust that this amendment will not carry, and second, the resolution as originally reported.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chairman of that committee requests that he be heard. Mr. Sullivan.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN (WA): Gentlemen, your committee up to one a.m., were consulting on the subject, and we gave approximately one hour to the discussion on the question raised by the gentleman from Nebraska. We felt that there was a foreign element in this country which had not yet been educated to the importance of American citizenship, and through the means of foreign papers, even our Americanization program might be carried effect: That a correct translation in the English language should be on; and that it is impracticable to have parallel columns, but that what we should do is see to it that a sworn affidavit form of a true and exact translation be placed with the postmaster general, and if that is not true, to provide a severe penalty. If you do this, you will be adopting something that is practicable. You will be helping the Americanization of our foreign people, and you will be doing something for the benefit of the people as a whole.

DELEGATE GLEASON (OR): In regard to this proposition, I think that was done during the entire war. It has not stopped propaganda. No, it did not. Now, if we are going to educate them in Americanism, it will cost them more money to pay for it. If they can not survive, let them die, but if they can survive they have a place in their adopted country.

And we can then hope that the insidiousness that has appeared in this country by a visiting language, I.W.W. paper can be successfully combatted.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The previous question has been called, gentlemen. I will ask the secretary.

SECRETARY WOOD: The vote is on the amendment. I have the amendment, it reads as follows: "Adding the clause that a translation of any such article be published in parallel column under oath as to its accuracy with provision for severe penalty if infringed." The vote is on the amendment, and there will be another vote on the resolution as a whole.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Those favoring the previous question will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it. The vote is now on the amendment. Those favoring the amendment will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it. *(Applause)* The vote now is on the resolution as a whole as amended.

DELEGATE VICKERS (NJ): With regard to that provision of the amendment of the resolution providing for the affidavit, I move you, sir, that that entire…

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State your point of order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The point of order is that the previous question was called for and closed debate on the previous question and all amendments.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The previous question was on the amendment.

DELEGATE VICKERS (NJ): That the affidavit in question contain a provision that the true name and address of the writer of any article be included in the sworn statement. I ask that as a prosecuting officer for the purpose of aiding the authorities in running to the ground those persons responsible for the dissemination of these documents.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I accept the amendment.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The committee accepts that amendment. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring will vote aye, contrary no. Unanimously carried. The next resolution. One minute, gentlemen. I am asked by the chairman of the Finance Committee who has to leave, and who has a short report, that by unanimous consent you permit that report of the Finance Committee to be introduced now. Unless there is objection we will proceed.

Report: Finance Committee
Howard B. Hopps, Oklahoma, Chairman

Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the Convention, the chairman desires to make a word of explanation before reading the report. The majority of the committee have decided that it would be best to retain the dues of one dollar, as are now constituted under the Constitution of the Legion. Twenty-five cents of this dollar to go to the national organization, twenty-five cents of this dollar to go to the state organization, and fifty-cents to go to the local post. *(Applause)*

It is suggested by the committee that under that arrangement *The American Legion Weekly* would not be able to continue. After spending two entire days of listening to the reports of so-called experts, and men who knew, the committee decided that, properly managed, *The American Legion Weekly* could be continued under the arrangement of twenty-five cents to the national organization, and that the amount left from that twenty-five cents, added to the advertisements which the magazine could secure, would enable the magazine to continue. We therefore beg leave to submit for your consideration the following report.

Your Finance Committee begs leave to submit the following report, and respectfully recommends that the following resolutions be adopted by the Convention.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the fiscal year of The American Legion shall begin January 1st and end December 31st of each year, and that all dues shall become payable on the first day of said fiscal year, and that the unearned balance of dues already paid shall be applied pro rata on the dues for the next fiscal year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the report of the national treasurer be approved and adopted, and that a vote of thanks be extended to Gaspar G. Bacon, the national treasurer for the untiring and unselfish devotion to the interest of The American Legion, and for his very excellent services to The American Legion during his term of office.

WHEREAS, the temporary National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in order properly to carry out the task entrusted to it of building up a strong organization throughout the United States, was compelled to assume a heavy burden of organization work, requiring the expenditure of large sums; and

WHEREAS, in order to raise the necessary funds to start organization work immediately and without financial handicap, it was found necessary to borrow on the notes of The American Legion, secured by the guarantees of various individual members and friends of The American Legion, two hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, at the time these notes were executed, the Legion being in a formative stage, had not been incorporated, nor its success assured, as at present; and

WHEREAS, the Legion has now received a charter from the Congress of the United States of America, and is organized on a stable basis which insures
its continued and successful existence; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the guarantors on said notes, and to place the Legion on a sound financial basis, the money thus borrowed must be paid back; and

WHEREAS, the credit and standing of the Legion will be enhanced to a greater extent by the payment of said notes before their maturity than in
any other possible way; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by this Convention, that in order to provide for the repayment of said loan, the sum of two hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars must be raised and collected; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the responsibility for collecting and remitting the sura of two hundred and fifty seven-thousand dollars, and all other liabilities of the Legion is hereby assumed by The American Legion, and its faith and credit for the full repayment of full principal and interest of said notes is hereby pledged.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the creation of a bond issue of two hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars to cover the indebtedness obligation of the Legion be authorized, and the said bonds so created to be negotiated in any manner designated and passed by the National Executive Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the minimum membership dues of The American Legion be $1.00 per year, which said sum of $1.00 shall include 25 cents for the state organization paying the same, twenty-five cents to remain with the national organization, and the sum of fifty cents for the local posts that collect the dues, and this said sum of $1.00 so subscribed and paid shall constitute a subscription to *The American Legion Weekly* fully paid.

The word "constitute" gentlemen, is used there to get around the government postal law, which requires that a subscription price of $1.00 shall be paid before we can get the second-class rate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a vote of thanks be given to George A. White, for his untiring and successful effort as the publisher of *The American Legion Weekly,* and that we recommend a continuation of said *Weekly* on the high standard already maintained and established.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a vote of thanks of this Convention be tendered to John W. Prentiss, chairman of the Finance Committee, for his untiring efforts in successfully securing finances which rendered the establishment of The American Legion possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the sense of your committee, after having fully heard and considered the expert testimony presented to it on all phases

of the financial problem of continuing *The American Legion Weekly*, that if the said paper is properly managed, the per capita tax of twenty-five cents will be sufficient to carry on the work of the national organization and complete the finance of the paper from the additional revenue derived from the advertising.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the actual expenses of the executive officers of the Legion while in attendance and performance of the official duties of the organization be provided for by the Convention and paid.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OK): Mr. Chairman, I move you, cir, the adoption of the Finance Committee report, as read.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will have read the minority report.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of information.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is your point of information?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Is the chairman correct in stating that the dues has been $1.00 a year? We have been paying $2.00 a year to the national organization. The motion was duly seconded.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The dues have been $2.00 a year.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: That is the minimum. The chairman report is that it would be the minimum dues. The states could increase the sum if they wished. It is minimum dues. Does that answer your question?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We now have a report from the minority report of the Committee. Mr. Clifford of Illinois will present the minority report.

DELEGATE CLIFFORD (IL): The minority report of the Committee on Finance offers as a substitute for resolutions four and five, the following: The minority report is presented by the representatives from the following states, nineteen in number, representing 341 votes on the floor of this convention, namely: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Wyoming. It respectfully reports as follows:

Upon mature deliberation, we are firmly of the opinion that the basis of national dues proposed by the majority of the committee is entirely inadequate to permit our perpetuation of *The American Legion Weekly*. In our opinion *The American Legion Weekly* is a vital necessity to the continued success of the national organization, as well as a great source of pleasure to the members. Upon the statements of qualified experts we are convinced that if the national dues of $1.00 per capita are provided in the Constitution it will be possible to place in the hands of each member of the Legion *The American Legion Weekly*, to finance National Headquarters, and within a reasonable time to liquidate the present outstanding debt of The American Legion, Incorporated.

The provision for the financing of the outstanding debt as set forth in the report of the majority of this committee, is not practicable, it being decidedly questionable whether the bonds which it is proposed to issue can be disposed of to the public or to the Legion members. Furthermore, the issuance of bonds would merely defer the date at which the obligations of The American Legion must be paid in full, with the continuing interest charged. From the best opinion obtainable, we are convinced that if *The American Legion Weekly* is firmly established it will eventually become a source of revenue to the organization, and that there will be material benefits for distribution to the state organization. We are of the opinion that this end cannot be accomplished on the basis of the dues proposed by the majority report, but on the other hand that instead of a possible profit The American Legion would face a steadily increased deficit.

In view of the foregoing we earnestly recommend that the national dues of The American Legion be set forth in the Constitution at $1.00 per capita per annum, which is to include one year's subscription to *The American Legion Weekly*, to cover the operating expenses of the National Headquarters of the organization. If the Convention should see fit

to adopt the report of the majority of this committee, the undersigned are strongly of the opinion that it will be impossible to publish successfully *The American Legion Weekly* and would recommend the discontinuance of the magazine. Respectfully submitted, by the delegates of the Finance Committee from the 19 states.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: One minute, gentlemen.

DELEGATE CLIFFORD: In order, gentlemen, that the issue may be clearly defined, I will state that the minority report does not attempt to fix the dues of the local posts or the amount which the state organization shall assess the local posts. It only provides, and we believe we only have the authority to provide that there shall be sent to the National Headquarters $1.00 per year per member from the state organizations and leave entirely to the state organizations the amount of dues which they may collect from the local posts, and what the local posts shall charge as the dues of the Legion.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, you have heard the majority report, what is your pleasure?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I move the substitution of the minority report. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): In offering this resolution, I wish to call the attention to the fact that the only difference of opinion that existed in your Finance Committee was one of sound business and finance. The whole question hinges on whether, in your judgment, an official national organ is necessary for the successful development and for the continuance of the activities of the posts of The American Legion. We who signed the minority report are very strongly of the opinion that without a well-edited, widely-circulated official organ, emanating from the official headquarters, the Legion will shortly lapse into disconnected, disjointed, uncoordinated group of posts, and those who, in the United States, have looked upon for these specializing factors, for the future, will be disappointed because we will have no possible opportunity of keeping all in touch with the national operations, The gentlemen who signed the majority report worked on the supposition that we had a going magazine. They have very naturally taken the figures submitted by experts, and they have deduced the calculation that because it is a going concern it would continue year by year to build up their purses, and by such way build up their organization, by a weekly magazine printed and circulated at 25 cents per annum. A concern which has been in existence only since July, it would have to have only 1600 surplus.

Now, gentlemen in making recommendation for annual national dues of $1.00 per capita, we feel that the temporary organization is entirely responsible. In the first place, all of you gentlemen, have, I know in your heart, wanted the Legion to assume the indebtedness incurred by the temporary organization. In the second place, I think you all feel that unless the *Weekly* can be properly financed we better let it die now, cut if off while it may be cut off, than let it drag out a painful existence, and at the end of the year have it representatives before you with a deficit.

I think now is the time to take a firm stand that we are going to use The American Legion finances conservatively. If a dollar per year proves too much, the money is still in your hands, and you are not passing it out to another corporation with a different set of rules. You own it all. We are convinced that when this matter is put up to the members of the Legion as a whole there will be absolutely no confusion. It is not only possible, but it is probable. We feel very certain that within a very few years The American Legion will not only have liquidated the existing debt of the organization, and have defrayed the expenses of National Headquarters, but that it will return substantial amounts to the various states upon the basis of their paid-up membership to be used by the states as they see fit, probably in relief work of some sort.

So, gentlemen, we are not asking for the $1.00 contribution as an item of expense. It is the same as if you were purchasing an endowment. We do not have to question that. We have been controlled by publishers in the past we have been offered a $100,000 for the *Weekly*. Are we going to sell our birth-right for a mess of pottage, or are we going for a

year or two gentlemen, to have dues a little heavier than we anticipated for the sake of having the property our own? *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. Cohen of Montana,

DELEGATE COHEN (MT): Gentlemen of the Convention, your committee, after two days of listening to the report of experts, the majority of your committee came to this conclusion: That a good many of the states comprising the delegates represented here, promised to their respective membership a per capita tax based on the 250. Now, gentlemen, we considered whether you wanted to break faith with those men who joined the Legion and paid the basis upon a dollar. Gentlemen, your committee, after listening to the expert testimony of advertising experts, were convinced that *The American Legion Weekly* could be made successful and could become, as they did put it there, a veritable gold mine within a few years. Gentlemen, I believe, speaking for the majority of the committee that the 250 per capita proposed, 250 to help the state organizations, which some states are in deplorable condition at present, 500 to the local posts for collecting the dues, would successfully finance *The American Legion Weekly* and the state and national organizations. I, therefore, gentlemen, respectfully ask you to consider the majority report.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I recognize the gentleman from Oregon.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OR): There may have been misapprehension on the 250, gentlemen. When we were at St. Louis, we were a temporary organization. Anybody who has gone out here and pledged to their members, saying the 250 is all the dues of this organization, was under a misapprehension. Let us correct that now. We are now permanent. That 250 only was to take us to November 11, 1919. Now, we have a permanent organization, as I said. We did not have the newspaper at that time. It became necessary to take the 250 used for the national dues to be thrown into the fund to finance the magazine. It is far better than any newspaper that has ever been published for any organization. It is a thing, the dollar a year, gentlemen, is only temporary, in other words. You can change this at any time by taking one dollar for this magazine. We put it out on a paying basis practically from the word go. Just think of it! Two cents an issue for one year, less than two cents. I am going to get down to exact figures. We are sending to our members a paper which is going to educate not only members, but the members of the family and it is the only organization or organ that we have to carry on our propaganda.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I recognize the chairman of the committee. The chairman of the committee making the majority report desires to be heard.

DELEGATE HAWKINS (RI): The author of the majority report, as far as it concerns the *Weekly*. The gentleman reporting from the minority failed to tell you that they were the ones that asked the experts to come in, The experts came in and. said, "Give it to us. We will make a million out of it. Let us have the journal; let us have that weekly." Now, they told you that they have got to have a dollar with a prospect of more by the first of the year to start with. They do not need it, and we of the majority said they could not have it. We said you can pay that out of advertising alone. *(Applause)*

The experts came up there and talked about the *Ladies Home Journal*, the *Saturday Evening Post* and those things that had years to get subscription lists. We give them a subscription list. We give them a million with a potentiality of four million to send them to. They get it for the 25 cents, but we are going to give them 25 cents, because the chairman of the executive committee said they want $50,000.00 to run the executive committee. All right 25% of a million, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Give them this fifty thousand and we have two hundred thousand left right now for the *Weekly* without any money from advertising. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I recognize the gentleman from Michigan.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MI): I simply wish to say, Mr. Chairman, that Michigan wishes to support the minority report, and we offer this amendment, I now offer an amendment that the one dollar dues prevail in this report for one year only.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Name your point of order. The chairman of the majority report, it was moved and seconded. The chairman of the minority committee accepts the suggestion made that the one dollar be limited to one year.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Come up here, and I will recognize you next.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MD): Point of information.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State your point of information.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MD): I would like to get the exact status of this case, now. I made a motion; is that before the house?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will state the parliamentary situation now.

SECRETARY WOOD: There is only one motion on this matter, which has been made and seconded. That motion was made by Mr. Wells, of Minnesota, who moved the adoption of the minority report, and that motion was seconded. That is only motion that has been moved and seconded.

DELEGATE HARLOW (OK): Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, I know the point of order.

DELEGATE HARLOW (OK): He made a motion.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: He had no right to make it. The previous question had been moved. The previous motion has been moved and seconded. Those favoring the previous question will vote aye, contrary will vote no. The no's have it. A roll call is demanded.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NH): I ask of this chair at this time, if I am in order, that the minutes as read by the member of majority report was moved by that member, and its adoption seconded by twenty men?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That motion was made out of order. The minority report had not been read.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will call the roll.

SECRETARY WOOD: Alabama.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The roll call is started. The secretary will call the roll.

SECRETARY WOOD: Let me have your attention, please.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I rise to a question of parliamentary information. The parliamentary statue is this. The chairman of the committee moved that his report be adopted. That was seconded. Then the man who presented the minority report moved that that be substituted for the majority report, or for certain sections of the majority report, and that was seconded, so the question before the house is: Will the house substitute the minority report as to certain sections for the majority report.

SECRETARY WOOD: Do you want the roll on the amendment?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The adoption of the minority report. The roll call has been ordered, and it is for or against the adoption of the minority report. The secretary will call the roll.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State your point of order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The substitute of the minority for the majority report; is that the question?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That is the question The vote of aye supports the minority report. The no's are against the minority report, and for the majority report. Call the roll. Will the convention please come to order?

(The secretary read the roll and the votes recorded.)

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Be seated, gentlemen. Please be seated.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: The chair has been asked to call a meeting of the representatives of the Anti-American Propaganda Committee from the following states: North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Colorado. These men will meet at one p.m. sharp, in the press room beneath the stage. In case the regular representative on this committee of any

of the delegations in question is not available, the chairman of that delegation is asked to appoint a substitute. The meeting is of great importance.

SECRETARY WOOD: The amendment to adopt the minority report is defeated by about eighteen votes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The vote exactly will be announced in a moment, as soon as they check up here. The matter is now before you for the adoption of the majority report.

DELEGATE MILLS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. Mills.

DELEGATE MILLS: Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the Convention, this is one of the most important questions that this body has to consider. You have defeated the minority report, which contemplates one method of financing the Legion for the coming year. I want to call your attention to the fact that if this convention makes an unwise decision it will be practically impossible for your national organization to continue if it finds it is in a position where it cannot borrow money.

Now, can we afford to take a chance? This is your financial situation, based on actual experience, and not on the promises of so-called experts. It has cost approximately over $200,000 to arrive at your organization today. You have found that this *Weekly*, which may or may not be a gold mine in the future, has cost $178,000, and has actually taken in $29,000. That is the situation in this month of November, and whatever is done, will continue to be the situation for five or six months to come, anyhow. You owe today $130,000, and you have no money in your treasury. How are you going to continue for December? How are you going to continue for January? How are you going to continue for February, if you simply instruct your new chairman and your new national committee to go ahead on the old basis when the old basis is, borrow money and nothing else. *(Applause)*

The majority committee, with a fine sense of humor, has suggested a bond issue. Now, I ask any businessman in this audience how a bond issue in this particular case, without any security behind it, will in any way differ from the thing we have given. In other words, we propose to pay our debts by borrowing more money and substituting another debt for the one already created. (*Applause*)

I move, as an amendment to the majority report, the following proposition: I move that there be created a new class of membership, those to be eligible being only those who are eligible to The American Legion, and that this class of membership be known as sustaining members, and that they be asked to contribute for the following year a sum of fifteen dollars, half of which to go to the state and half of which to the national body. I make this suggestion.

I make this suggestion, not only because of your financial condition, but you have got to have a going concern. You cannot adjourn here without making provision to pay your just debts and know what you are going to do for the coming year. I suggest there are a hundred men eligible for this Legion who will be glad to contribute for the meeting of this emergency. You are not creating a privileged class. You are not going outside of your own ranks. And I move the amendment. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I recognize Massachusetts. Mr. Dolan of Massachusetts. One minute, let me state the situation. There has been made and seconded a motion to reconsider the vote just taken, and that is what is before you. The gentleman from Massachusetts. Gentlemen, you want to expedite this meeting. You have made the rule of three minutes. The disorder does not count against the speaker. Mr. Dolan has three minutes if he wants to take them.

DELEGATE DOLAN (MA): Mr. Chairman, and fellow delegates, after having been deliberately recognized by the chair, and my name announced to this convention, the chairman of this convention, I am sure in good faith, but at least not fairly, has recognized a motion to reconsider the vote which has already been taken here after having recognized me first. *(Applause)*

I arose to speak upon the general financial proposition which is before this convention, and which affects vitally the membership of this organization. Coming here on Friday morning for the advance meeting of the delegates, we had presented to us upon Saturday, and we gave full discussion to the financial questions which were involved in the report of your treasurer, and the proposition upon which you have already voted.

It was then suggested that the whole proposition as based upon the newspaper, the sum of one dollar be assessed upon the members of this organization for the purpose first of maintaining the newspaper, and second of supporting the national committee. We, in Massachusetts, under the original program established by the St. Louis convention, have had tolerably good success in the formation of this organization, and we came to this convention with a membership of substantially 61,000, under your old basis. We are not here, as the State of New York has come, paying the dues upon the last day for 20,000 members to get their voting membership in this delegation.

That in accordance with the rules and regulations established by your national committee, we had our fully paid membership when we came to this meeting. We speak, however, not in any spirit of criticism but because this matter is so vital to the membership of this organization that we want it to have the deliberate consideration of all the delegates so that we may understand exactly what we are doing. The proposition involved in the assessment of a dollar is to support this newspaper. This is a paper which has been established and maintained under a wonderful member of this organization, Mr. White. He has given us a splendid paper, and a splendid organ in *The American Legion Weekly*. But he gave us that organ at a time, and expended upon it a sum of money, that this organization at that time could not afford to spend. We are confronted now with the proposition embodied in the motion to increase the dues, which rest upon the proposition as to whether you want an organ or an organization. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, I ask unanimous consent. I wish to state, gentlemen, Mr. Dolan is correct in the chair having stated, I think he so stated, I put that motion in incorrectly, but I do ask you to give Mr. Dolan further time to present his statement.

DELEGATE DOLAN: Speaking, therefore, for the membership of Massachusetts, which I think has demonstrated its interest and activity in the affairs of the Legion, I want to say that I hope for the future and large membership of this organization, you will not increase dues, but I say to you that if, as the result of deliberate judgment of this convention, you, in your wisdom, may see fit to put that additional burden upon those entering, Massachusetts will bow to the wish of the majority of the delegates to this convention.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, the chairman of that committee desires to make a statement.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HOPPS: Fellow members of this convention, as the chairman of your committee, and representing the will of the majority of your committee, I desire to make but one statement, and that is, I desire upon this floor to challenge the statement that this magazine cannot be successfully conducted under the old plan, and I base that statement upon this announcement which was made before the committee.

The best possible expert that we had before us was Mr. Smith, and in answer to a question from the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Smith replied to the following effect: That if he had $200,000 and the advertising from the magazine, he could put it over. And what does that mean? It means that with a membership of one million, of which we are sure, next year we will have 50,000, the estimated expenses for the cost, and $200,000 to put this magazine over. And I submit, as a financial question, as a question based upon the testimony of experts, we can put this proposition over, and we can make this a successful magazine under the old plan. But this further fact, if you please, gentlemen of the Convention: What are you going to do with the debts? I will answer, gentlemen.

Every business organization in civil life stands upon its own basis, upon its own footing, if you please, and it grows from year to year, and with the support and good will of this tremendous organization it will grow and go on from year to year, not paying its debt today, but carrying itself on with the basis that will make it a success and continue year after year to grow. A financial man appeared before this committee and said it could carry a debt of half a million dollars and talk to me about a debt of $170,000 when we have got $125 in money on hand now. We will have only a net loss of $125,000 over our liability. When financial experts were brought before that committee and offered us a half a million a year for five years for the privilege of conducting that magazine, do you tell me we cannot carry it on with $200,000 and the advertising space? And in addition to that, "expect" to become a multi-millionaire from it?

DELEGATE HAWKINS (RI): Mr. Chairman, I demand to be heard on the minority.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The member of the minority report demands the right to be heard and will be heard. This is the gentleman presenting the minority report, and he is entitled to be heard.

DELEGATE HAWKINS: I challenge the statement made by the chairman of the committee. The chairman of the committee has stated that an expert came before the committee and stated he would give $500,000 for the magazine. He stated that he would give that if he could have a subscription of $1.00 per year per member. *(Applause)*

Two other members came before the committee, and it was their opinion that the magazine could not be published for 25 cents, so we have on experts, all of them agreed that it could only be published and live at $1.00 per year. *(Applause)*

Furthermore, the expert testimony we have on this is the testimony of the publisher of the paper, Mr. White of Oregon. Mr. White of Oregon was consulted on this matter, conferred with the committee for two days, and his testimony and that of all his assistants was that the magazine could not be published except for $1.00. I yield to Mr. White of Oregon.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. White of Oregon come forward. (*Applause)*

Gentlemen, before Mr. White is heard, I, as the retiring head of The American Legion want to express my personal appreciation of the devoted service which Mr. White has rendered to The American Legion as editor and manager of *The American Legion Weekly*. That is due Mr. White. *(Applause)*

DELEGATE WHITE (OR): I will be very brief, and will simply say that in my opinion, as a member of the National Executive Committee, who has gone rather thoroughly into the whole question, that the burden imposed upon the new administration by the majority report is one of importance. They asked, in effect, that with $250,000 as capital, that the new administration through the magazine create a sum of $2,225,000 in wealth, and, gentlemen, it cannot be done.

The question before you, in my opinion is, and I do not want to influence you on that point, you are the judges, but the question very sharply is, "Do you want a national magazine or do you not?"

You cannot have the magazine, I expect to come back as a delegate next year, and I make this statement, realizing that I am going to continue as a member of the Legion as long as I live, and will see you gentlemen many times, I say that you cannot have a magazine on the conditions laid down in the majority report. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move for the previous question.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion is to reconsider the vote taken. The motion was duly seconded. Those favoring that motion to reconsider will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it. We will now take a new roll call for the adoption or rejection of the minority report.

SECRETARY WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest a short delay so that the delegations may caucus for two or three minutes. The chairman has directed me to state the parliamentary situation. The motion last before the house was to reconsider the adoption of the minority report. The motion to reconsider was carried. The present roll call

is on the adoption of the minority report. Those voting aye will vote for the adoption of the minority report. *(The roll was called and the votes recorded.)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will make the report, gentlemen, while the vote is being counted. Order, please.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: The transportation people in charge of the Pullman Company have announced that unless the most of you delegates who are returning tonight do return tonight, it is quite probable, since they must return their Pullmans from Minneapolis to Chicago, that half of you will not get out of here for thirty-six to forty-eight hours, unless you go tonight. That is merely a suggestion to do all you can conveniently to expedite the convention.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will announce the vote.

SECRETARY WOOD: The total vote cast is 684. 384 ayes, 300 nos.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion now is to be made for the adoption of the report as amended.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MO): I move the adoption of the report as amended. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It has been moved and seconded that the report as amended be adopted.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (AZ): Point of information.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Point of information; state it.

THE DELEGATE: Will you please have the secretary state the exact motion on which we are voting before we vote?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will make the statement.

SECRETARY WOOD: The last motion was to substitute new paragraphs for paragraph four and five of the majority report. The motion to adopt those substitutes has just been carried. The motion now goes back, or whether a motion is in order to adopt the majority report as amended.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion as made is for the adoption of the majority report as amended. Those favoring that motion will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): I appeal from the decision of the chair.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, just one moment, please. May I make a statement? When this program for these three days was arranged, the National Executive Committee invited the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, the commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, and the commander-in-chief of the United Spanish War Veterans to be here and deliver addresses. It was then believed that that could be done on the afternoon of Armistice Day in the public square here. That was impossible, as you know, because of the weather.

There are here now two gentlemen representing the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans, and they have asked your unanimous consent to take five minutes or less, in which to extend to you, this wonderful, young organization, greetings from those two organizations which grew out of our Civil War. With your consent I shall first introduce ex-Governor Samuel Van Sant, who is to extend greetings on behalf of the Department of Minnesota, by direction of the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. I have great pleasure in introducing to you, gentlemen, ex-Governor Van Sant. *(Standing Applause)*

Greetings: Minnesota Department of the Grand Army of the Republic
Samuel Van Sant, Former Governor of Minnesota

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Convention, I have a very pleasant duty to perform. I have been delegated to present the greetings of the Minnesota Department of the Grand Army of the Republic to your organization. If the weather was as warm as our greetings there would be sunstroke here today. *(Laughter and applause)*

We have confidence in The American Legion, and we believe that you will, during the next fifty years as we have for the past half century, teach the sublime lesson of patriotism so essential to the national life. If I had any doubt about the future of our country, that has been relieved when I have looked into your fighting faces here today. I have no doubt of the future. We have fought the greatest battles, won the greatest victories upon victories. In all our wars we have never had to depend upon hired help to defend the flag. There has always been a supporting column, and there always will be for the Stars and Stripes. *(Applause)*

I pledge you, my comrades, that the Minnesota Department of the Grand Army of the Republic will stand with The American Legion of Minnesota, and ever keep Minnesota one hundred percent American, and we will follow your slogan of, "America First, last and all the time." *(Applause)*

There is one here greater than I who will present the greetings of the whole Grand Army of the Republic, including all the states and territories, my beloved comrade, the Honorable El Torrence, past commander-in-chief of that Grand Army of the Republic. I now introduce Judge Torrence. *(Standing applause)*

Greetings: Grand Army of the Republic
Honorable Eliakim Torrence, Past Commander-in-Chief

Mr. Chairman, men of The American Legion, the new Grand Army of the Republic, in behalf of the old Grand Army of the Republic, and by direction of its commander-in-chief, I extend to you the most cordial and hearty greetings. We are in complete sympathy with the principles upon which The American Legion is established, and we pledge you our earnest support in maintaining them. I recognize in you the unconquerable defenders of a rational and well-regulated democracy. *(Applause)*

And above all, I recognize in you the champions of American liberty. You were selected by your government to perform a great work in a great crisis at a great cost, and you completed your task with distinguished honor to yourselves and to the complete satisfaction of your admiring countrymen. Except for what you and your comrades did, America today might lie under the heel of her enemies. No gratitude can be too deep, nor any praise excessive in acknowledgement of your faithful services and gallant behavior in the Great World's War.

Never in all history was the torch of liberty raised so high as your brave hands lifted it, and, palsied be the arm that would seek to lower it, or the tongue whose words would quench its light. Soldiers of liberty, you did not carry the American flag abroad to return home and see it degraded in the land of its birth. From the hour that the United States declared war against Germany our domiciled enemies left untried no scheme that hatred and malice could devise to undermine and destroy the priceless heritage for which you were fighting, and in defense of which so many of your heroic comrades poured out their warm, red life-blood of their youthful hearts. Certainly you can have no fellowship with these enemies of your country. They are all equally bad from the bomb-throwers to the Bolshevists. One may be more violent in his destructiveness than the other, but the final objective is the same.

In these critical times there is but one brand of good citizenship which cannot be graded like grain or merchandise, but is either one hundred percent American or it is fraught with peril to the institutions of your country. This government was established by Americans for Americans, and it cannot be changed into a government of Bolshevism, by Bolshevists, and for Bolshevists. The American Legion will see that that never happens, gentlemen. *(Applause)*

Gentlemen of The American Legion, I envy you the privileges and the years of usefulness that lie before you. You went over the top in France, and the forces of evil in America will ever and ever strive in vain to submerge you on this side of the Atlantic. The fact that you have done so much for your country imposes upon you the further duty of

rendering your country still greater service in the years to come. You are to stand guard, at every listening post of danger, and see that no peril befalls the republic. You are to remain steadfast and unafraid when the waves of peril mount high, and you must keep the ship of state true to her ordained course.

Each generation must furnish its own torch bearers of freedom, and it avails nothing what former generations have done, if, from the failing hands of those who throw the torch, there are none to lift it high. Our faith is supreme in you, and if you fail, if you fail, America dies.

In behalf, therefore, of the Grand Army of the Republic, whose work is about completed, I leave to you the performance of the sacred duties to which you have been called and which are greater than those that ever rested upon a former generation. United as you are in the bonds of a national patriotism, that knows no North, no South, no East, no West, you will prove yourselves equal to every test and task. The spirit of Grant and the spirit of Lee will inspire you, and the memory of the heroic dead will freshen your souls and impel you to achieve victories of peace no less renowned than those achieved upon the fields of battle.

May fraternity, charity and loyalty bind you together individually and as an organization and may The American Legion live forever in the hearts of all those who love justice and who seek the triumph of freedom and the right. *(Standing applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: One moment, we are not through. Be seated. When your National Executive Committee invited the United Confederate Veterans' commander-in-chief to be here, he, from my own State of Texas, wired that it was impossible for him to come, and asked me if I would not designate someone to represent him; and I wired back and said, "We want someone here to represent you and represent that spirit of that gallant force who fought under Lee for years in the Southern army." And this significant thing is true, my comrades, he selected as the man to represent the Spirit of the South, Governor Van Sant of the Grand Army of the Republic. I present him.

Greetings: United Confederate Veterans
Samuel Van Sant, Former Governor of Minnesota

Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the Convention, it was no uncommon thing for the members of the same family to be on either side during our Great War, and I hope to meet here and greet here General Van Zandt, who is commander-in-chief of the Federal Army. And I would like to take him by the hand, for we are brothers now. Under the environment under which he was raised, he fought nobly and gallantly and properly for his side during that great war. *(Applause)*

And I can say here that no man ever made greater sacrifices for what they believed to be right than the men who fought on the other side. The glory of Lee is not of them alone. General Lee was an American general. *(Applause)*

I have good reason to represent the South. My home is in the South six months in the year. I live down in Southern Florida and am going there day after tomorrow. *(Applause)*

I rejoice, my friends, that we are united people, and we are. All the asperities and animosities that were, have passed away, and I am glad to see these men from the South meeting with the men from the North in a united country for a hundred million. They will never fail in anything they take up. I want to tell one instance to show the spirit of the old Confederates down in Alabama. *(Applause)*

Down in Alabama, when I was commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the great city of Birmingham, we had a joint meeting of the Blue and the Gray, and on the platform were seated Yank and Johnnie, Yank and Johnnie all along the line. That was one of those meetings that nobody liked to leave. Everybody spoke, and still nobody would go. Finally they called an old Confederate out of the audience, and he came up and made the best speech of all. He was as tall as I am short, and his head reached up in the decorations. This

is what he said, he was a lover of the old flag. He said to that flag, "It is true, it is true I fought against you. I fought against you, but if you are ever in danger again I will fight as hard for you as I fought against you." *(Applause)*

That is the sentiment that prevailed. No North, no South, but Americans alike.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: One moment, gentlemen. I think, my comrades, it is peculiarity proper just now for a communication to be read to you, relative to which you can take such action as you like, because it does not depend now on these old veterans whether this country is going to be safe, and in some years it will not depend on us. It will depend on the boys, and this communication comes here to you:

Five hundred Boy Scouts reported for duty with the Convention, acting as committees of welcome, ushers, guides, messengers for the general headquarters, as well as the different state secretaries. On every hand we hear commendation of their prompt, cheerful and efficient service. A word from you in the form of a letter or some recognition of these services from the floor will help them greatly in the future and spur them on to greater effort.

As Boy Scouts now, as citizens in the very near future, a word of appreciation from the officers and the delegates of this Convention would inspire every Boy Scout in America to continue faithful to his oath, to serve God, his country and his fellows, to serve others and keep physically strong, mentally erect and morally straight; and remember there are 500,000 of us in this country.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I present that to you for such action as you desire to take.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move that this Convention extend its cordial thanks to the Boy Scouts who have rendered such distinguished service on this occasion. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move an amendment that the Resolutions Committee be instructed to form appropriate resolutions and that a copy be sent to the Boy Scouts.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion before you is to extend proper thanks, and have a proper resolution prepared relative to these services. All in favor will vote aye. Contrary no. Unanimously carried.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move a recess of forty-five minutes to get something to eat.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that we have a recess for forty-five minutes, that is, two-thirty. Those favoring, vote aye. Contrary, no.

... At 1:43 p.m., the Convention recessed to reconvene at 2:30 p.m., the same day.

PROCEEDINGS
Third Day

Wednesday, November 12, 1919
Afternoon Session

...The Convention was called to order at 2:45 p.m. by Chairman Lindsley.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The Convention will come to order, gentlemen. Be seated, immediately please. The secretary will make some announcements.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: I will now read, at the direction of the chairman, two or three telegrams received during the noon hour. This is a telegram from Chicago to The American Legion, "The farmers of the United States from Maine to California send their love to their soldier and sailor boys and congratulate them on their national organization. We shall insist upon a fair and generous consideration of all your matters today. We are also organizing nationally the American Federation of Farm Buyers, with an enrollment of some 500,000 members. We hope that our future enrollment will keep pace with yours, and both organizations may serve all the people of the United States or perish." *(Applause)*

This is a telegram from Indianapolis to the chairman of the Legion, "Greetings from Service Star Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana to The American Legion. The Service Star Legion, composed of mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of Christian women in the service of their country in the World's War rejoices that your body is to make Indianapolis its headquarters, and pledges to you its loyal support and service in advancing its best interest of your organization. We welcome you to Indianapolis."

This is from Dunson, Texas, "Big American Legion Armistice Day Parade three hundred uniformed service men in line added a hundred new members and citizens benefit got a thousand dollars."

This is from Jamestown, North Dakota, "Ernest Robertson Post, Jamestown, N.D. sends greetings and praise for your success and pledges it hearty support."

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will have the resolution read first.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I have a telegram here from the Queens County organization of The American Legion. It reads, "Try and put the deportation proposition through. Absolute necessity for this. Call attention to the murder of three of our members in the State of Washington yesterday."

Gentlemen, I move you that our Committee on Resolutions be instructed to forward to the relatives and friends of these boys who died yesterday, the condolence of this organization in Convention assembled. That was passed this morning. Gentlemen, I want to say this: We have got a batch of work. You can put it through if you will. It means absolutely order. The chair is not going to proceed with any business this afternoon unless there is absolutely order, and it is with you to determine whether you will have a hurrah for a while or not. The Convention will stop its deliberations until there is order. The gentlemen, as they come in, will be immediately seated.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: This is a telegram from New York, suggesting a resolution for the consideration of this body. It is signed by the District organization, second New York District: "We respectfully suggest that a resolution be adopted commending those veterans who, at Centralia, Washington, on Armistice Day, defended lawfully confined prisoners, who had killed three of their number. To our mind the act was a typical demonstration of One Hundred Percent Americanism."

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We have another report, gentlemen.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: Resolution. **Resolved, that The American Legion accept with sincere appreciation the touching thought given it by the Republic of France, and this convention direct its President to convey its thanks in behalf of the American People for this most appealing tribute.**

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MI): I move we adopt the resolution as read.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The first resolution?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The resolution that has been read.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The second resolution. Those favoring, vote aye, contrary no. Carried.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I will ask you, gentlemen, if you desire to present a resolution to the member of The American Legion, who, at Centralia, Washington, on Armistice Day, defended lawfully confined prisoners who had killed three of their number. If you wish to commend that act of law and order on behalf of The American Legion under exceptionally trying circumstances.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. It is moved and seconded that this convention commend the members of The American Legion who defended lawfully confined American prisoners. Those favoring vote aye. Contrary no. It is carried. There is a supplemental report, I understand, from the Committee on Military Affairs. It will be read.

Report: Committee on Military Policy
L.V. Patch, Idaho, Chairman

DELEGATE GOLDENGAY (NJ): The Committee on Military Policy evidently forgot that they had a United States Navy. *(Applause)*

With the consent of Chairman L.V. Patch of Idaho, and the other members of the committee, I asked for unanimous consent to add to their recommendations of yesterday the following clause: "We favor the adoption of an adequate Navy, both in construction and personnel, to properly protect our coasts, with the creation of a citizens navy in the same manner as provided for the creation of a citizen army."

And also in the tenth paragraph, to add: "That the training of the future army and navy of the United States be referred to the Army and Navy Committees of Congress."

The addition of the words "to the committees." That is necessary because the Army Committee should have nothing to do with the Navy affairs.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move the adoption by unanimous consent.

...Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the motion to the effect that that be incorporated in the original report. The motion was duly seconded. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring vote aye, contrary no. It is carried. The Committee on Beneficial Legislation will report.

Report: Committee on Beneficial Legislation
Luke Lea, Tennessee, Chairman

Mr. Chairman, your committee on Beneficial Legislation met and organized Monday afternoon at 4 p.m. and after several sessions of many hours duration, submits the following unanimous report. *(Applause)*

The report is very long, gentlemen, but as nine-tenths of the reports deal with those who are our first care and consideration; namely, the wounded and disabled, the committee feels sure the convention will hear it patiently.

Your Committee on Beneficial Legislation met and organized Monday afternoon at 4 p.m. and after several sessions of many hours duration, submits the following unanimous report. Beneficial legislation on vocation and compensation for the wounded and disabled men:

1. That we memorialize Congress and urge that the appropriation of all United States funds to properly carry on the work of the Federal Board of Vocational Education, as needed by the board, be made promptly.

2. The committee recommends that the immediate passage of a bill H.R. 8778, known as the Sweet Bill, be urged upon Congress amending, however, the compensation feature

so as to include the same family allowance as is authorized Section 204 of the War Risk Act.

3. Request that Congress be urged to grant authority to the Bureau of War Risk Insurance to establish fourteen regional offices, and to urge all government agencies having to do with service men the necessity of having all of their officers under roof.

4. Recommend to Congress the enactment of legislation making sufficient appropriation to provide adequate hospital and sanitorium facilities for the care and treatment of all persons discharged from the military and naval service of the United States, and to provide medical and surgical treatment to any of the persons mentioned above, irrespective of the service origin or aggravation of their disability, for one year subsequent to the passage of the act; this in addition to the medical and surgical treatment now provided by law.

5. Request that all disabled ex-service men and women of the military and naval service of the United States be permitted to go to the best hospitals, that they may be treated by their own physicians if they so desire.

6. Recommend that the following bills, or some similar bills, looking to the reimbursement, by the government, of all disabled men for the loans which they necessarily obtained from the Red Cross and other welfare organizations for their support while waiting for their assignment for vocational training or education.

Resolutions for an act of Congress to provide for disabled soldiers between the time of discharge and entrance upon training.

WHEREAS, the immensity of this task, the large numbers of individuals to be provided for, the detail and consideration of manifold problems involved in the proper performance thereof, render it physically impossible to consummate the duties imposed by statute, and a high devotion to the disabled soldiers, at a rate of speed sufficient to provide compensation for rehabilitation for them without unavoidable delays, and an interval between the time of discharge and the time of receipt of first pay check for a course of training for rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, this has necessitated and will necessitate for some time to come the borrowing of money from private or semi-public cooperating organization or becoming dependent on family or other relatives for such period as is necessitated for the care of an provision for those entitled to priority of discharge to the prior services of the several governmental agencies, so therefore,

BE IT UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION in Convention assembled that it is the duty of Congress to provide, and Congress is hereby respectfully requested and urged to provide by law with the least possible delay, the following: A special payment of $75 per month to be paid officers, marines, soldiers and sailors disabled by tuberculosis, and a special payment of $50 per month to be paid to other disabled officers, soldiers, sailors and marines of the United States Array and Navy who served during the periods specified in the War Risk Insurance Act and the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, and who have been or may be discharged from the United States Military or Naval Hospitals with an honorable discharge showing a disability, or who shall develop a disability traceable to their service and apply for compensation within three months. Said bonus of $75 and $50 per month, respectively, is to be automatically due from date of discharge and shall be paid by the War Department or Navy Department out of special funds which Congress is asked to appropriate for that purpose, and shall be paid continuously from time of discharge until award of compensation or entrance upon a course of training for rehabilitation. Provided, however that when an award of compensation shall have been made as provided in H.R. 8778, commonly known as the Sweet Bill, the sums so paid shall be deducted from the amount of arrears of compensation awarded, unless the compensation awarded be less than the sum so paid, in which case no refund shall be required of the amount in excess of said arrears of compensation and provided further that if no award of compensation be made before the disabled soldier enters

upon a course of training only such sum of arrears of compensation shall be paid to said soldier as such award may be in excess of the bonus paid for the period between discharge and entrance upon his course of training.

7. Recommend that The American Legion continue its co-operation with the Federal Board of Vocational Education, Bureau of War Risk Insurance, and Public Health Service in informing and educating all members of the Legion and other ex-service men in their rights under the provisions of the various acts administered by said agencies, thereby dispelling, so far as possible, any bad impressions that may have resulted from unwarranted newspaper criticisms.

8. Recommend that the provisions of Section 3 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act be extended so as to include all disabled persons.

9. That paragraph 2, Section 2, of Senate Resolution No. 4557, the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, as amended by Senate Resolution No. 1213, approved July 11, 1919, be amended to read as follows: The board shall have the power, and it shall be its duty, to furnish the persons included in this section suitable courses of vocational rehabilitation, to be prescribed and provided by the board; and every person electing to follow such a course of vocational rehabilitation shall, while following the same, be paid monthly by the said board from the appropriation hereinafter provided, such sum as in the judgment of the said board is necessary for his maintenance and support of persons depending upon him, if any: Provided, however, that in no event shall the sums so paid such person while pursuing such course be less than $100 per month for a single man without dependents; for a man with dependents, $120 per month, plus the several sums prescribed as family allowances under Section 204 of Article 2 of the War Risk Insurance Act.

Be it further provided that we recommend the enactment of legislation which shall permit or enable the Federal Board of Vocational Education to pay the necessary traveling expenses of an applicant and his dependents while he may be performing necessary travel in connection with his course of training, and while traveling under order of the said federal board.

10. That a resolution regarding equality of disability pay to all officer and enlisted personnel of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, where the disability way occasioned incident to service in the war with the Central Powers of Europe, be enacted, to-wit:

WHEREAS, the officers and enlisted personnel entering the army from civil life during the recent war bore the same risks, the same responsibilities and burdens under identical conditions with officers and enlisted men of the regular army, and

WHEREAS, the National Guard, National Army and Reserve Corps officers have been discharged on disabilities ranging from ten percent to total, which means that they receive after discharge only $3.00 to $30.00 per month, while a regular Army Officer, if he is unfit for active duty, is retired on three fourth of his pay with additional amounts for commutation of heat, light and quarters, and

WHEREAS, the present laws and regulations constitute an unjust discrimination in favor of a certain class of our military forces, to-wit the regular army, and this discrimination being in principle un-American and unworthy the practice of a great democracy;

BE IT RESOLVED, by this National Convention of The American Legion that the existing laws and regulations do unjustly and unwisely discriminate in favor of persons whose interests were no greater and who service was of no greater benefit to the nation, and that such discrimination has a tendency to place the several branches of our military system on a different status, thereby causing friction and injustice, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Convention of The American Legion heartily endorses the resolution on this subject adopted by the St. Louis Caucus of the Legion, and we again request that the Congress of the United States do amend the present laws so as to place all disabled officers and enlisted personnel on

the same basis as to retirement for their disability whether they happened to serve in the regular army, the national guard, the national army, or the reserve corps.

11. That it is the opinion of The American Legion that in the administration of the compensation features of the War Risk Insurance Act that the greatest liberality be shown in determining the ratings, and that in case of question as to the rights to compensation or as to the amount of compensation or as to the amount of compensation, the disabled soldier be given the benefit of any doubt that may arise.

12. That legislation be enacted providing that any person who has been eligible and who has received the benefits of the War Risk or Vocational Rehabilitation Act, or any other act for the relief of disabled service men or women, shall suffer the recurrence of the disease or other disability resulting from military or naval service, such person shall again become automatically eligible to all the provisions of such acts without the formalities now required, to the end that speedy relief may be extended to such persons; that all tubercular persons shall be considered totally and permanently disabled while undergoing treatment.

13. That the following legislation affecting former service persons securing educational courses be enacted, said resolution known as the Kahn Resolution — H. J. Resolution. "That in the interpretation of Section 42 of the Act of Congress, approved June 3, 1916, and Section 50 of said Act as amended by Joint Resolution of Congress of September 8th, 1916, credit shall be given as for service in the junior or senior division of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps to any member of those divisions for any period or periods of training during which such members shall have been in active service in the Army of the United States or shall have received intensive training under the supervision of the War Department or shall have pursued a course of military training in any organization authorized by any law of the United States, the amount of such credit to be determined by regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of War."

14. That the National Legislative Committee of The American Legion be empowered and directed to investigate all complaints of the irregularities and the injustices suffered by disabled service men and women in the administration of the War Risk, Vocational rehabilitation, and other beneficial acts and to urge legislation to remedy the same insofar as such legislation may not be covered in this report and is not inconsistent with anything herein contained.

The next subject is land development and home aid legislation.

15. WHEREAS, The American Legion in National Convention assembled, has before it a number of bills purporting to be of benefit to those persons who served honorably in the military and naval forces of the United States, and

WHEREAS, none of the proposed bills make adequate provision for the needs of the proposed beneficiaries, and

WHEREAS, delay would be most disastrous;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we request the immediately enactment of a law to be known as the American Legion Home Founding Act, embodying the following features:

l. Reclamation of unproductive lands by direct government operation for settlement by service men and women.

2. Reclamation and development of rural communities by loans of government credit for settlement of such communities by servicemen and women.

3. Direct loans to service men and women for the purchase and development of farms.

4. Direct loans to service men and women for the purchase of city homes.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

1. That the administration of the same be decentralized.

2. That no heavy financial restriction be imposed.

3. That the right of eminent domain be incorporated to prevent speculation.

4. That the provision of such act shall be administered by former service men, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a committee of five be appointed by the National Executive Committee to be known as the Committee on Land and Home Aid to secure this needed legislation.

16. Adjusted Compensation

WHEREAS, the question of adjustment of compensation or extra pay for service men and women is now pending before the Congress, and before acting thereon the Congress has shown the disposition to await the views of this convention on that subject, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that while The American Legion was not founded for the purpose of promoting legislation in its own selfish interest, yet it recognized that our government owes an obligation to all service men and women to relieve the financial disadvantages incidental to their military service -- an obligation second only to that of caring for the disabled and for widows and orphans of those who sacrificed their lives and one already acknowledge by our Allies -- but The American Legion feels that it cannot ask for legislation in its own selfish interest, and leaves with confidence to the Congress the discharge of this obligation.

17. The committee desires to record its thanks to the disabled service men and the representatives of various organization who have given the committee the benefit of their advice and information upon the subjects above referred to.

Respectfully submitted. Luke Lea, chairman, Cummins, secretary.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MI): Quite a collection. I request the chairman of the committee, as a correction, to substitute, wherever "the soldier" appears, the words "ex-service men and women"; and also wherever the word, "military and naval." appears, the addition, "military and naval and Marine Corps."

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chairman accepts the amendment.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LEA: For the purpose of bringing the resolution before the house for discussion, the chairman of the committee moves its adoption. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I move that the last paragraph of Section 16 be stricken out, and the following substituted, and,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that The American Legion has implicit faith that Congress will frame proper legislation for an equitable compensation based on length of service with suitable…

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the amendment be tabled.

DELEGATE MCILDOWNEY (PA): I move you, Sir, that paragraph sixteen be stricken from the report of the Committee. *...Second.*

DELEGATE DONOVAN (MA): Gentlemen of this Convention, I want to call your attention in the first place, to paragraph one in which this Legion goes on record as in favor of the work of the Board of Vocational Training. I call your attention to paragraph seven, in which they say that all newspapers who have made or given any bad impression that that result of unwarranted criticisms be taken care of, and I ask you gentlemen, was the Legion unwarranted in their criticism of this war? *(Applause)*

I move you, sir, that those paragraphs be stricken from the record, and let The American Legion stand, on its own feet, as red-blooded fighting men, and condemn the Board of Vocational Training for their work in the last nineteen months. *(Applause)*

I am not here speaking for myself. I am speaking for every man who has had dealings with that board. There are only one or two that I have ever met, who have said that they have received a square deal, and only within the last two months have they done any work, and they have done that because of the criticisms of the members of the Legion and the members of the press. *(Applause)*

Furthermore, I want that sixteenth paragraph stricken out also. The Congress has asked of The American Legion an expression on extra compensation. Are we going to be weather vanes or are we going to be men? We told them we want it. Do we want some Congressman to get the benefit or saying that he pushed that through, or do we want to add

to our membership three million of service men, who will say that we have accomplished the results which you and I and every service man knows belongs to us. *(Applause)*

Mr. Chairman, I have waited, and have never been on my feet before. I have seen the "gag rule" applied in this Convention, and there is no man that is going to "gag" me when I am talking for the armless, legless and eyeless. There is no man going to make me quit when my boys in the hospital are crying out for aid. *(Applause)*

I will do a little different from the rest of them. I will talk from the side of the hall. I seem to be on a different platform than a number of the people who are running or attempting to run this Convention.

Mr. Chairman, the reason that I am here is to put this Legion on the record to one thing and one thing alone, and that is for a square deal coming directly from this Legion and members of this Legion. The Bolshevists will try to take credit for your work and my work. We have been asked by Congress to come through with a regular plan, or a plan on which they may work, and a plan on which they can devise extra compensation for the men in the army and the navy and the marine corps. Are we going to quit men, or are we going to fight for them?

I make, as an amendment to the sixteenth chapter, this ruling for one dollar a day extra compensation for every man and woman in the service of the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps during the period of the war; and I put on, in addition to that, a ruling whereby they may have, if they would rather have it, land to be reclaimed, and the proper amount of money from the government to put that on a proper basis. I give you those two to select from, so that the men of the big metropolises may have their proper claims and the men from the Western part of the country may have that which may of better benefit to them. But, gentlemen, I ask you this: Don't let any man or woman delegate in this Convention go back to their post and emblazon through the press that we are not here fighting red-bloodily for what is our just due, and if we do nothing else in this Convention we will have removed it from politics. We will show them that we know what the people want. We will be two-fisted, red-blooded fighting men in peace as well as in war. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is there a second. Is there a second to that motion?

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LEA: Chairman, I am sure that this convention will show same fair play to the committee that the committee desires and intends to show to every delegate here. The gentleman from Massachusetts is wrong in this. Every one of us stand on the same platform, and that platform is to do the best, first, for the wounded and disabled, and then for every soldier and sailor who wore his country's uniform. *(Applause)*

This committee, hear me, is asking more for the wounded and disabled, and more for all other servicemen and women than the gentleman from Massachusetts. In the first place, the gentleman has misunderstood this resolution number one. It does not commend the Vocational Board or any other Board, resolution number seven does not condemn any newspaper that told the truth, but only unwarranted articles that were published to breed distrust in a governmental agency. And then this committee has come forward and said our government should view two things: First, it should loan money to enable servicemen and women to buy homes in the country or in the city, and in addition to that it should give them extra pay.

Now, if you want to strike that out and make it optional, then you can take up the motions that have been presented to you. There is only one point upon which the committee disagrees. It says that an obligation is due. Is it not due to every serviceman and woman? But we say, as we are interested, we will not name the amount in the bond, but will leave it to the legislative branch of our government, in which we have confidence. We do not know what the future may bring forth. We do know whether our currency will become further debased, and one dollar a day will be too much or too little; and therefore we name no amount, because we are not going to let any man or woman ever say that The American Legion had made a proposition that these great heroes, who wore their country's uniform,

had been paid in full, and that they have tendered a receipt for so much per day to the government. *(Applause)*

Though it's not the slightest bit of doubt that Congress is going to do both of these things, it is going to make a great investment by enabling many an American man and woman to own his own heme, either in the country or in the city. And in addition to that it is going to right the financial wrong that is done and equalize their pay.

Therefore, on behalf of the committee, we urge the adoption of this report, not because it is perfect, but because it was the best that the representatives from 48 different states could get together and bring before you for your consideration; first, to take care of them who it is our sacred trust, our blessed privilege to care for the wounded and disabled and second to equalize any wrong that may have been done to any other man or woman who marched under the colors of this great country. *(Applause)*

DELEGATE GALBRAITH (OH): Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the Convention, as a man who has given a great deal of thought to the subject, I agree in the recommendation.

I agree in the recommendations of the committee except in one regard, and that is on the question of the equalization of compensation. If The American Legion is not going to face a condition, and make a reply to the men who are going to pass these laws, then why is it that we do not? We can say, if you please, that it is because we do not need to render a receipt in full, or for any other reason.

If you are going to ask something, not for the men who are here in this Convention, not a man here in this Convention can be charged with wanting something for himself, I hope, but there are a great proportion of men who believe that they suffered financial loss, and that it will be impossible for the government to equalize the compensation adequately. The man who was drafted, the labor, the forces of the United States are not drafted into the United States, if labor had been drafted, they would have been on a par. They were not. A man was permitted to remain at home. He got wages that were beyond his highest hope, and the man that fought, and the man that was ready to fight, was paid at the rate of thirty dollars a month. If you are justified in asking for an equalization of compensation, then you are justified in saying it shall not be too much. It shall be something.

I proposed one dollar per day for each day of service for those in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, and enlisted nurses, and as a matter of detail, and very important detail, I urge that the money be paid in bonds in dimensions of fifty dollars script, in order the men may not have the cash, that he may be the saving kind of a man, that it may make him a partner in the federal government, that he may know what a government bond is, and want to continue to own them, that he can go to the bank and borrow on them at six percent, and the bonds bear interest at four and three-quarters and five. I believe it will be a fair thing to state that The American Legion, in Convention assembled, believes that this is not adequate compensation, but may possibly compensate them for what someone else gets that they missed. *(Applause)*.

DELEGATE COLSTON (KY): I have personally been all the time against the bonus, but after seeing what you have done here for the disabled men, I am one of you, of course, but the overwhelming majority of the men who do not need assistance have been so unselfish as to consider first of all those of us who have not been so fortunate. The greatest and best of the American, true American, spirit I ever heard. The best spirit I ever heard anywhere I saw manifested.

Now, is it fair and is it right that those who were disabled and are being adequately cared for, and you are seeing to it that they shall be cared for in a way that we never had been, that no other government has ever intended or will care for disabled men. There are those who have not been disabled, but have suffered irreparable losses in other ways, but should be adequately cared for. I know, in Louisville, any number of men who have given up more lucrative positions, and left larger families than I, who are not now able to earn as much as they would before, and as much as they should at the present, cost of living, where they have not been disabled.

Gentlemen, should they not be at least in an economical way, cared for? I believe that the plan of the last speaker is a most excellent plan. Especially do I believe so, that it should be an excellent plan for such of my fellow Americans who, like myself, were born and raised abroad, and do not yet fully realize what the American government means. When they have a material partnership with the American government they will realize more firmly and strongly, and it will make better Americans of them. I wish every American could have a direct and material interest in the American government.

DELEGATE JANNEY (MD): In listening to the report of the committee, I was struck with the fact that it had hit what, in my opinion, was a remarkably well-considered, the termination of the questions before this Convention. Like all speakers, who have stood on this platform, if not here, on the other side, I believe in the right of the American, and those members of the Legion, to the compensation which has been discussed, but let us remember, gentlemen, that we are here as The American Legion itself. Let us not put ourselves in the position where those who may disagree with our conclusions may say we have written another word in our preamble, and that, instead of being, "For God and Country," we are for "Me and God and Country." That is a bad combination. *(Applause)*

The bonus question is more gratefully left in the hands of our legislatures, and our Congress, and I have confidence in what the committee has expressed, that they will do that which is needed, and if they do not do as we may deem dignified and proper, and in conformity with the principles of this Legion, that we stand where we stand, and the people will see that no wrong is done.

DELEGATE MCILDOWNEY (PA): Today the country and Congress is waiting for an expression from this convention. The American people owe a debt to those who were wounded or disabled in this World War. We recognize that they are looking for an expression as to how they shall repay that debt. We are telling them, that, shall we say to the American people, that those of us who are able to go out and work with our two hands and two feet to-day, and earn a livelihood, that they owe us a paltry dollar a day for every day we served in the United States Army and Navy. The gentlemen from Pennsylvania do believe so. *(Applause)*

And we desire to return a confidence of the people, not of those four million men who served in the war only, but the hundred million people who reside in this nation. We desire to retain their confidence in our ability to act on constructive legislation and not destructive legislation, and we do not wish to add our body to those who to-day are causing constructive disturbance over this country by commanding that the hundred millions of people in this country shall go into debt millions of dollars in order to give them more wages or more money. *(Applause)*

What we need today is work more than anything else, and we put ourselves on the side of constructive legislation, which means work for all and work everybody.

DELEGATE DONOVAN (MA): Just let me talk here. Let us go into the steel mills of Pennsylvania, and take a caucus there, and find out that John Jones went in the service of the United States Army and received $30.00 a month, and that John Brown "stuck" to his job, claimed alien or some other exemption and got $90.00 a week. *(Applause)*

I was an officer. The most of you men here, I believe, have been officers but, we are a great representative body, gentlemen. We are representing not merely one million men throughout the United States. We reflect, as Americans, the sentiment of five million other men in the United States. Gentlemen, I say to you, we do not want a bonus. We are not asking any charity, but I say to you that our men should receive that compensation. We did not go into this war with any contract of what we should get. If the government paid only a $1.00 a month I believe these men, you men, all the men, who were in the service, would have gone just the same. But we are back now. Those "lounge lizards" got in the ship building and munitions-making. I tell, they ought to be made to pay, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, and I say to you that the support of the country will be behind you if you state to Congress, without reservation, "give these men their just compensation," and we will let Congress settle the matter of bonus.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I recognize Mr. Hoffman, of Oklahoma.

DELEGATE HOFFMAN (OK): I cannot be honest with the soldiers of our state if we do not let you know how we feel about the question of bonus. Don't let that be to my discredit. Our boys down there, by a unanimous vote, decided they did not want this bonus. *(Applause)*

You do not reach quite, it seems to me, to the proper principles. You are trying to place a cash value upon the services rendered when you say, "Give us this much money." You know what happened in St. Louis. We floundered around in St. Louis trying to get our stride, when John Inzer came up and told what we were all thinking about and breathed the spirit of God into this organization. Are you going to repudiate it now by saying you can square this service by giving us this money?

All the American soldier wants is an opportunity, a chance to get a home. This home provision is right. We are for everything in these resolutions for the rehabilitation of the wounded, but do not smirch or discredit this honorable service by saying to the Congress of the United States, "You have got to pay us this money," and especially at this time the government is being hammered from every side, are they going to have to say to the patriotism of this country "You too Brutus." If you want this, there will be time in the future to do this. This money in a lump sum won't do the boys any good. You are a mule if you say it will. That is all right. I have seen it. The $60.00 didn't last long.

I have heard all the argument brought up for the bonus. They say we will not get a membership unless you hold this bait out. If that is what brings members, then we don't want them. *(Applause)*

DELEGATE O'BRIEN (MO): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I am O'Brien from Missouri, a buck private for twenty-five months in the army, excepting about seven months as regimental sergeant-major, a man who stands with the enlisted men of this convention, one who does not need any bonus himself, but one who realizes the statements that have been said from Massachusetts are absolutely correct.

One who realizes that there was a great difference between the pay of the boy who fought, the pay of the boy who feathered, and the pay of the man who stayed back in the mines, in the factories and on the railroad. When we got back, we found that those fellows' wages had been raised 50, 75 and 100 percent. In a local post a vote was taken among railroad boys, and those railroad boys voted 75 percent. Sixty-six of them voted for a bonus and for a definite bonus, eight officers voted against it, and I voted against it then. But I am representing the boys, that bunch of boys, when I come before the Convention and ask you to pass the thought back to Congress, when Congress passed the buck to us and said, "Fix it."

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I rise to a point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is the point of order?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The gentleman speaking is drawing a line between officers and enlisted men. I say he is out of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: He is out of order. The point of order is well taken.

DELEGATE O'BRIEN: Pardon me, I have not attempted to draw any line, my dear friend. I am only trying to bring before you the condition of the boys who have come home and received the $60.00 bonus that has been charged it was soon gone. Gentlemen, when I bought my clothes, $50,00 went for a suit of clothes; and where was the other $10.00? A few meals and she was gone. I say, "Fix it." Give a $1.00 a day for every day in the service and give them everything else that is in reason and that is right. I ask you to put up this question back to Congress, hurl the question back to Congress and tell them we want a $1.00 a day for every day we were in the service.

DELEGATE JOHNSON (SD): Mr. Chairman, I want to endorse the resolutions that have been brought before the convention by the gentlemen from Tennessee, because I believe they are absolutely fair and recognize all of the facts that will affect men who saw service in the American Army. I have disagreed with him about many things in my life, but as chairman of that committee, coming from another part of the country, having

different views from what many of us have, I want to say that he met the situation, has taken care of vocational training, has looked after the wounded men, has recognized the fact that Congress passed the buck to us, and has not passed it back but has met the situation, and has done the things that you can go out in your own town, in your own state, in your own community, and with your friends and justify it. I think that a reading of the amendments or the part of the resolution under discussion would be of benefit to this convention, because many of the men who have discussed different parts of different actions seem to have no conception of the phraseology that has been used.

Now, section 16 recognizes the obligation rests upon this government for a bonus, but it does not use the word. It recognizes it as compensation. Personally, I would much prefer to put that in three words, or five words, and say we are for or against a bonus, but this Convention ought to realize that what we say here will have some effect upon Congress. We ought not to endorse any particular bill for the fortunes of any particular man and say that the chairman has met the situation so fairly that when you get that in cold type before you and can read it, you will thank this Convention for having him as chairman of that committee. I think it is time that we voted and had less talk. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The question has been moved. One minute. You are now going to vote, gentlemen, on amending, I will ask the gentleman from Massachusetts to be sure that I state it correctly, You are going to vote on amending clause 16 in the report to the effect that $1.00 per day for the time in service is inserted therein. Is that the principle involved?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (PA): One dollar a day's extra compensation.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: One dollar a day extra.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: As a minimum.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: As a minimum. Do you want the previous question? Those favoring the previous question will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The no's have it.

DELEGATE GANSSER (MI): That means there will be further discussion on the amended motion. Mr. Chairman, as a member of the minority in the committee, whose report is before this convention, I beg to be heard for just a moment. And speaking for the twenty-two thousand paid up comrades who are not here today, comrades this is no joke.

We are here as a committee coming to you as a practically unanimous report, working 'til midnight last night, and yet comrades what is the issue before us: The committee issue was that we definitely demand some sum. Bonus never was the issue, but service compensation. Would we name it or would we not? Would we demand it or would we not? Congress is listening, the people are listening, and your debate both on the committee and on the floor will serve your purpose even though you fix no amount, because those who are listening will hear you speak.

Now, Michigan put it as a unanimous proposition that something was due for service adjustment, acting on extreme, sum, constituting the majority of Michigan, asked for $100.00; others thought $50.00 would be right; others thought a $1.00 a day would be right. But they were unanimous in the idea that there should be some sort of unanimous service adjustment. Now, we are told that as long as Congress endorses it, we want to have it. We need it. What makes your Legionnaires is because you held up your right hand and gave your life to the country, put your souls in the hands of the Almighty, and the man who is a "lounge lizard" can possibly claim that there are some things that make Legionnaires that many never can be. *(Applause)*

Your heart shows, so much for that, something many cannot see, but are not we entitled to some manner of equalization, so that the fellow who did serve is not behind the rest of those fellows and gets a real start for the future. We are taking care of the maimed and disabled. We are taking care of him who wants a homestead anywhere. We are taking care of him who wants a home, and vocational rehabilitation, or education. Then let us go one step further, and not be demanding, not be clubbing, but just be suggesting so that every other comrade may know there is due him some service adjustment, and let it go at that.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (SD): I move that as a substitute for all pending motions that the report of the committee as read be adopted. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It has been moved and seconded, as a substitute motion for the whole, that the report as read be adopted. Those favoring the motion will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it. Gentlemen be seated. Order. The secretary will read the last resolution.

SECRETARY WOOD: We have before us from this morning a piece of unfinished business. The last resolution turned in by the Committee on Anti-American Propaganda. This resolution reads:

WHEREAS, a revolutionary organization formed for the purpose of abolishing the right of the individual to own and inherit property, and making farms, mines, factories and railroads community property without compensation to their former owners, has, for a quarter of a century preached its doctrines from the soap boxes and sugar barrels of every city in this country, and,

WHEREAS, this organization, operating under its true name of socialism polled less than 600,000 votes in a nation of 100,000,000 people in the last national election, and then reached the conclusion that it could only gain control by obtaining the political support of the American farmer, and in order to do so they must operate under some other name than Socialism, and,

WHEREAS, A.C. Townley, who was in 1914 one of the accepted heads of the Socialist Party, and who is now under sentence for disloyalty to the government, realizing the futility of trying to convert to his poisonous doctrines the sound minds of farmers of the Northwest under the banner of Socialism, has been and is now trying to make converts under the thin camouflage of being the farmers' friend, and,

WHEREAS, while ostensibly conducting a campaign to remedy certain marketing conditions as applied to farm products, and,

WHEREAS, the said A, C. Townley has always cooperated with the leaders of the I.W.W. and other radical organizations in this country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Convention, which has made a true and dispassionate survey of his record and activities, does hereby unqualifiedly pronounce him an enemy of his country, a wolf in sheep's clothing, an open fraud, a hearty traitor to the interest of the farmers he claims to represent.

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, that The American Legion exposes A. C, Townley publicly as being at heart against the interests of the country, and the men he wishes to beguile. Signed, John J. Sullivan, chairman.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: One moment. Mr. Sullivan, who presented that report, wished to make a statement.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Comrades, although only supported by four members of your committee, your chairman was against this resolution, but was outvoted by the majority because some of us thought that by giving recognition to this man Townley, we were interfering in what is a political issue in this part of the country, and we were giving them something to advertise, and I say he is unworthy to have any recognition. I was instructed by my delegation from the State of Washington to be against this resolution, and we should not consider it at this time.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The resolution is before you; what will you do with it? I wish to make an announcement. One moment. I wish to state that hereafter I shall not recognize or attempt to, gentlemen who come in the rear of the chairman. It is difficult enough to see those in front. I recognize the gentleman from North Dakota.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (ND): Has a motion been made to approve that resolution?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Table the resolution. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that the resolution be tabled. Those favoring will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it. Order. The secretary will read the report.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATTERSON: The chairman of the Constitutional Committee requests that its members immediately adjourn to the cafeteria room of this building.

SECRETARY WOOD: Is the Eligibility Committee ready to report?

Report: Committee on Eligibility
J. J. McSwain, South Carolina, Chairman

It is. Mr. Chairman, I want to read, gentlemen, this, I suggest the passage of this resolution.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion accept with the sincerest appreciation the task given it by the Republic of France, and that this convention direct its head to convey its thanks in behalf of the American people for this most appealing tribute.

DELEGATE RYAN (NY): I move that that be adopted. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Those favoring will vote aye. Contrary no. It is carried.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCSWAIN: Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the Convention. Yesterday afternoon the report of the Committee on Eligibility was received in the absence of the chairman. There was a minority report of which the chairman had no advice. The majority report had been adopted by a vote of 38 to 3. This Convention recommitted both reports to the committee which has met. All differences have been reconciled, and there is no minority report by any person of this committee. *(Applause)*

A great deal of interest has been manifested in the article to be inserted in our Constitution relating to the question of eligibility. A large number of individuals, representing themselves representing friends and representing classes have appeared before the committee, but your committee has felt that it is vitally important that in this fundamental and organic law there should be inserted only general and comprehensive provision, at the same time studiously selecting such language as will make it perfectly obvious to any persons that may read the same as to what classes of persons may become members of this body.

The fundamental proposition before us was to confine membership to those persons who had seen actual service in the military organizations of this country and of our allies, and excluding from membership certain classes of persons that we deem unworthy of membership. We have had stenographed a number of copies of this article proposed for your consideration. It will require a very little analysis to understand it.

I will now read the report of the proposed article, in order that you may see that there are two general classes of persons who are included and two general classes of persons who are excluded from membership.

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted or commissioned and who served on active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine corps of the United States, at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive.

That is the first clause.

Or, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the naval, military or air service of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War; Provided, the two classes now to be excluded who, by generality of language, have been already excluded.

(a) That no person shall be entitled to membership (a) Who, being in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during said period refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) the second clauses excluded, who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge, and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership as herein above provided. Mr. Chairman, I move you the adoption of the report. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that the report as presented be adopted. Those favoring the adoption of the report as read will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, I move that we proceed to the election of officers. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That motion is out of order, because the Constitution, which will have provision relative to election of officers, has not been yet passed on by this Convention. Gentlemen, I think it would be better if we should proceed now with the report of the Committee on Resolutions. That committee is ready to report, and that is the order of the Advance Committee, which you adopted.

Report: Committee on Resolutions
John W. Inzer, Tennessee, Chairman

Mr. Chairman, fellow comrades of this Convention, your committee has labored almost all of two nights. We have a lot to consider here. I am only prefacing my remarks as the chairman of this Convention asked me so to do, and I want to make a few statements. There were over 300 resolutions before the Resolutions Committee. You can realize how hard it was to formulate a set of resolutions that could be considered from that amount of work. I am going to be as brief as possible. *(Applause)*

I am going to make some requests of you to this end. When we read a resolution, if you favor that resolution, please do not speak on it. If it is opposed, then will be the time to speak on it if the opposition seems strong enough to warrant it, but please consider that this Resolutions Committee is composed of a man from every state, and we discussed at length every proposition that came before us, and now, then, if we are to get through at all, we must go in a big hurry. As has been stated, the Pullmans are going to leave tonight. If you do not get away tonight it will probably be 36 or 48 hours before we can get away. I ask you to bear that in mind.

It is the sense of the subcommittee on General Welfare and unanimously adopted by the whole committee, that the chairman of the Resolutions Committee incorporate in his report to the Convention a statement that many kind offers of assistance and cooperation, and excellent resolutions with which we sympathize, were received, which the committee was compelled not to submit to the Convention for action on account of the lack of time, and not through any lack of appreciation, and many were the businesses and enterprises which we would have gladly endorsed which have been left to the National Executive Committee.

DELEGATE MILLS: In view of the lateness of the hour, and the fact that most of the members have reservations which compel them to leave early this evening, I move that the Committee on Constitution be requested to report as to the officers to be elected immediately, and that we proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing year. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You have heard the motion, gentlemen. It is to this effect, as the chair understands it, that the order of business which you adopted be amended to the extent that at this time you pass on that clause of the proposed constitution which has to do with the election of officers, and that thereafter you proceed to the election of officers. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the motion vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it.

Will the Committee on Constitution report? Gentlemen, the chairman of the Committee on Constitution has requested that he read the entire Constitution, so you will get the text, and then you will have it only on that clause that applies to the election of officers. The chairman of the committee will read the Constitution.

Report: Committee on Constitution
Cassius R. Peck, Oregon, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Convention, in making this report to you, I wish to say that in the first place it is a unanimous report. Your committee upon the Constitution has worked upon the matter for two nights and two days and has given it very careful consideration. You men know the type of man you have with your delegation, and you know we had quite a small convention there, and we threshed out very carefully every point, and I want you to mind that when you come to consider the matter.

Constitution of The American Legion

Preamble. For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism, to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War, to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation, to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses, to make right the master of might, to promote peace and good will on earth, to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I. Name.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be The American Legion.

ARTICLE II. Nature.

Section 1. The American Legion is a civilian organization; membership therein does not effect or increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention or meeting of the Legion.

Section 2. The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political, and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles, or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of any salaried, elective public office shall hold any office in The American Legion nor in any Department or Post thereof.

Section 3. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.

ARTICLE III. Organization.

Section 1. The American Legion shall be organized in department, and these in turn in posts. There shall be one detachment in each state, in the District of Columbia and in each territory of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish additional departments in territorial possessions of the United States and in foreign countries.

ARTICLE IV. Eligibility.

I will omit reading this, for it is word for word as the report of the Committee of Eligibility which is adopted by you.

ARTICLE V. National Convention.

Section 1. The legislative body of the Legion shall be the National Convention to be held annually at a time and place to be fixed by the preceding National Convention.

Section 2. In the National Convention each department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each thousand members whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the meeting of said convention;

and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegate shall be chosen at department conventions to be held not less than two weeks before the National Convention.

Section 3. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from his department. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates excepting that of voting.

Section 4. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when 60% of the departments are represented as above provided.

ARTICLE VI. National officers.

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a national commander and five national vice-commanders. No two vice-commanders shall be chosen from the same department, and no more than three from those who served in the army. These officers shall be members of the National Convention and of the National Executive Committee, and the chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of both bodies. A vice commander shall, on request of the National Commander, act as chairman of either of said bodies.

Section 2. The National Convention shall also elect a National Chaplain.

Section 3. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention, and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices, occurring between National Conventions, shall be filled by the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. The National Commander shall appoint a National Adjutant. The Executive Committee shall appoint a National Treasurer, and such officials and standing committees as may be necessary, and shall authorize or approve all expenditures. All appointed officers shall hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power, and all persons have the custody of funds shall give adequate bond.

ARTICLE VII. National Executive Committee.

Section 1. Between National Conventions the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander and Vice Commander in office, and of one representative and one alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine; provided that in 1919 the delegates to the National Convention shall elect the Executive Committeeman and alternate from their respective departments.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the place of the National Convention within twenty-four hours after the final adjournment of the convention, and thereafter at the call of the National Commander. The National Commander shall call a meeting upon the written request of fifteen or more members of said executive committee.

Section 3. Seven members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. Department Organization.

Section 1. Departments shall be chartered by the National Executive Committee and shall be composed of the Posts within their respective areas. Each Department Charter shall be signed by the National Commander and National Adjutant.

Section 2. Each Department shall have a Department Commander, a Department Adjutant, a Department Executive Committee and such other officers as the Department shall determine.

ARTICLE IX. Post Organization.

Section 1. Those who desire to form a pest shall make application for a charter to the commander of the Department in which they reside. The Charter shall be issued by the National Commander and National Adjutant upon receipt of the application properly executed by the Charter members of the projected post, but only when such application is

approved by the commander of the department or by the Department Executive Committee. Post charters shall be countersigned by the commander and the adjutant of the department.

Section 2. The minimum membership of a Post shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Department in whose area it lies.

Section 3. Each department may prescribe the Constitution of its posts. Post charters may be revoked by the Department Executive Committee with the approval of the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X. Finance.

Section 1. The revenue of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Section 2. The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by each National Convention for the ensuing year.

Section 3. The annual dues shall be collected by each post and transmitted through the Department to the National Treasurer.

ARTICLE XI. Discipline.

Section 1. The National Executive Committee, after notice and a hearing, may suspend or revoke the charter of a department which violates this constitution or which fails adequately to discipline any of its Posts for any such violations, and may provide for the government and administration of such departments during such suspension or upon such revocation.

ARTICLE XII. Change of Residence.

Section 1. Any member in good standing in a post, removing from his department, shall be entitled to a certificate from the post stating his membership and the duration thereof.

ARTICLE XIII. Auxiliaries.

Section 1. The American Legion recognizes an auxiliary organization to be known as the Womens' Auxiliary of The American Legion.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, I suggest you pass that as it has been approved by the Convention.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PECK: Very well. It is in a little different language. What was given out was in such shape that we could not insert it and it had to be rewritten. If you propose it differently, the Convention however, passed on the Auxiliary bodies, it is very short and not much different than the report.

Section 1. The American Legion recognizes an Auxiliary organization to be known as the Womens' Auxiliary of The American Legion.

Section 2. Membership in the Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the members of The American Legion and to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of all men and women who were in the military or naval services of the United States between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and who died in line of duty or after honor able discharge and prior to November 11, 1920.

Section 3. The Auxiliary shall be governed in each department of The American Legion by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee, and thereafter approved by such department of The American Legion.

ARTICLE IX. Ratification.

Section 1. All acts performed and charter - heretofore granted by the temporary organization of The American Legion are hereby ratified and confirmed.

ARTICLE XV. Amendment.

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the authorized representatives thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been read at such convention at least 24 hours before the vote thereon.

National Incorporation. This Constitution is adopted conformably to the Act of Congress of the United States of America of date September 16, 1919.
Signed by the chairman and secretary of the Constitutional Committee.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (SC): I move you that those sections relating to the officers of The American Legion be approved. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? The motion now is to adopt that section of the Constitution which applies to the election of officers. Those in favor of the motion as made will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, I move, we proceed to the election of officers provided by the Constitution and I further move that speeches be limited to two minutes. ...*Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move for a substitute to all motions that the Constitution in its entirety be adopted. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: This motion, as I understand it, is a substitute for all motions as made. That is before you. Those favoring the adoption of the motion will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. Unanimously carried.

The secretary will now read that part of the Constitution which you have adopted, for your information, relative to officers.

Election of Officers

SECRETARY WOOD: Article 6. National Officers. "The National Convention shall elect a National Commander and five National Vice Commanders. No two Vice-Commanders shall be chosen from the same Department, and no more than three from those who served in the army. These officers shall be members of the National Convention and of the National Executive."

"The National Convention shall elect a National Chaplain. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention, and thereafter until their successors are chosen. The National Commander shall appoint a National Adjutant. The National Executive Committee shall appoint a National Treasurer."

The officers to be elected are a commander, five vice commanders, and a national chaplain. The chairman has directed the calling of the roll by states for nomination of a national commander.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, one moment, before the roll call by states is commenced, I suggest that you determine what limitations, if any, you want to put on nominating speeches and on seconding speeches.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, I move that all speeches in support of nominations be limited to two minutes. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that all speeches in support of nominations be limited to two minutes. Are you ready for the question? All favoring will vote aye, contrary no. The ayes have it. *(The secretary called the roll in turn.)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (AL): Alabama passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (AK): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (AZ): No candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (AR): Mr. Chairman, Arkansas, in obedience to the principle of paying honor to whom honor is due, and with a deeper interest in The American Legion than in the man, the leading southern state in the organization wishes to place the nomination of Franklin D'Olier, of Pennsylvania. *(Applause)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (CA): California yields its nomination to New York.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NY): Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, the California delegation has yielded to New York so I could place a gentleman in nomination.

DELEGATE FISH: (NY): Delegate Fish, of New York. Astounding as it may seem to this convention, I represent a goodly number of liberals from the State of New York, who wish that the nomination should go to a man on the west of the Mississippi River. We have a candidate to put up who stands on his own record as a fighting man, a man who went in as a second lieutenant, and who came out as a lieutenant colonel, a man who holds nine different decorations for his bravery. He is the only candidate I know before this convention, who has not had his friends campaigning for him before this convention met, and during the time that the delegates have been assembled here. I place in nomination the gentleman from Iowa. Mr. MacNider, of the Second Division. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I recognize Mr. Donovan.

DELEGATE DONOVAN (NY): As a matter of personal privilege, I desire this convention to know that Mr. Fish does not represent the entire opinion of this delegation. It is the opinion of this delegation that the test should be not whether or not a man has been a fighting man, but whether he has the ability. But it does not bother me, Mr. Chairman, whether or not he has the ability to properly run the affairs of this organization. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, one moment. According to the constitution that you have adopted, rank is not counted in this convention, and I therefore shall rule now as out of order any references that will be made to rank.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (CO): Colorado passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (CT): No candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (CUBA): No candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (DE): Delaware passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (DC): District of Columbia yields to Virginia.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Virginia has the floor.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (VA): Mr. Chairman, Virginia places in nomination for the place of national commander a gentleman who, though he is not now a resident of the State of Virginia, was born within our borders. He was the founder of the first post of The American Legion, and his energy in organizing that post has been such that the city of his residence, the City of Washington, now has more members of The American Legion within that single city than many of the states of the union. As for his business in civil life, he is now the head of the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States, and as such is, in a sense, a national figure, because the operations of that great enterprise extend throughout the borders of the United States. I take particular pride in placing before this convention the name of Mr. E. Lester Jones, of Washington.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, I should announce that the calling of this roll is not only for nominations but for seconds.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (FL): Florida passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (GA): Georgia yields to Pennsylvania.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Pennsylvania has the floor.

DELEGATE DEITRICH (PA): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Pennsylvania delegation, I rise to second the nomination of Franklin D'Olier, of Philadelphia. The Keystone State, that has four hundred and thirty-eight posts, and that has fifty thousand members in The American Legion, is proud to offer to The American Legion of the United States a man whose service thus far has been of great advantage, and whose promise for the next year is to the decidedly great advantage of this organization. *(Applause)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (HI): Hawaii passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (ID): Idaho passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (IL): Mr. President, believing that the work done by him in the most trying days of The American Legion would warrant that the policy, and based for which this most notable convention ever assembled in America stands for, Illinois seconds the nomination of Franklin D'Olier, of Pennsylvania. *(Applause)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (IN): Indiana yields to Massachusetts.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Massachusetts has the floor. Mr. Logan.

DELEGATE LOGAN (MA): Massachusetts, following the line of Illinois, desires to indorse a man who not only has done great work in the Legion, but has done greater work in the war, a man Mr. Fish has told you already about, and distinguished in most of the battles of the war, has shown himself to be an able leader of men. Believing that he is the type of the man who should be the head of The American Legion in the active days to come, Massachusetts endorses MacNider, of Iowa. *(Applause)*

DELEGATE MACON (IA): Following the line of thought presented by the delegate from Illinois, and by the delegate from Massachusetts, and as one who for a great length of time has known personally Hanford MacNider, of Iowa, and as one who has at heart the welfare of The American Legion, as one who desires the best to be had for The American Legion, I speak the voice of every Legionnaire from our State of Iowa when I second the nomination of our most famous soldier, Hanford MacNider. *(Applause)*

SECRETARY WOOD OF THE KANSAS DELEGATION: Kansas has no candidate.

DELEGATE MORRIS (KY): Gentlemen of the convention, Kentucky wishes to present the name for national commander of a man whose service in the Army compares favorably with any man who saw service there. At the beginning of the war, he went to France and served with the French Army, and when we entered that conflict, he joined the American Army and fought through with the First Division in all the battles in which that fighting division participated.

He is known at home as the leader of the bar. He is a man with the knowledge of parliamentary law that can preside with dignity, and can, with even-handed justice, handle the convention next year. We offer in him a man, coming not from the South, or the North, geographically, but yet both from the North and South, where Yankee-land and Dixie-land meet at Louisville.

We offer to you the name of Emmett O'Neil, the eminent lawyer, the man who drove the red forces out, and helped to drive from the pulpit in Kentucky a man, who under the cover of religious teachings, was preaching the doctrine of Bolshevism there, and he was driven from the state by the leadership of the eminent soldier, the splendid lawyer, Emmett O'Neil, whom Kentucky presents to this convention. *(Applause)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (LA): Louisiana passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (ME): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MD): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MX): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MI): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MN): Minnesota believes that the interests of the great mass of the enlisted men of this country will be best represented by the selection as president of this convention of MacNider, of Iowa. *(Applause)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MS): Mississippi passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MO): Missouri passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MT): Montana, no candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NE): Mr. Chairman, under instructions of the State Convention of Nebraska, the name of John G. Miner was to be presented to this convention. Mr. Miner advises us he cannot accept the nomination that was presented to him. We therefore withhold any nomination for a later time, and we wish to second the nomination of Mr. MacNider, of Iowa.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NV): Nevada passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NH): New Hampshire passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NJ): New Jersey passes. No candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NM): New Mexico passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NC): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (ND): Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the Convention, North Dakota desires to place before this convention the name of a one

hundred percent American, a man whose every effort has been given towards the shaping of the policies of The American Legion toward the best end possible for the Legion, a man who has given time to the distribution of the American Legion's propaganda throughout the United States, a man who has helped us in North Dakota to put our Legion on the footing which it now has. A gentlemen of the Convention, I desire to place before you a man who is thoroughly capable of handling the position of national commander, Mr. Jack Sullivan, of Washington. *(Applause.)*

DELEGATE SULLIVAN (WA): Mr. Chairman, I rise to personal privilege. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of this Convention, while appreciative of the honor conferred upon me, as being worthy even of mention as a candidate for commander of this great organization, I respectfully decline and wish it will be so noted and wish to thank my comrade from North Dakota for the compliment paid to me. *(Applause)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (OH): Ohio has no candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (OK): No candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (OR): Pass.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (RI): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (SC): South Carolina passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (SD): South Dakota passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (TN): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (TX): Mr. Chairman, Henry D. Lindsley came to Dallas a child of parents in moderate circumstances. By the force of his genius, he accumulated a fortune; by the force of his personality, he became the Mayor of the City of Dallas, and established in that position modern legislation. Out of office he entered a training camp and became a major of infantry. Mr. Chairman, I name Mr. Henry D. Lindsley for national commander. *(Standing applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen of the Convention, with a sincere appreciation of that endorsement which you give to me in this demonstration, I wish to repeat what I said on the second day of the Convention, that I am not a receptive candidate for this exalted position, and may I make this further suggestion, gentlemen, that The American Legion is now so much bigger than any one man in the United States, that there will never be a time, I am sure, when it will be necessary to even think of reelecting a national commander who has served this organization. I withdraw my name. *(Applause)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (UT): Utah passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (VT): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (WA): On behalf of the Washington delegation, I again wish to second the name of Comrade D'Olier, from Pennsylvania. *(Applause)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (WV): West Virginia passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (WI): Wisconsin has no candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (WY): Pass.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will read the names of the nominees.

SECRETARY WOOD: The following names are before the convention for the post of national commander: Franklin D'Olier, of Pennsylvania; Mr. MacNider, of Iowa; Mr. O'Neil, of Kentucky; Mr. Jones, of the District of Columbia.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (AZ): Mr. Chairman, Arizona is way off in one corner of these United States, I would like to have a chance to look these men over before I vote for them, and I request that they be asked to stand on the platform so we can see what they look like. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chair rules the point well taken. The gentlemen will come to the platform. Gentlemen, unless you determine otherwise, the election will be by majority vote. *(The secretary called the roll in turn and recorded the votes.)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will announce the vote.

SECRETARY WOOD: Mr. D'Olier, of Pennsylvania, is elected on the first ballot. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman and comrades of the Legion, I wish to move that the rules be suspended and the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous vote of the convention for Mr. D'Olier, of Pennsylvania. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Those favoring vote aye, contrary no. Unanimously carried. *(Prolonged applause and cheers and the Pennsylvania delegation thereupon sung "D'Olier comes from Pennsylvania")*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I want to introduce to you your next national commander. The national commander has a word to say.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: My word is simply this. We came here for work. Let us keep on working and not listen to speeches. Thank you. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. Inzer, the chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, has the floor.

CHAIRMAN INZER: Gentlemen, this is the particular time it has been deemed fit by all concerned to introduce this resolution:

Be it Resolved that The American Legion records its appreciation of the loyal, intelligent, and disinterested service rendered the Legion by its retiring Chairman, Mr. Henry D. Lindsley, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the title of Past National Commander, as provided for in the Constitution be, and is hereby conferred upon the present Chairman on and after the adjournment of this convention, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee be, and is hereby instructed to select and present annually to each retiring National Commander a suitable insignia symbolic of the ideals and purposes of The American Legion. *...Second.*

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN INZER (TN): Gentlemen, as your national speaker for these five months, I have these words to say for our commander.

I finished my work and returned to headquarters two weeks ago at his request for a conference, and on three hours discussion and deliberation we were only able to say just these words at conclusion. I said, "Mr. Chairman, my heart and soul, as you know, has been in that work, and as I have toured this nation, I have not plead for you or any other individual, or any party or principle." He said, "Chaplain, I can sincerely say the same." And his heart and soul was given to this, as we all know, in one of the most lovable and patriotic, self-sacrificing ways that has ever been seen. So, I believe we are now doing the magnanimous thing in thus honoring him, for when he grows old we shall remember that title of past commander. Those favoring the resolution will make it known by saying aye. Any opposed by the contrary sign.

The chairman has indulged me for this word, and I will have to go as my wife is ill, and I am about to start home with her, and I am leaving my report to be acted upon as presented by the secretary.

As your national speaker this year, instead of speaking in the pulpit as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I count it the greatest signal triumph and pride of my life to have been the expression of you for the American spirit, speaking for Americanism, and Simon-pure democracy. *(Standing applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Comrades, following the order of our new national commander, I shall only say that from my heart I appreciate this great honor you have done me. I shall endeavor through life to be a part of this great organization, serving in the ranks as you have honored me in the past by permitting me to serve as chairman of the National Executive Committee. I thank you sincerely. *(Applause)*

We will proceed to the election of vice commanders.

SECRETARY WOOD: This constitution provides for the selection of members of the national governing body, the National Executive Committee, by the delegations from the respective departments, prior to their departure from the seat of the convention, and it also

provides that the first meeting of that national governing body shall be within twenty-four hours of the adjournment of the convention.

The chairman therefore requests that you will all submit to the secretary's office on this side of the stage, the names of the National Executive Committeemen from your departments as soon as possible, in order that a proper meeting of that committee tonight or tomorrow may be called. Please submit the names of your National Executive Committeemen as soon as possible in the secretary's office.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will now proceed to the nomination of vice commanders. The secretary will call the roll. *(The secretary called the roll in turn.)*

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (AL): Mr. Chairman, Alabama wishes to present the name to this convention of a man who, although over the required military age, gave up a successful business and great opportunity, leaving his wife and children, making a business sacrifice, going into the line, when he might have picked some easier department. Mr. John J. McSwain, of South Carolina, whom many of you know, and whose work in this convention has shown him as a man of judgment, a man of discretion, and a man of such ability as we need on this advisory board, John J. McSwain, of South Carolina.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (AK): Alaska passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (AZ): No candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (AR): Arkansas yields to New Hampshire.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NH): Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates of this Convention, emphasizing the fact that there is in The American Legion 'no east and west,' I, a delegate from the Atlantic State of New Hampshire, desire to present for your consideration as a candidate for vice commander, a man who now lives in the Pacific State of California, a sturdy American who first saw the light of day in the State of New Hampshire, who served valiantly and well in the Navy of this country for thirty-one years. I present the name of Mr. O'Brien, of California.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (CA): Mr. Chairman, California takes pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mr. James O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien has spent over thirty years in the United States Navy, has served on both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He was born in New England and migrated to California. Although being fifty years of age he served with the American Navy on the high seas during the recent war. This typifies the enthusiasm of youth and has the judgment of age. We take pleasure in seconding the nomination of James O'Brien, of California.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (CO): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (CT): Connecticut passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (CUBA): Cuba passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (DE): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, may I call your attention to the constitution which has been adopted by you which is that not over three vice commanders can be elected from the army, so that, if you desire to elect the five, you must nominate two or more from the navy and the marines.

Mr. Miller, of Delaware, will follow out your suggestion and place in nomination before this convention a man who served during the war in the important destroyer service. If it had not been for the Navy, the Army could not have gone overseas. This gentleman left the State of Delaware a few days ago and journeyed to the Bay State. We take pleasure in presenting as a candidate for one of the vice commanders, Mr. Holden Clark Chambers, of Massachusetts.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (DC): Mr. Chairman and comrades, it gives me pleasure to announce the nomination of John W. Davis, who is of the District of Columbia now, only a few days after having completed thirty years of honorable service in the United States Navy. He entered that service at the age of fifteen years, and now stands in the prime of life, after having served in two wars, outside of the campaign in Mexico. He has proved indispensable as an adjutant in the District of Columbia, department, and I know that he will serve untiringly in the interests of the national department. I put him forth on his own merits for your consideration.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (FL): Florida yields to Louisiana.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (LA): Louisiana yields to Missouri.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MO): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I beg to nominate for the office of vice commander of the Legion, a man born on the Atlantic Coast, and early conceiving a love of the water upon that national calamity, the sinking of the Lusitania, immediately organized his own division for service in the navy on the first day of the breaking out of the war. Was in the service, served fifteen months at sea in small boats, and thereafter, upon his return, took the greatest interest in the principles of this Legion. Was made, on account of his standing and on account of his love of those principles, the first commander of the Legion in Maryland, and is today a delegate here. I nominate for the office of vice commander, James A. Gerry, Jr., of Maryland.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (GA): Georgia passes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (HI): Hawaii would like to place the name of a man for vice commander a man whom we believe will represent the territories and the outlying districts. A man who introduced this morning three constructive resolutions, all of which were adopted, having to do with Americanization. A man who was born in Massachusetts, educated in California, and a resident of Hawaii, married a woman from Texas. He is an All-American. He is a brother of the All-American football player, Withington. I present the name of Leonard Withington.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (ID): Idaho yields to New York.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (HI): I rise to a point of personal privilege.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is your point of personal privilege?

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (HI): I am chairman of that Hawaiian delegation and told the gentleman he should not present my name, as I came through the aisle. I understood there is no candidate from the outlying districts. He said, "Are you with me?" I said, I was. I cannot accept the nomination under those circumstances.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You withdraw your name?

DELEGATE WITHINGTON: I do.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): New York desires to present to the convention as one of its five vice commanders a loyal gentleman of 48 years old, who had to pass through 11 enlisting stations before he was finally accepted, but who, through his patriotic position was accepted, served with distinction, came home, and is one of the principal organizers of the Legion in his state, the state commander of the Legion, and one of the representative citizens of Idaho. New York presents the name of Mr. E.C. Boom.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (IN): Mr. Chairman, I want to second the nomination of one of the rank and file, Indiana yields its place to Montana.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MT): Gentlemen of the Convention, Montana desires to place in nomination the name of Charles E. Pew, the present state commander of the Legion in Montana, one who has been a member of the National Executive Committee, one who has worked untiringly and unselfishly in the work of building up the posts by whom Montana comes to this convention with nine votes. Gentlemen, Mr. Pew is a lawyer and a man of executive ability, and we think highly of him in Montana. I desire to present for the consideration of this convention the name of Charles E. Pew, of Montana.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, one, minute. I wish to announce that in the constitution which we have adopted, there will be a meeting of the National Executive Committee here tomorrow. That means that those members who are on the National Executive Committee will have to remain over and will meet tomorrow morning at the Radisson Hotel, tomorrow morning at ten o'clock. Proceed with the roll call.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CO): A parliamentary inquiry.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is it?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CO): Are we nominating five?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We are nominating five.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CO): Colorado asks because they were absent at the time they commenced this, and do not know, and the Colorado delegates would like to

place in nomination the name of one of the pioneers in The American Legion in the outlying districts, born in Georgia, trained in Pennsylvania and Texas, went overseas, and who is now preaching one hundred per cent Americanism down in Cuba. I take great pleasure in placing the name of Mr. Walter Hines, of Havana, Cuba.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (IA): Iowa yields to Nebraska.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NE): Mr. Chairman, Nebraska desires to bring before this convention the name of a man who does not come standing on his war record, so he bears on his body the honorable record of his service, but we come to you with a man who has done service with The American Legion since its inception. We come to you with a man who, at the time the civil authorities of our city of Omaha lost control of the situation, when crime was rampart, and when anarchy had broken out, took charge of the situation, organized the men who belong to the Legion, and went out and held that situation so that law and order prevailed until the regular Army came. We present to you that man, because he stands in our place for that great principle of our preamble "for law and order," Allen A. Tukey.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (KS): Kansas has no candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (KY): Kentucky has no candidate to name.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (LA): I desire to second the nomination of Mr. James E. Gerry, of Maryland.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY: The chairman asks me again to request that the various state delegations submit before leaving this city the names of their delegate and alternate to the National Executive Committee. Those names are being turned at the secretary's office, off-stage, but only twenty-two have been received so far.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MD): Maryland has already nominated.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MA): Massachusetts yields to South Dakota.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (SD): Mr. Chairman, South Dakota presents as a candidate for one of the vice commanders, the name of William N. Thompson, not "Big-Bill" either. The man who enlisted when the show broke out, fought in every battle in which the American Army took part, has been wounded five times, has the Distinguished Cross with two extra citations, the Croix do Guerre; and fought with that grand old Division, the 26th enlisting when the war broke out, and commanding with valor a Michigan battalion at the close of the war. *(Applause)*

SECRETARY WOOD: The chairman asks me again to announce that there will be a meeting of the new National Executive Committee at the Hotel Radisson at ten a.m. tomorrow morning.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MX): Mexico desires to second Colorado's nomination of Mr. Hines of Cuba.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MI): Michigan has no candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MN): Minnesota passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MS): Mississippi passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MO): Missouri rises to second the nomination of one of the tallest men in this convention, and it is a wonder to me that they would ever have accepted him in the gobs. Missouri, having the state with the largest percentage of naval enlistments during the war, we take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of James A. Gerry, of Maryland, and a gob.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (MT): Mr. Chairman, the Montana delegation are a unity for the man, the member of our delegation who has been placed in nomination. The one who, being over the age of service, enlisted as a private in the infantry and served with that delegation, and the delegation is as a unit of Montana.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NE): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NV): Passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NH): Pass.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NJ): I wish to second the nomination of Mr. McSwain of South Carolina.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NM): New Mexico has no candidate.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (NY): New York passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (ND): North Dakota takes pleasure in placing the name of Jack Sullivan before the Convention.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (OH): Ohio takes pleasure in presenting the name of a man who not only has a splendid profession, but a splendid war record, the name of James Harrison, the state commander of Arkansas.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (OK): Oklahoma desires to nominate a representative of the great Southwest a man who has been actively connected with this Legion from its inception, a member of the preliminary committee at St. Louis, Mr. Eugene Adkins of Oklahoma.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (OR): Oregon desires to place in nominating a man of known merit and a man who was only 40 years of age when he first entered in the war. Simultaneously with the declaration of war, enlisted in the artillery, served for two years, and he has been very active in the organization of The American Legion, ever since the St. Louis caucus, of our state. I take pleasure in nominating for vice commander of The American Legion, Mr. William D. Follette, present state chairman of Oregon.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (PA): Pennsylvania passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (RI): Mr. Chairman, Rhode Island also knows no geographical division of sentiment in the United States. We have gone over the top with our Southern brethren, and across the memories of this war our hands have met in something lasting. It is therefore with special pleasure that we second the nomination of Mr. J. J. McSwain, of South Carolina.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (TN): Tennessee yields to Utah.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (UT): Mr. Chairman, 56 years ago, in Texas, Harry R. Fletcher was born. He fought under Colonel Roosevelt, the rough rider of Company L, and was one of the first men to land on Cuban soil. He fought through the Spanish American War, enlisted in the United States Army on April 6, 1917, and served in the infantry. Harry R. Fletcher, commonly known as Dan Fletcher, has two sons who enlisted at that time. One of them in the 6th Company of Marines, which served in the Second Division, has been many times honored, has been decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, and now is in the hospital from his wounds.

Dan Fletcher is known to us in Utah as a man of sterling character, a man who stands for law and order, and a man who is known to be an enemy of Bolshevists and the Reds we have countered with in that part of the country. Mr. Chairman, I take great pleasure, gentlemen, in placing before you the name of Dan Fletcher, for one of the five vice commanders of The American Legion.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (TX): The record which Jim Hanson, of Arkansas has made in making his state the leading state of the South, many men in the Legion think he should have the place of national vice commander, and I second his nomination.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (VA): Virginia desires to second the nomination of John J. McSwain, of South Carolina.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (VT): Vermont passes.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (WA): Washington takes pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mr. Dan Sullivan.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (WV): West Virginia seconds the nomination of Mr. James E. Gerry of Maryland.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (WI): Wisconsin desires to second the nomination of Allen A. Tukey.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN (WY): Wyoming passes.

SECRETARY WOOD: The chairman has requested that upon the calling of this roll the nominating states will give the branch of the service of the candidate. We can then vote for the three vice commanders for the Army, and when that has been disposed of, we can vote for the two vice commanders from the Navy and the Marine Corps.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is your point of order?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I do not think the Constitution provides there shall be three in the Army. It says not more than three.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Not more than three.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Not all be Navy.

SECRETARY WOOD: John McSwain of South Carolina, Army. James O'Brien of California, Navy. Walter Hines of Cuba, Army. A.R. Chambers of Massachusetts, Navy. John W. Davis of the District of Columbia, Navy. James E. Gerry, Jr., of Maryland, Navy. Charles E. Pew, of Montana, Army. Allen Tukey of Nebraska, Army.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, the constitution which you have adopted says no two vice commanders shall be chosen from the same department, and no more than three from those who served in the Army. That could, of course, mean that three or more could be from the Navy or the Marines. Therefore, it will be necessary to vote on all the names proposed, and if there would be a fourth man elected from the Army, it would be void under the constitution. There would have to be another vote.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, I think the secretary neglected to mention the name of John J. Sullivan of Washington, Army.

SECRETARY WOOD: Are there any nominations which have not been properly read by the secretary?

SECRETARY WOOD: William N. Thompson, of South Dakota, Army. Mr. James Harrison of Arkansas, Army. E.C. Pew of Idaho, Army. William B. Follette of Oregon, Army. John E. Adkins, of Oklahoma, Army. Harry R. Fletcher of Utah, Army.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The secretary will read the entire list again to see for certain that every name is included, and correctly.

SECRETARY WOOD: Pending the checking of the list, the chairman directs that the announcement be made that the following departments have not yet nominated their delegate and alternate to the National Executive Committee: Alaska, Alabama, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Utah. While they are checking this list, I have been requested to have now the song which the Emblem Committee arranged be sung here, and the lady has been waiting here two days to do it. I have been unable to call for it before, and with your consent we will have it now.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Gentlemen, are the nominations closed? If not, I desire to place before the convention the name of a Marine, the only organization that has not been put up.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: No motion has been made to close the nominations and you can propose another name.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Very well. I desire to put in the name of a Marine, Mr. Joyce B. Lewis, of Minnesota, and I take great pleasure in nominating Mr. Lewis of Minnesota.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MD): I move that the nominations be closed. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the motion will vote aye. Contrary no. It is carried.

Gentlemen, I want to say this to you, as your chairman here, I have had a great many requests to present songs to you here. This song that has just been so beautifully sung was recommended by the Emblem Committee. Therefore it was my duty to have it sung. I have had to state to everyone else that this Convention would not have time to listen to songs. I have a protest made by one man who had a song to present, and I cannot have any song rendered here unless you, by your vote, decide so to do.

DELEGATE COYLE (WA): A lady from Maine asked me to bring the question of her song before the Convention, and I move you at this time that all songs be referred to the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The gentleman from Washington, knowing the singing ability of the new national commander, recommends that all songs be referred to the new National Executive Committee. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring, vote aye. contrary, no. It is carried. Order down there. Are you ready?

SECRETARY WOOD: Gentlemen, with your permission. I will read again the list of candidates for vice commander. I seem to have made a great many errors the first time I read it, for which I am sorry. If you will bear with me, I will read it again. Joyce B. Lewis of Minnesota, Marine Corps. John McSwain of South Carolina, Army. James O'Brien of California, Navy. Walter Hines of Cuba, Army. Harry Davis of the District of Columbia, Navy. James A. Gerry, Jr., of Maryland, Navy. A.R. Chambers of Massachusetts, Navy. Charles E. Pew of Montana, Army. Allen Tukey of Nebraska, Army. Harry R. Fletcher of Utah, Army. P.C. Boom of Idaho, Army. Jack Sullivan of Washington, Army. James Harrison of Arkansas, Army. Eugene Adkins of Oklahoma, Army. William Follette of Oregon, Army. William A. Thompson of South Dakota, Army.
Has the secretary omitted any nominations?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentleman, the secretary will call the roll. Before he does it, I want him to announce exactly how the vote under the constitution will be counted.

SECRETARY WOOD: The secretary did not hear the ruling of the chair.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The constitution provides that not over three of the vice commanders shall be from the Army and that not over one from each department. That means that you could elect less than three from the Army. It is therefore necessary to vote on all of the names presented. If over three from the Army are elected, the last one will not be counted, and the vote, under those circumstances, the highest in the Navy or the Marine Corps, will take its place.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I move that the rules of the Convention be suspended to allow the election of the five vice commanders by electing the individual receiving the highest number of votes, providing that not more than three are of the Army. In that case the man receiving the next highest number of votes will be elected. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Those favoring the motion made will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): Mr. Chairman, I move these candidates be called to the stage in order that we may see for whom we are voting.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: All of the prospective vice commanders will come to the platform. Gentlemen, each state will vote for five candidates. Comrade McSwain from South Carolina. Comrade O'Brien of California. Comrade Fletcher of Utah. Comrade Lewis of the Marine Corps from Minnesota. Comrade Chambers of Massachusetts, of the Navy. Comrade Pew, from Montana, of the Army. Comrade Boom of Idaho, of the Army. Comrade Tukey of Nebraska, of the Army. Comrade Davis, of the District of Columbia. Comrade Garry, of Maryland, of the Army. Comrade Hines, of Cuba. Comrade Thompson, of South Dakota. Comrade Follette, of Oregon. Comrade Sullivan, of Washington. Call the roll

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MD): Mr. Chairman, I move that as the name of Mr. Lewis is the only one from the Marine Corps, I move that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for him. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That would not be in order. Call the roll.

(The secretary called the roll in turn and votes taken.)

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, while the vote is being tabulated, your Committee on War Risk Insurance has a short report which is here and which will be presented at this time.

Report: Committee on War Risk Insurance
Gilbert Bettman, Ohio, Chairman

Your Committee on War Risk Insurance reports as follows. This committee has taken as its charter the following mandate of this Convention, "To recommend how ex-service persons may receive the most efficient assistance from The American Legion, the national, state and post organizations, and also to recommend what improvements in legislation and administration, if any, should be urged upon the government."

"War Risk" is a good name with a bad history, but under you mandate we have conceived that it was out duty not to condemn the past but to build for the future. To accomplish this end, and realize all possible benefits from the War Risk Insurance Act, your committee submits three class of recommendations. First, what Congress shall do. Second, what The American Legion shall do. Third, what the War Risk Bureau shall do.

First, what Congress shall do: Pass the Sweet Bill immediately. *(Applause)*

This bill passed by the House, and pending in the Senate, provides, roughly, increased compensation for disabled men, extends the classes of persons to whom insurance may be payable, including the insured's estate; provides payment of converted insurance in a lump sum, or installments covering three years or more at the option of the insured.

Second, pass the Wason Bill. This bill, roughly, gives the Bureau of War Risk Insurance authority to establish fourteen regional offices, to advertise in newspapers and periodicals in order to acquaint all with their rights under the War Risk Act, to receive payment of premiums through post-offices, and appropriate two million dollars for these purposes.

Third, we recommend that Congress do not pass the Harding-McCullough Bill. This bill provides that for two years after discharge, ex-service men be not required to pay insurance premiums. Your committee unanimously deems this bill in effect a bonus, which, if it is to be given by Congress, should be done directly and not indirectly, and not in a manner destructive of one of the purposes of the War Risk Act.

Fourth, as new legislation, we recommend that Congress pass laws to attain the following objects:

1. To extend the principles of the Sweet Bill so that term insurance, as well as converted insurance, shall be payable at option, in a lump sum.

2. To eliminate all restrictions as to the class of permitted beneficiaries.

3. Relieve from payment of premiums on term insurance those persons who are receiving hospital care under the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, those in vocational training, during the period of their training, and those temporarily totally disabled, retroactive to October 6, 1917; also to provide, without charge, hospital and medical care for all honorably discharged service men for one year from the date of their discharge.

4. To combine the Federal Board for Vocational Training with the Compensation Division of the War Risk Bureau.

5. Your committee has given full consideration to the suggestion already heard upon the floor of this Convention that War Risk premium rates be reduced. In considering this subject, we have had the benefit of arguments by the honored chairman of this Convention, former director of the War Risk Bureau, the arguments of Judge Vance, and Professor Dowling, former counsel of the Bureau; of R. G. Cholmeley-Jones, the present director; and William MacFarland, actuary of the Bureau; and, after full hearing and discussion, we recommend the following resolution:

WHEREAS there appears just basis for a belief that dividends accruing upon converted war insurance, will be sufficient to warrant an eventual reduction in rate;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Congress and the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to make an actuarial ascertainment of the true cost of War Risk Insurance as determined by experience, to the end that rates be revised to actual mortality costs.

2. What The American Legion shall do. Launch an active campaign to obtain at once for ex-service men and their dependent relatives the benefits of the War Risk Act, and to that end that there be provided by each state organization of the Legion a War Risk officer, paid if possible, who shall immediately organize his state through the local posts, in order to bring about prompt adjustments and settlements with the War Risk Bureau, and that this campaign be given active cooperation by The American Legion publication; and further, that there be furnished to these officers, and each of the Legion posts, the addresses of which shall be furnished the bureau, copies of all publications, informative literature, rulings and instructions issued by the War Risk Bureau.

3. What the Bureau of War Risk shall do: Employ more ex-service men at the bureau, give prompter attention to inquiries directed to the bureau, and get busy. (*Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): Mr. Chairman, I move you, Mr. Chairman, that that resolution be adopted. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion is made and seconded that the report of the committee be adopted. Are you ready for the question?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The gentleman from Georgia.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (GA): I would like to have that part of the report dealing with the collection of premiums by post offices re-read. I could not get it.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BETTMAN: That is a provision of the Wason Bill, allowing cooperation between the Treasury Department and the Post Office Department, and rulings by the postmaster general and the secretary of the Treasury, which will permit the payment of premiums through the post offices throughout the country, and the committee endorses the Wason Bill.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (GA): I want to know if that includes the collection of premiums by a rural mail carrier?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY. Presumably, yes. That will be determined when the bill is passed. Those in favor will respond by saying, aye. Those to the contrary? It is carried

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move we proceed to the election of the national chaplain.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will now proceed to the election of the national chaplain. Nominations are now in order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OH): Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State your point, of order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OH): The Constitution requires the fixing of the date at this meeting for the next annual convention, but we have already voted for the next election of officers.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I do not know if the secretary is ready, but it would seem that it would be better to proceed to the selection of a chaplain. Gentlemen, the vote is now ready for the vice commanders. We will then proceed with the election or nomination of national chaplain right after.

SECRETARY WOOD: The vote for vice commanders has resulted in the five leading candidates being two from the Army, two from the Navy and one from the Marine Corps. The five national vice commanders are: Mr. Tukey of Nebraska and the Army; Mr. O'Brien of California and the Navy; Mr. Lewis of Minnesota and the Marine Corps; Mr. Chambers of Massachusetts and the Navy; Mr. Follette of Oregon and the Army. *(Applause)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State the situation now, Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY WOOD: It has been, as I understand it, moved and seconded and passed that we proceed with the nomination of a national chaplain.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring will vote aye. Contrary no. Unanimously carried.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MD): Point of information. Can't we have the result of this ballot in figures? For vice commander?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. Secretary, will you answer that point of information. Will you answer this point of information?

SECRETARY WOOD: Do you so rule, Mr. Chairman? What is the question?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: He desires to know the total vote for each candidate. Is that proper?

SECRETARY WOOD: Yes, if that is the sense of the meeting. It has been requested that we have the total vote for each candidate. The two tellers do not absolutely agree in every case, but they do agree as to first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth, so that there is no room for dispute as to the election. Mr. Tukey, one teller giving him 404 and the other 411. Mr. O'Brien is second, one teller giving him 390 and the other 394. Mr. Lewis is third, both tellers giving him 292. Mr. Chambers is fourth, both tellers giving him 270. Mr. Follette is fifth, one teller giving him 275 and the other 267. The next candidate is about thirty votes below.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MI): Mr. Chairman, I move you that in nominating candidate for chaplain that we dispense with calling the roll of state chairmen and take the vote from the floor. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Those favoring the motion will vote aye. Opposed? Unanimously carried.

DELEGATE ROOSEVELT (NY): Mr. Chairman, if I may drop into the vernacular, isn't it a damned particular convention. If you don't believe it, take my authority.

Gentlemen, New York desires to place in nomination Francis A. Kelly. He is a fighting parson. He has been decorated once by this country and twice, I believe, by England. He has in addition seven citations. I urge him upon your earnest consideration.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I recognize this gentleman. I will recognize you next.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (KS): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Convention, Kansas appreciates that many men doubtless are here and qualified to fill the position of national chaplain of this organization, but we do feel that there is one man in particular whose work in The American Legion, as well as in the army, but I refer particularly now to The American Legion, has been such as to merit your favorable consideration. It gives me pleasure, gentlemen, and I deem it an honor to place before you the name of Chaplain John W. Inzer of Alabama, whom most of you people heard at St. Louis when he poured oil on the turbulent waters of Bolshevism. He has toured this country, making one to three speeches a day in the interests of The American Legion, and he is a man whom I ask you to give your most earnest consideration.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I recognize the gentleman from Massachusetts.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MA): Like the previous speaker, I do agree that there are many who served in the Army and Navy and had this great and exalted honor. We had two in Massachusetts who sit in our midst. They have come here as delegates to this Convention. They have served Massachusetts in that famous fighting 26th, but Massachusetts does not come down here for the glory of Massachusetts. It comes here for the glory of America. *(Applause)*

Whatever stands for America, Massachusetts shall stand for, and we take great pride in seconding the motion of the Fighting Parson from New York.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (CO): Mr. Chairman, Colorado has the honor of placing in nomination for national chaplain of The American Legion, Tom Wildes. He was selected by the St. Louis caucus as the chaplain for this Convention, but through some unfortunate oversight he was overlooked and was denied the right and privilege of invoking God's blessing upon this Convention

Colorado relies upon the big heart and the spirit of fair play and square dealing of this Convention in giving Chaplain Wildes, national chaplain, at this time the opportunity to do at our next Convention what he was deprived of doing at this Convention. Mr. Chairman, Colorado is honored to place in nomination Chaplain Tom Wildes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NJ): Mr. Chairman, the State of New Jersey has a man to put forward for your consideration. A man who rates two gold chevrons. A man

who went over the top with the 29th Division, and he has been recommended for the D.S.C., gentlemen. In addition to that, our candidate who was a man who stood before you yesterday and presented the first American Flag that went over the top in France. In addition to that and his military duties, he was able to secure 463 recruits for Uncle Sam. The whole State of New Jersey asks your support for its candidate, Warren P. Coon.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (TX): Mr. Chairman, Texas has the honor in rising to second the nomination of a man who needs no further introduction to The American Legion or to the gentlemen of this Convention. A man who has been giving 99 and 99/100 percent of his time to the work of this organization since its inception, John W. Inzer of Alabama.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (AR): Arkansas seconds the nomination of Mr. Inzer.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, Washington seconds the nomination of Kelly. No American delegation has ever seen a man like Kelly, a chaplain who goes over the top. He has the name of a leader, and the Washington delegation is for him strong. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MD): I move that the nominations be closed. *...Second.*

It is moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring will vote aye. Contrary will vote no. The ayes have it. Read the list. *(The secretary called the roll in turn and votes were taken.)*

SECRETARY WOOD: The total vote is 680. Chaplain Kelly has an exact half, 340, thus lacking a majority. Inzer, 151; Coon, 104; Wildes, 80.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, I move you that the election of the Fighting Parson be made unanimous. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That motion was out of order. The two highest men would have to be balloted on. Proceed with the ballots. The secretary will call the roll.
(The secretary called the roll in turn and votes taken.)

SECRETARY WOOD: Mr. Kelly has 411 votes. Mr. Inzer, 246. *(Cheers)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: One minute, gentlemen. It has been mentioned the following states have not yet put in their nominations for the Executive Committee: Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Utah. A motion has been made and seconded that the election of Father Kelly be made unanimous. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the question? Those favoring vote aye, contrary no. Carried. It has been passed.

DELEGATE CARR (PA): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee, I move we now take up the report of that committee. The acting chairman will explain the report.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: We will proceed with the report of the Resolutions Committee. Chaplain Kelly, will you please seat your delegates?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OH): Mr. Chairman, under a section of the newly elected constitution, this convention must name the date for the next convention

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, I arise to a point of order. The motion was to proceed with the consideration of the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, point of information. Was there a minority report?

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: There is not.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move you, sir, that we pass the report of the Committee on Resolutions, in as much as there is not a minority report, without reading the same. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: As a member of that committee, I want to ask that motion shall not be adopted. There are too many important subjects in there. One of them concerns the payment of compensation to the national commander. Surely you do not want to pass them without reading them. We can get the thing through in fifteen minutes, and every man will know what we are doing.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I withdraw the motion.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OH): Under a section of the newly adopted constitution of the National Convention, I won't take but a minute of your time it is for the benefit of the delegates here to consider it, I move that the date for the next convention, on account of the opening of the great American offensive on the 26th day of September, and because that is a suitable time, and because on the 11th of November all these men should be at home, I should be there and you should be there, that it be fixed on Monday, the 27th day of September, one of the most beautiful times of the year. *...Second.*

DELEGATE CARR (PA): I desire to offer an amendment, if the gentlemen will bear with me just one minute. You are about to make an extremely important decision. It is my judgment that we should give the Executive Committee power to select the date sometime during the months of July, August and September, and for this reason. We are going to travel all about this country, from one end to another. We hope in short time to visit the Pacific Coast. When we go there, we want time to see it. Every one of us wants to see something of the people in the towns we visit.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Point of order. My motion carried for this year; for this year only.

DELEGATE CARR: I am speaking of next year. We are not going to have another convention this year. We are fixing the date of the National Convention. I am talking to that motion. My substitute was that the National Executive Committee should select a date during those months, and I am asking today, so that those boys who go to a distance…

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): *(Interposing)* Point of order. The constitution provides that the convention itself must fix the date.

DELEGATE CARR: I withdraw, then, my suggestion.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (WA): Much obliged.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (GA): Mr. Chairman, I move an amendment to the motion that we meet on the third Monday of September of 1920.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: There is no second, apparently, to that motion. Those favoring the motion as made will vote aye; contrary will vote no. The ayes have it. I will now have the report from the Resolutions Committee. This has been postponed by special order and will now proceed.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (MN): Mr. Chairman, I move you that the chairman of the Resolutions Committee state the subject of the resolutions, and that unless there is objection, we proceed to pass on the resolution, without bothering to read it, unless the entire reading of the resolution is called for.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I suggest you wait and hear the statement of the chairman. It may clarify matters a good deal.

Report: Committee on Resolutions
John W. Inzer, Tennessee, Chairman

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the Convention, the Resolutions Committee desires to submit a unanimous report, and may I make this suggestion, that the entire report be read, and then if there is objection to any particular resolution, that it be brought up for discussion. The first resolution is one that was submitted to you this morning by the convention:

WHEREAS, Anarchistic and Un-American groups in the United States have incited riots and disorder in many of our communities, and have already wantonly murdered our comrades and fellow-citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED, that The American Legion, fully recognizing its obligation to the community, state and nation, urges its members as individual citizens to promptly, fearlessly, and effectively assist the constituted legal authorities in the maintenance of law and order and the suppression of riots and mob violence.

Second resolution:

RESOLVED, that the National Executive Committee be directed to urge emphatic legislation upon the subject of slackers, as follows:

First, the finding and punishment of the slacker.

Second, the withholding of naturalization papers from all those who cancelled their first papers to evade military service, and their deportation.

Third, the punishment of those who aided and abetted slackers.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion heartily commends the principles and achievements of the Boy Scouts and recommends that each post assist the scout troop in its community in whatever manner practicable.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion pledges its members heartily to support the government's thrift savings and investment campaigns, and urges its local posts to provide a government Savings Committee to promote savings among members, and directs the national officers of The American Legion to take such action as is necessary to promote government savings throughout the organization; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that The American Legion calls upon the American people to support the after-war financial program of the government as unanimously and as effectively as they did the war loans which proved to the world the financial power of organized democracy.

RESOLVED, that the National Executive Committee is empowered to make suitable provision for the collection of war photographs, equipment and such other paraphernalia of war as would preserve our knowledge of the great war for all time.

RESOLVED, that it be the sense of The American Legion that the bodies of the American dead be not returned from France, except in cases where the parents or next of kin desire that the government return them, and that the United States of America, in cooperation with the government and the people of France, establish and maintain cemeteries for the American dead that remain in France and other foreign countries, to the end that the graves of those who made the supreme sacrifice may be maintained as permanent memorials of America's unselfish service to humanity.

RESOLVED, that the National Executive Committee be authorized to take the subject of a memorial in France under consideration with full powers, after due study, to determine the most appropriate and fitting form of the memorial, to select a site with the sanction of the foreign authorities, and to organize a movement to raise by popular subscription at a fitting time, the funds needed to build a memorial worthy of our dead comrades.

WHEREAS, during the Great War members of the Reserve Army Corps worked hand in hand with those of the medical profession, assuming full responsibility for their particular duties in cooperation with them, sharing equally in danger and discomfort,

RESOLVED, that The American Legion use its efforts to further the passage of a bill for absolute rank for nurses with opportunity for promotion; and

RESOLVED, that the National Executive Committee be instructed to lend their efforts to secure the approval of congressional action which will provide the necessary rifles, cartridges, bayonets and scabbards and other equipment necessary for use at military funerals by the various posts of The American Legion.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of The American Legion, adopted at St. Louis, in its preamble declares that the Legion's purpose among other things is to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and the nation, and

WHEREAS, the need of a constructive peace-time program in every American community lays upon all members of the Legion a genuine responsibility,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a special committee of five be appointed by the National Executive Committee to draw up a report on the purposes and methods of social organization and community service proposed by non-commercial, non-political and non-sectarian organizations, said report to serve as the basis for recommendations covering local and state wide activities which may legitimately come within the purpose of The American Legion, make the Legion a power in every

community and serve to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per-cent Americanism' to which as an organization we are pledged.

WHEREAS, an incorporated association known as 'Carry-on-Association' has been formed to furnish additional aid to that furnished by the Government to such crippled and disabled soldiers, sailors and marines, and such Association is now furnishing such aid with the indorsement of the United States officials in charge of such matters, as the exclusive agency for the housing of men during their vocational training, by means of 'Carry-on-Clubs' which have been established or will be established, throughout the country, in which said crippled and disabled soldiers, sailors, and marines are given lodging, food, such medical and dental service as are not supplied by the government, and if necessary, clothing, transportation, etc., at considerably less than cost,

RESOLVED, The American Legion indorses and thanks the 'Carry-on-Association' encourages the local posts to cooperate with this association in its efforts to aid the crippled and wounded until the United States government can properly take care of them.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a department of the government be immediately instituted to care for injured disabled service men, inasmuch as work of this nature should not be left indefinitely in the hands of private individuals or charitable organizations.

WHEREAS, the women of the United States who gave their sons and husbands to the great cause of humanity, and were left with a gold star as their only recognition for sacrifice,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The American Legion in convention assembled offer their sympathy and service wherever called upon by a gold star woman.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion respectfully petition the Congress of the United States to submit to the Legislatures of the several states for their ratification an amendment to the Federal Constitution providing that persons whose parents, at the time of the birth of such persons, are ineligible to citizenship in the United States, shall not be or become citizens of the United States whether born in the United States or elsewhere, unless by virtue of laws passed by Congress, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the president, vice president, and secretary of state of the United States, to each member of Congress, and to the governor of each of the several states.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion request the honor and privilege of participating in the memorial services of the G.A.R. and Confederate Veterans, while they still live, and after death, to be the agency which shall continue these services so that their graves and the graves of all other American soldiers shall be fittingly preserved and the memory of their deeds be perpetuated upon the tablets of love and memory, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Commanders of the G.A.R. and Confederate Veterans.

RESOLVED, that this convention place on the records of its proceedings an expression of its appreciation of the very cordial and warm reception given to it by the State of Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis, and that it extends a rising vote of gratitude to the Minneapolis Convention Committee, The American Legion of Minnesota, and the mothers, wives, and daughters who have left a lasting impression upon the visiting delegates for their warm hospitality.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion condemn any attempt at this time to resume relationship with German activities and lends its influence against the resumption of German opera, instruction of German in the schools, public performances of German and Austrian performers, and any other act which tends to minimize the German guilt.

WHEREAS, the welfare of the widows and children of our deceased comrades should be a matter of concern to every member of The American Legion, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in convention assembled that the posts and all members of The American Legion charge themselves with the duty of searching for such persons in their community, and extending to them such care and assistance as may be within their power.

WHEREAS, The American Legion, as an organization of veterans of the World War may best serve their purpose and most efficiently and practically pursue its policies through community or geographic units,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a ruling be made, eliminating in the future, posts of any other class and confining organization to community post, and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the state organizations be requested to endeavor, insofar as possible, to effect combinations or unions of already established unit posts with others organized on the present regular and recommended basis.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion in convention assembled calls upon the Congress and the secretary of war, navy and treasury, to see to it that the business of the finance office be dispatched with reasonable promptness and that clerical force of such number and efficiency be granted that office immediately to remedy the present deplorable condition.

RESOLVED, that the chief executive of The American Legion be paid a salary of six thousand dollars per year and his actual traveling and living expenses while away from home in the discharge of his duties.

BE IT RESOLVED, that The American Legion in convention assembled deplores and condemns strikes on the side of policemen, firemen, and all employees of the nation, states and municipalities, to whom are committed the protection of life, order and law, and who have taken a solemn oath to maintain and uphold law and order for the whole people. We condemn all forms of anarchy and Bolshevism, and will attack the red flag wherever it may be raised as the symbol of disorder, riot and anarchy. *(Applause)*

WHEREAS, disturbed conditions growing out of the World War are apparent in various countries, and these conditions have appeared in the United States through the activities of persons of undemocratic tendencies; and

WHEREAS, the manufacturing, business, labor and social interests of our country have been disorganized thereby;

RESOLVED, that The American Legion calls the attention of all parties to these controversies to the rights of the people as a whole, to demand a lasting settlement, of all disputes now interrupting the peaceful pursuits of the nation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that The American Legion calls on men of all classes who have their country and its interests at heart to bury their troubles, get together for humanity's sake, and put their shoulders to the wheel of production, for the betterment of the interest of our whole people.

This is the earnest appeal of your patriotic sons to all Americans who truly represent the American spirit and seek universal happiness and prosperity. We represent potentially four million eight hundred thousand men who were in the service in this great war; therefore, this is no light resolution, but a first appeal of great hearts for fair and square dealing on the part of all concerned. If they do not act fairly, squarely, and sensibly, the same spirit that led us to take up the fight for righteousness and humanity on the battlefield, will lead us to exercise all the powers within us to solve the situation and to save our country.

WHEREAS, the present widespread disorder among our large alien population is largely the result of seditious conduct of paid and skilled alien agitators, unmindful of the hospitality of the country in which they are temporarily sojourning,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in convention assembled that it heartily approves the action of the president of the United States in directing the arrest and deportation of alien agitators.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion recommend that American Indians who honorably served in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States during the World War be given the full rights of citizenship, provided they did not evade or attempt to evade full and complete performance of such service because of conscientious objections or otherwise.

RESOLVED, that those alien enemies who were interned and died during the World War, and who were interred in national cemeteries, be removed from such cemeteries and be given proper burial elsewhere.

RESOLVED, in order to expediate the business of the next annual convention, that the national secretary is instructed to request in the call for the Convention that all delegates thereto whose state conventions have adopted resolutions to be presented to the next annual convention, or who intend to present resolutions for themselves, to prepare the same in triplicate, each resolution to be on a separate sheet of paper and dealing with but one subject, and to be in typewriting if possible, and to mail such resolutions to the national secretary at least two weeks before the date of the Convention, so that the national secretary may attach appropriate titles thereto and classify them for the prompt consideration of the appropriate committees of the next annual convention.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion urges immediate revision of the Articles of War and court martial laws of the United States.

These are the resolutions that are reported unanimously by the committee, signed by: John W. Inzer, of Alabama, chairman; and M. T. McKee, of Michigan, secretary.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Gentlemen, one minute. May I make a statement. These are the resolutions that were unanimously adopted by the committee. There are some other resolutions which will be offered later. Your action on these resolutions is now in order.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OH): Mr. Chairman, I move that the resolutions as read be approved. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It has been moved and seconded that the resolutions be approved.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I recognize the gentleman from Virginia.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (VA): I wish to make an amendment to that motion, so that the resolutions as read shall be approved, with the exception of the resolution touching upon the matter of return of the bodies in France. I wish to offer an amendment or substitute for this resolution, the following resolution, which I ask your indulgence to read. I offer this at the behest of one hundred relatives in Richmond, Virginia, who lost their boys in France.

(At this point the delegate from Virginia read a resolution providing for the return of the bodies from France, in accordance with its terms, unless the relatives desired otherwise.)

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: That resolution is covered in the resolution covering the return of the bodies, if requested by relatives.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chair rules the point of order is not well taken, as he understands the resolution.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (VA): The very point is, Mr. Chairman, that the War Department so far has sent out to the relatives, nearly seventy thousand, three times sent out statements asking them what they desired done. The first time they said, "We are going to bring the bodies back, unless you specifically request otherwise." The second time they said, "We are going to bring bodies back, and those that want to leave them, may leave them." The third time they came back, and now they are going to bring no bodies back except where relatives insist upon it. It will be several years before they can do it, so the Secretary of War, Mr. Baker, stated in Congressional Record, that the War Department

hoped that by putting it off two or three years the relatives will change their minds and will not insist upon it.

Mr. Chairman, I hold it is a point of American principle that if anything should be sacred, it should be the pledge of our government. This pledge was given the relatives, almost 62,000 of them, have answered three times that they want these bodies back, and it is highly presumptuous of us to say they should be left over in France, when the relatives, who should have the solace of having them here where they could give ministration to them, are denied that right.

The resolution, in its present form, which gives to the War Department the very support they will finally need to keep all of them there. This resolution would not be just to them, and I say that the War Department should not keep the bodies over there except in cases where the relatives want them kept there. I think it is right and proper.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is there a second to the substitute motion? The question now arises on the substitute motion. *...Second.*

Are you ready for the question? I wish to state this, before putting the question, and if I do not give it correctly, I wish to be informed. If the substitute passes, The American Legion goes on record as demanding or requesting the return of our bodies from France, unless the relatives direct otherwise. If the original motion is passed, it means that relatives have the right to have all bodies returned if they so desire, and that otherwise the bodies of our dead will remain in France. Are you ready to vote on the substitute? There is a statement a member of the committee desires to make.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS: Gentlemen, when this came before the committee, it was authentically stated that there were at present objections by the French government against anybody of any nation being removed at this time. That is the reason for the action the committee took on this resolution.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Are you ready for the substitute? Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the adoption of the substitute will vote aye, contrary will vote no. The no's have it. The substitute is lost.

DELEGATE DUGAN (MO): I offer an amendment which is concurred in by the committee, namely, on the resolution affecting cemeteries, that immediately after the "France", we insert, "and other foreign governments." We have dead comrades in other lands besides France.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Other foreign countries?

DELEGATE DUGAN: Other foreign countries.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That is accepted by the chairman. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the resolution as presented will vote aye, contrary will vote no. The ayes have it unanimously.

DELEGATE ROBERTS (UT): Mr. Chairman, I move that the report of the Committee on Resolutions be amended by striking therefrom the resolution touching upon the salary of the chief officer of this organization.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You would have to move a resolution. You cannot amend that now. It has been passed.

DELEGATE ROBERTS: Is that the thing you just now voted on? I move a reconsideration of the motion. Mr. Chairman, all day I have sat here trying to get the attention of this chair.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You will get the attention now.

DELEGATE ROBERTS: I sat here before that motion was put.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: That motion is passed, and you can move reconsideration if you want to.

DELEGATE ROBERTS: I thought you were putting some other motion with respect to this grave proposition.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You may make a motion to reconsider any one of these matters, if you want to bring it up.

DELEGATE ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I move a reconsideration of the motion just passed. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Do you want to move a reconsideration of the whole thing?

DELEGATE ROBERTS: The whole thing. I want to be heard on that question of salary.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: You just want to move a reconsideration of that resolution on salary.

DELEGATE ROBERTS: Do I understand the chair correctly that the motion has been put for the adoption of the report of the Resolutions Committee in entirety.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It has been put and passed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State the point of order.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: May I make a statement, which may answer this question? As national commander for the coming year, I shall not accept any salary or expenses whatever. *(Applause)*

As I have done in the past six months, I have accepted no salary, not even my expenses. I will continue for the present year, and therefore the gentleman from Utah can bring this matter up at the next convention, if he so desires. Does that answer your question, sir?

DELEGATE ROBERTS: It does not answer my question entirely, Mr. D'Olier, because I am firmly of the opinion --

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: *(Interposing)* Make your motion, please.

MR. ROBERTS: The motion has been made and seconded.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Please state it again.

DELEGATE ROBERTS: For a reconsideration of the report of the Resolutions Committee.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The entire report, or just that part.

DELEGATE ROBERTS: Just that part.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: All right. I understand you correctly.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OH): Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: What is your point of order?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (OH): It is improper to reconsider a paragraph of a constitution that has been adopted.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: A parliamentary inquiry.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: State your point.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The entire report of the Resolutions Committee has not yet been adopted. I think, sir, that the chair is in error on that. He is confused on that.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will ask the secretary. My understanding was that the entire report, as read, was adopted.

SECRETARY WOOD: The only question which has been put before the house was the substitute.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: You are mistaken. That was after it was done, and the other was voted affirmatively.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The gentleman has the floor on his motion to reconsider that one paragraph.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The question is, did you vote in the affirmative?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: His two minutes are not up.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: No, they are not. He has not started. Did you vote in the affirmative?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I did not vote at all.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The gentleman did not vote at all.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): I move reconsideration of that motion.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: I will consider that before you, and the gentleman has the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE (NY): Gentlemen of the convention, I am opposed to making The American Legion convention a vote-grabbing and job-grabbing proposition. I do not believe it is wise to pay the chief executive of this Convention a salary. I do not know of any other organization similar to this, or along any similar lines, which pays the chief officer a salary. It is an honor to be chairman, or chief commander of The American Legion, and it should be so considered an honor.

It is my position here that it is an honor to be chief executive of The American Legion, and it is not proper to pay for the chief executive, or for the chief executive to accept a salary. Mr. Lindsley has rendered his services for six months gratis, and Mr. D'Olier has offered to render his services for the next twelve months gratuitously. We all know that Mr. Lindsley has not only rendered his services gratuitously, but he is out of pocket on a number of things. The time will come, when we get organized, when it will not take all of the time of one man to be chairman. He can therefore devote his time largely to his personal affairs, and conduct the affairs of The American Legion as an honor, and so I submit to you.

DELEGATE MCMANUS (CA): Mr. Chairman, may I have the privilege of answering on behalf of the committee. It was considered by the committee that the job of The American Legion was a big enough job to take all of the time of the best man in this entire organization. We believed that if the chairman was to give all his time, he was worthy of pay. *(Applause)*

We believed that the principle that only a man of great wealth could afford to take the position as chief executive of this organization to be absolutely wrong. And the committee wants to give out this impression to every man that is a member of this organization, to the humblest doughboy, that if he has the ability, the character, the honor to be worthy of a high position, no matter whether he is worth a million dollars, or five hundred dollars, that he can afford to take the position. *(Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I ask you to concur in the motion of the committee.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The motion is to reconsider that one resolution. Are you ready for the question? Those favoring the reconsideration will vote aye, contrary will vote no. The motion is lost.

DELEGATE SEARCY (IL) Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Mr. Searcy.

DELEGATE SEARCY: I do not know how much unfinished business there is before this convention. I do know that there is very little. I have, personally, implicit confidence in the judgment of the newly elected National Executive Committee, and for that reason I am going to make a motion if the chair deem it inadvisable, I will immediately withdraw it. My motion is this, that all unfinished business, unless it be of an extremely serious nature, be referred to the new National Executive Committee for settlement. I make that as a motion.

SECRETARY WOOD: The only unfinished business before the house is the balance of the report of the Committee on Resolutions. That is the only business before the house.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: The chairman of that committee will proceed with his report.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Convention, desiring to complete the report of the Resolutions Committee, I may say that we have a bundle of some three hundred odd resolutions that were considered by the committee, and after due deliberation, for good and sufficient reasons were rejected. Is it your pleasure we should take up one by one these resolutions?

DELEGATE CARR: I move that the resolutions now in the hands of the acting chairman of the committee and reported unanimously, that the recommendations of the committee in that respect be approved by this convention. ...*Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Those favoring the motion as made will vote aye, contrary will vote no. Unanimously carried.

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: Is there any other business you desire?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I move to adjourn. *...Second.*

CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY: It is moved and seconded that this Convention adjourn. Those favoring vote aye; contrary no. It is carried.

...At 9:20 p.m., the Convention adjourned.

Abbreviations

GAR ..... Grand Army of the Republic

HR ..... House Resolution

IWW ..... Industrial Workers of the World

YMCA ..... Young Men's Christian Association

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