PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Meridian Life Building
Indianapolis, Indiana

December 20, 1919

Disclaimer: These proceedings were created using the verbatim minutes of the meeting and every effort has been made to accurately reflect the proceedings as they occurred. This document is not an official record and is intended solely for providing historical context and information.

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PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Saturday, December 20, 1919

...On Saturday, December 20, 1919, the National Executive Committee meeting was called to order, National Commander Franklin D'Olier presiding.

Election of the National Treasurer

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The immediate problem which we have before us is the election of the national treasurer. The constitution states that the treasurer shall be elected by the National Executive Committee and that is the position we have to fill today. I didn't feel as though I was justified in going along any further with a temporary treasurer whom I had appointed, having no authority whatever to do it, but was obliged to do it on account of the situation.

I therefore, would like the National Executive Committee to pick out a good treasurer, one who can serve until the new National Executive Committee will elect a new one, and if there are any suggestions in reference to the treasurer, we will be only too glad today to talk them over. The main difficulty about the whole situation is that the headquarters are here in Indianapolis, and we are publishing the magazine in Washington. We were obliged to move it there on account of the printer's strike and, of course, the magazine will be moved here whenever Indianapolis is ready to take care of the magazine which may be six months, or it may take a little longer. Until that takes place, the treasurer will have to make some kind of arrangements satisfactory to him so that the headquarters' expenses can be worked out satisfactorily and unless the National Executive Committee have a better proposition it is suggested that if possible, to try and persuade the Indianapolis people to pick out one of their own men and elect him as treasurer.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, I think the first thing to get at would be the idea that the treasurer would be located at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis. I put that in a motion, that the treasurer be located in Indianapolis. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: It has been moved and seconded that the treasurer of The American Legion be an Indianapolis man. Any remarks

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, won't it be well first to hear from the National Executive Committeemen of Indianapolis as to whether or not that would be acceptable to them and what plans they have? I wouldn't want to wish it onto them if they did not want it.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KEENE (IN): I purposely kept out the discussion for the reason that while Indianapolis considers itself splendidly complimented in moving the headquarters from New York to Indianapolis, we rather feel that it carries with it an element of immodesty in any sense of the word to project an Indianapolis man to be considered for any office in The American Legion, but should it be considered policy to have an Indianapolis treasurer, undoubtedly it would be preferable to have a man from Indianapolis. In going over this situation, with very careful consideration of the whole field, we have a man to offer for your consideration. This man has been a colonel in the state guard for many years, took an artillery regiment to France with him, was fortunate enough to be with his regiment throughout his stay in France and brought it back with him. He is a cashier in the largest financial institution in the state of Indiana, an institution which we plan to draw upon very heavily. They loaned us, a week or so ago, some $20,000 temporary loan on the signature of the adjutant and acting treasurer. All in all, it is a project involving close to a half million dollars and if that project is to be handled in the state of Indiana, and we rather feel that it is due us to be permitted to handle it for the Legion, the headquarters being here, this young man who was offered would be very acceptable. Whether or not the treasurer is an Indianapolis man, it matters none in the general consideration. We can finance the thing in Indianapolis. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The treasurership is a hard one considering the responsibility and if Indianapolis will look upon it as an honor conferred upon her, I am sure we are perfectly willing to have Indianapolis look at it in that way. I questioned if there ever was a man who accepted a treasurership for any organization that he felt that any honor had been conferred upon him. The treasurer of The American Legion during the coming year is going to have a real man's job. It has been moved and seconded that Mr. Robert E. Tyndall be nominated as national treasurer of The American Legion. Are there any further remarks?

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I move they be closed. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: It has been moved and seconded that all nominations for national treasurer be closed. All in favor signify consent by saying "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." Carried. It is so ordered. It has been moved and seconded that the secretary be instructed to cast the ballot for Mr. Robert Tyndall as treasurer of The American Legion.

Report on the Conference of Department Commanders to Determine Legislative Action

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The American Legion has just finished a very interesting and an important piece of work. Some of the committeemen were present in Washington and therefore know about it and I will briefly state that the first official act of the new administration was to gather together in Washington on Monday of this week, the state commanders, or their personal representatives, from every state in the union. This conference was called for the purpose of first determining what new legislation was necessary to give the disabled man the fair deal that he had reason to expect from his country, and also consider the question of war risk insurance, to see if it was not possible to get the present policy on a more business-like basis so as to make it interesting to the ex-service man.

The conference was called together Monday morning. Monday morning and Monday afternoon were given to the consideration of the new legislation necessary. The Sweet Bill and the Wason Bill were both considered. The conference kept steadily at work on that until probable 7 o'clock Monday evening and by that time, it was pretty well determined just exactly what amendments were needed to the Sweet Bill and also to the Wason Bill, in order to give the ex-service man, and more particularly the wounded man and the disabled man the square

deal that he had reason to expect from his government. A National Executive Committee session was held Monday evening and at this session a memorandum was handed every person there, outlining just exactly what had been decided upon. Tuesday morning there was no meeting, but each delegate went to the Capitol and saw his senator and certain of the congressmen to impress individually upon them what The American Legion thought was needed in the way of new legislation to enable Congress to pay it's dept of honor to the ex-service man, particularly the disabled man.

Tuesday afternoon there was a session, and the war risk insurance was examined. Tuesday evening there was held at the Capitol a dinner given to all of these delegates by a committee of Congress. There were invited to that dinner, sixteen disabled men from the Walter Reed Hospital, and these men impressed upon the different members of the Congress, in a very forceful way, really what we were trying to impress upon them. One case that impressed the men there was that of a poor chap who had spent some fourteen months in the hospital. Part of his jaw had been shot away. He couldn't open it probably more than an inch. He was receiving $30.00 a month. He was allotting $15.00 to his wife who received another $15.00 making a total of $30.00 which she had to live on. He had a father whom he helped to support, contributing $5.00 and he had to pay his insurance, which meant that he received net from the government something like $6.20. On account of his case, he couldn't be discharged for three months, and he was given a leave of absence for three months to go home. He was going home to next day taking this $6.20 with him and when he returned, he would be allowed $.40 a day rations, making practically $12.00 a month, and he was only contributing $6.20 plus $12.00 which he was going to get later on. In other words, he and his wife had to live for three months on a total of about $48.00. That made an impression on the members of Congress.

The result of the conference was that Wednesday afternoon when we were holding our meeting, the national commander was sent for by Senator Smoot, chairman of a subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Senate dealing with legislation pertaining to the disabled man. The national commander had about a thirty-minute conference with him, and he went over the different points covered in the Sweet Bill together with amendments covered by The American Legion. Senator Smoot stated that if not Thursday, certainly Friday, he would ask for unanimous consent of the Senate to consider this bill with these amendments. The Senate adopted the Sweet Bill with The American Legion amendments unanimously.

The conference really was rather remarkable. There was the most wonderful spirit there. They did some very clear thinking and didn't ask Congress anything except what was absolutely fair and square. In other words, the first official act of the new administration was to think clearly and to play fair for the disabled man and to ask Congress in such a positive way that Congress listened and listened attentively and I think that we will all find that this conference which was held in Washington shows that so long as The American Legion pursues this same policy, it will be a force for wonderful good in this country, and in order to bring out any little different angle, I will ask the different members of the committee who were there to corroborate my statements.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SCRUGHAM (NV): One point which impressed me very greatly was the respect with which the recommendations of The American Legion were regarded by the leaders of Congress. In past years, I have lived a political life, and I know the extreme difficulty in getting a respectful hearing from the crowded sessions of Congress on any matter and only an organization which is regarded most highly can receive the attention that our recommendations were given. As the commander told you, the department commanders on Tuesday morning visited Senators from every state in the Union and I think without exception, substantially everything that the Legion wanted, would be given most favorable consideration.

It may be a digression here, but I will mention it. That at the Minneapolis convention, the Committee on Beneficial Legislation regarded what was known as land settlement or home settlement for soldiers. Twenty-five states of the Union have made propositions of various kinds to assist in carrying out this work. I therefore wish to propose at this time, Mr. Commander, if it is not out of order, that the committee empower the commander to carefully go over the field of available men and appoint such a committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The National Executive Committee has already done that.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SIPLE (OK): It seems to me like when these men came down to Washington, the different members of the Congress, even the senators, didn't seem to understand in a way just how to take some of the men who began to work on them, but I could notice in traveling around, in talking to different ones as the conversation would go on, they seemed to get an insight as to the real purpose and the heart of the men who were there. The practical manner, in which they went after the job, and in the absence of any of what we usually term "wire pulling" or anything of that sort, every Congressman and every senator assured all of us that he was anxious to do everything in his power for these boys. In other words, he was there to do whatever we asked to be done and the quick action that they got, showed that their word was good.

The spirit of the men appealed to me. The spirit around the conference table was wonderful. A great many of them, of course, had their ideas which didn't seem to be in entire harmony with the whole situation. There were a few little sore spots but as they would continue to right the thing out and iron it out, I believe that every man who came away from Washington had a different attitude as to what was being attempted in the War Risk Insurance Department of the government. They felt that they had really accomplished something by showing to the executive department in Washington and Congress exactly what we want and to show them how we want it.

I believe that great credit is due to the national commander for the careful and painstaking manner in which he conducted the whole proceeding. To the quiet, business-like and efficient methods he used, which were an inspiration to every man present, were largely due the success of the whole conference.

Introduction of the National Treasurer

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I want to introduce Mr. Tyndall, our new treasurer. In introducing him, I want to thank him for accepting a pretty good-sized undertaking for the coming year. I happen to know a little something about it and from what I know of Mr. Tyndall, I haven't the slightest doubt in my mind but that he will be able to handle it exceedingly satisfactorily. I think we are very fortunate in being able to get a man from Indianapolis to accept this responsibility with the work which it necessarily entails, and I therefore take pleasure in introducing Mr. Tyndall of Indianapolis, our new treasurer.

NATIONAL TREASURER TYNDALL: Gentlemen, I appreciate this honor, and I realize that there is some work attached to it but after talking to Mr. D'Olier, I realize the spirit that is running through this organization, and I feel that it is my duty to do anything that I can for The American Legion. I want to do all that I can for the Legion. I believe that the first year is going to be a hard year. I am so impressed by our commander with the way the work has been done by the Legion, that I consider it a great honor to be a part of the organization for the next year at least, to help out in this great work. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I think we are very fortunate in having Mr. Tyndall, representing an Indianapolis bank, as treasurer because he will be in a position to insist that the financial policy of The American Legion be sound and for that reason, I am particularly gratified that you saw fit to choose an Indianapolis man and also that we are able to draft a man like Mr. Tyndall into The American Legion. Our financial policy is roughly something like this. On November 1, we had an indebtedness of $140,000.00. We borrowed $250,000.00 and the net assets on hand brought that indebtedness down to about $140,000.00. Among the net assets, the largest item was some $50,000.00 for buttons. We are shipping out large quantities of buttons and we still have some $50,000.00 tied up in accounts receivable by states for buttons. The balance of cash assets has been pretty well gotten rid of.

The *Weekly* cost approximately $2.00 per year, four cents a copy to be published. After January 1, we will receive $1.00 a year, or two cents a copy, a net deficit of $1.00 a year on every issue of the magazine we sent out, offset by advertising which is coming in very satisfactorily. There is no doubt in my mind but that the *Weekly* will be a very good business proposition for the Legion and will not only be able to carry National Headquarters' expenses but also will ultimately liquidate any indebtedness we now owe or will contract during the next six months.

But the proposition that we are up against now is that we have to borrow money, say for sixty or ninety days until the chairman of the Finance Committee and the treasurer can get together and work out a scheme which will put our finances on a sound basis until the Legion is in a position where it can at its own convenience, when funds are available, take care of this indebtedness.

Mr. Tyndall has intimated that it was possible to raise here in Indianapolis, say $50,000.00 or $100,000.00 for sixty or ninety days until we get our finances into proper shape, and I think it might be well to authorize the treasurer to take some such action as that. We have some $5,000.00 in the bank and we owe about $60,000.00.

Mr. Tyndall submitted the following resolution:

WHEREAS**,** The cost and expenses of the publication of *The American Legion Weekly*, and the development and maintenance of the work of The American Legion are now exceeding the amount of funds available to meet such expenses, and will continue so until increased revenues can be had from various sources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the national commander and treasurer of The American Legion be authorized to borrow such funds as are necessary to promote and carry on the work of the Legion from such person, bank or banks as loans may be obtained from, in such amounts and on such terms as to such national commander and treasurer may seem proper; Provided, however the rate of discount or interest on such loans shall not exceed six percent (6%). *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I move that the word "national commander" be inserted in the place of president. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: It has been moved and seconded to approve the resolution. All in favor signify consent by saying "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." Carried.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Mr. Commander, I would like to make a motion that the secretary be instructed to send out to the state finance officers a bulletin announcing them to send their remittances for state dues to the treasurer of Indianapolis.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: In that connection, I might state that a bulletin within the last three or four days covered that very point with instructions that remittances with the list of the names be sent to The American Legion, c/o the *Weekly*, so that the *Weekly* can make a memorandum of the names and then they will forward to National Headquarters. If the lists are sent here first, there may be some lost motion and the names on the lists might not get on the mailing list of the *Weekly*.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Has that been ordered?

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: That is being sent out. The idea is that the treasurer shall have his personal representative in Washington to receive the money.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I will make another motion to the effect that the work done by the national commander in Washington be sent in a bulletin to the state secretaries or state adjutants authorizing them to make a bulletin also to go to each post in the state.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Is that not being done? We are having that done now.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MESERVE (CT): I would like to inquire of the commander if the treasurer desires any authorization as to the amount to be borrowed. It isn't mentioned in that resolution.

NATIONAL TREASURER TYNDALL: That will largely depend upon the situation. I think that will be largely up to the bank.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MESERVE: I didn't know whether you required any statement of the maximum amount.

NATIONAL TREASURER TYNDALL (IN): I think it is so worded as to take care of "the needs."

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I think the National Executive Committee will be exceedingly interested in hearing what Indianapolis and Indiana propose to do in the way of a building for The American Legion, and I will ask Dr. Keene of Indianapolis to outline briefly just what they have in mind.

National Headquarters Building Plans
Dr. T. Victor Keene, National Executive Committee Member, Indiana

Even at the risk of appearing overly grateful, I want to state again that not only The American Legion of Indianapolis, but the entire state was very grateful to have the National Headquarters moved to Indianapolis.

Now our present program and undoubtedly one which will go to completion is the following proposition: We are going to erect a Legion headquarters in Indianapolis at an expense of about $10 million. That money will be obtained as follows: The city of Indianapolis in our form of government is one corporation controlled by a mayor, certain administrative officers and a city council. The last have agreed to appropriate $1 million. Our city park board is another separate corporation, although the same stockholders or citizen pay taxes to the different boards. Our Park Board will appropriate $1 million and our Marion County, of which Indianapolis is the central city, will appropriate $1 million. Our state government has agreed to place a call for a special session of the legislature here within sixty days, for several good reasons, aside from the occasion of The American Legion, one being the passage of the Woman's Suffrage Bill. The governor will ask the legislature to

appropriate $7 million for our building. We plan to make it one of the most handsome buildings in the middle west. Of course, in your temporary quarters here, the city of Indianapolis through the Chamber of Commerce took care of the Legion. The Legion is paying no rent on these quarters here, nor will they be asked to pay rent in Indianapolis.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Mr. Keene's report proves one thing, that is if you get two thousand delegates of The American Legion together, let them thoroughly fight out a proposition, go to the base, by the time they get through they are pretty nearly right. I think that most of us who attended that conference in Washington feel that the best way to handle legislation in Washington is to handle it as we did down there.

From what Mr. Keene has told us, it shows that Indianapolis and Indiana appreciate the honor that is conferred upon them by making Indianapolis the headquarters of The American Legion and I think as far as they have gone, we are going to get some good results. Just as soon as the convention was over, we went back to New York, and we got some action. When I got here yesterday, I was surprised because we certainly didn't have anything like this in New York and I personally can't get over the fact of having a desk like this. I have had a table, and I wasn't able to put out any of the drawers and I think when we finally put up this memorial building, we will be glad indeed that we came to Indianapolis.

National Dues and Finances of *The American Legion Weekly*

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HERBERT (MA): I think it would be safe to say there will be a flood of money in here in a few days. That is our hope. In some states there will be readjustments for 1920. It is going to take longer than 60 or 90 days to get that money rolling into The American Legion headquarters. In our efforts to borrow money, we should not bank too strongly on the dues coming in at once. Some states, as we now have, fixed the dues for next year. No state had the right to legislation. Some nevertheless, have gone ahead and fixed the dues and they are considerably low. We are trying to remedy this by holding another State Convention on January 3. There will be many things done at that convention. There will be a delegate for every 100 members of each post and the membership is about 70,000. The finance officer of a post who does not have much time to give to his work, is the one whose post is going to hold back its state in securing the amount that is due. I think it will be well that the Legion commander and treasurer have in mind that there is a probability that there will not be a large sum of money before next summer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: We didn't know the capacity of some of the men when they were first elected. Some of them have had too much time to spend on other things and they have not given enough time to The American Legion. The new year is from January 1 to December 31.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I believe each state is willing to guarantee the payment of $1.00 per year for every man. I believe I will put this in motion.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER NELSON (AR): I will say that for our state. I believe this should be a suggestion, not a motion. A suggestion for those who are willing to put up the guarantee. It is almost impossible for him to collect a dollar in advance for every man we have on our rolls. I believe that every state in the union, however, is willing to guarantee payments of one dollar per man if *The American Legion Weekly* is continued. To make myself clear, I will put it in the form of a motion that it be the sense of this committee that the subscription to *The American Legion Weekly* be continued, the states taking up the guarantee of payment for same, say 50% in March or April, the other 50% in July. I believe every state organization is willing to guarantee payment for every man.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I believe this should be in the form of a suggestion, probably not a motion, an understanding that those states who feel the *Legion Weekly* should be continued, and who are willing to put up a guarantee with the national treasurer, Mr. Tyndall. That if they put up the proper guarantee, My Tyndall can make the recommendations to the *Weekly* to send it. The other states, those who do not care to do that, can collect their dues as they see fit. I don't believe that I would make a ruling of that kind out of this committee.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER NELSON: I merely wanted to go so far as Mr. Tyndall and the Finance Committee demanded that we go. We are willing to go the limit if the state is ready to put of the guarantee.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HERBERT: Each individual state should take up with the national finance office to make personal arrangements. It follows that very few of the states, I am confident, can put up the one dollar for every man the first of the year that would be required. It would then follow that the state be allowed to guarantee that, just simply a recommendation. It seems to me that the state department should guarantee the list that has gone in from their state for amount of the subscription for 1920 and then send that money in as it can be collected. It would throw a little burden on headquarters for a time, but I believe in the long run it will be worth 28% to 30% additional income to the national body if we can do that. My idea is that the national officers be authorized to continue the subscription list to *The American Legion Weekly* that are guaranteed for the year 1920 by the various state departments. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: If the gentleman from Minnesota would allow an amendment to that, I would put it from the 11th of November of the original list.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I understand that every man who was on the mailing list of *The American Legion Weekly* from November 1 is still there.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER NELSON: My idea was that The American Legion should go to every man on January 1 regardless of whether his name is on the list. If he pays his $1.00 between now and then, he is entitled to it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Would it be possible to set any date at which time the state would have to pay that June 1 or July 1?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER VERNON (MN): Such a guarantee to be paid on or before July 1, 1920

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: In other words, as I understand it, it is somewhat like this, that after the first of January, every member whose name is sent in with a dollar, his name of course will immediately go on the list and will be continued in the circulation list during the entire year. Some of the names haven't all gotten in properly and that is our fault, and they have already said they never received *The American Legion Weekly*. We have to tell them they are going to get it. If in addition to those names, states will send in other names and request that those be put on the circulation list and assume responsibility for the payment of the one dollar for each man, those names shall be put on, accepting the obligation of the state for such amounts, such obligations to be paid by July 1.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER NELSON: I think we are only backing up our national administration by doing that. If you didn't do that, Mr. White, if he is still running the *Weekly*, couldn't go to any advertiser in the United States, on January 1 and say

one thing to him about what our circulation was. If you only send them to those on January 1 who have the dollar in here, he wouldn't have any advertising medium. We are looking ahead, not back.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I am hardly in accord with the motion as made but I think we ought to remember that *The American Legion Weekly* is a business institution and not a beneficent institution. It costs, as I understand it, $4,600 to publish the *Weekly*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: In that connection we have a circulation of approximately 400,000 and it is costing four cents an issue to publish it. That means $16,000 and we already have enough advertising to cut that down to a new loss of about $11,000. Now if we receive two cents a copy, which is $1.00 a year, that would cut the net cost of the magazine down to about $3,000 weekly. You see we are not getting $8,000 weekly. We are losing $11,000 weekly.

At the present time for advertising after January 1 we already have some $122,000 advertising booked, and we know it will not be long before the receipts from advertising are sufficient to offset the loss over and above two cents a copy which will be received from the members.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MESERVE (CT): At present our deficit is about $11,000 per week and that will continue until the first of January which is only a couple of weeks, but the new advertising contract is going in force the first of January and the returns on them will be spread through the year. My only purpose in rising to my feet now is to suggest that the guarantees of states be met earlier than the first of July. At the rate money is now lost on the *Weekly*, it seems too much to ask the national treasurer to ask the *Weekly* to carry that along until the first of July. I think the time limit should be the first of April and I think that January, February and March gives states ample time to send in their lists and to meet their guarantees. I think continuing until the first of July isn't fair to the national treasurer or National Headquarters. It is giving too much time to the states and to the individual.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I know of half a dozen states in the west that have a quarterly system of payment. That system may be 50 cents, a quarter, or 75 cents, something like that.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER VERNON (MN): I don't have any objection to Mr. Herbert's amendment. To meet the situation how would it be to meet the obligation of the states, one half to be met by April 1 and done by July 1. Would that relieve the situation or any different proportion? I think in my state they send them in as they collect them. I know our posts send them in and I think the state treasurer has been sending the national dues in as they come in to him.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I might state it is rather remarkable the number of states which have already started to send in the dollar. We just got one remittance yesterday from Indiana of $641 and 641 names. They are averaging $400 and $500 a day. It has averaged that for probably thirty days.

NATIONAL TREASURER TYNDALL: You understood the financial condition of the Legion and you realize the great deficit that is being caused and how it is increasing. Now you know that while banks would be willing to loan to The American Legion, there are certain laws and certain bank examiners who look after the laws and if the bank would undertake to carry an institution of this kind, they would get into trouble. This would be based on the future of this Legion. Now if instead of keeping the money, even if there was half of the money in, it seems to me that it would be better to pay in half than to keep it in your state treasury and wait six months. You can't finance this thing forever in the way it has been going along. That you understand. It really looks to me like it is a serious problem we are up against to finance the *Weekly* from now on. I don't know whether it is the thing to bring out at the meeting or not, the management of it. It is well managed. I couldn't conceive of a man who has to look after the editorial policy and be on the paper and business end of it. Those are two distinct functions, and I am not familiar enough to take the matter up, but I would like to hear some discussion on it, as to what you contemplate doing in managing the paper, in allowing the editor a free mind and hand in managing the editorial policy. Is it proper to bring that up at this time?

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I think so. The answer is, before the treasurer knows it he will be having a good deal to say in the business management of the *Weekly*, in addition to his other duties. I have found in all American Legion work that if any man had had any idea of what he was going to do, he wouldn't have gone into it in the first place. I questioned the advisability of telling the treasurer just at this moment how much he has to do before the year is over. I know that was my experience. Unfortunately, Mr. Herbert will bear me out in this. About three weeks before the convention, we were talking about upon whom the responsibility in the Legion could be fixed during the year and they talked about all kinds of people and name after name was suggested. They said, "Well he won't do. He can't do it," and I made the unfortunate remark that the Legion has grown so strong, and it means so much to the country that a man's personal judgment and his personal preference or wishes shouldn't be considered. If he is needed by the Legion, he must be drafted. I think that is the way we will be able to get the work done. I feel quite sure that the treasurer will become so fascinated with his position and work he will find he will have a great deal to say about the business management of the *Weekly*.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: As a means of holding our membership and getting them supplied with the *Weekly*, our publication which has the purposes and the effect and the benefit of a missionary publication, I would like to ask the gentlemen from Minnesota if he will change his motion so that half of the amount will be in by the first of April and the other half by July 1.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER VERNON: I would be glad to do that. Also, the state departments be required to transmit to National Headquarters the national dues collected within ten days from their receipt, one-half of same to be paid in any event by April 1 and remaining one-half to be paid by July 1.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER O'NEIL (KY): I want to get some information. It is not clear in my own mind. I want to say first before I make this statement, I am hardly in favor of this motion, but I would like to know on what authority we are acting from a resolution out of the National Convention. What is the authority for the method of handling this at the present?

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: It is the interpretation of the National Executive Committee that the national dues shall be $1.00 a year, payable January 1.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER O'NEIL: As I understand it, the National Executive Committee is administrative and not legislative. I wanted to inquire about that. This is the interpretation of the will of the convention which is the legislative part of the national organization.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Referring to what Mr. O'Neal has just said, I want to call your attention to this little booklet, and I wish, Mr. Secretary, the men might have these booklets as they are very helpful.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MESERVE (CT): Connecticut is in the unhappy position of having sent 25 cents to the National Headquarters in October and said to the members of the Legion in Connecticut that is all they will be called upon for until the first of next November. While the state commander has said that and is therefore in an embarrassing position, I do not believe the National

Executive Committee desire to assist him out of his dilemma by remitting to him the 75 cent which is due National Headquarters, and he must raise that money. It is the same with several other states.

The gentleman from Arkansas said something about the circulation manager of the *Weekly* not being able to guarantee anything as to circulation. He will be able to guarantee that every member of the Legion is entitled to it and will receive the *Weekly* because it is plainly set forth here. Now it is up to the state commander to furnish that dollar a year and to furnish it in any way that the state organization may desire to furnish it, and to meet the situation the National Headquarters may make any deal that they may desire to make or the National Executive Committee may suggest any deal that may be made with the states, but it should be clearly understood that each state is obligated to pay $1.00 per year and that $1.00 is due on the first day of January and we have no right as an National Executive Committee to go back of the commander of the convention on that subject.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (MN): This motion didn't mention national dues but authorized the national officers to continue *The American Legion Weekly* subscriptions during this year upon the guarantee of payment of this amount of dues by the dates mentioned. This is an emergency measure to carry the *Weekly* subscriptions along.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: As the chair understands the motion, National Headquarters are instructed to collect the dollar that is payable January 1. Now if, as the result of this discussion from the National Executive Committee, the national officers so desire, they can consider the payment of that dollar an obligation of the state to pay 50% April 1 and 50% July 1.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LOGAN (PA): The state of Pennsylvania, I am advised, has gone right to it and they have just told them they must come through with the dollar and will not do anything else but collect that dollar, for at the State Convention in October they ruled that the state dues would be $.50 and instructed the delegates to vote $1.00 for dues and the national magazine. One state wouldn't take advantage of deferred payment of 50 cents April 1 and 50 cents July 1, therefore it would be my understanding that the sense of this meeting is that where a state was absolutely up against it and couldn't send the dollar in that we would give them the special privilege of sending the guarantee for such names as they could not send in the dollar for.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I think the adoption of this motion will not be in violation of that resolution which says: Resolved, That the fiscal year of The American Legion shall begin January 1 and end on December 31 of each year and that all dues shall become payable on the first day of fiscal year and that the unearned balance of dues already paid shall be applied pro rata on the dues for the next fiscal year. The fiscal year of the Legion shall be January 1 and the dues shall become payable the first day of the succeeding calendar year.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I understand that this motion is offered to meet a situation that personally doesn't affect our state at all. Our state will have its dollar in very close to the first of January but this payment of this amount by the states as of April 1 and of July 1, is not, as I view it a violation of this resolution but simply an extension of credit to the state. The bill is due from the State the first of January, but we extend credit. It is within our power and province to extend credit to any state and I believe in the adoption of this motion, which is offered solely for the purpose of meeting a situation, that is for the benefit of The American Legion and the men interested and those who should be members of The American Legion, that we are acting wholly for the best interest of the Legion and not in violation of any resolution.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I questioned the guarantee from the states. Could the treasurer or commander give us an idea of that the guarantee would be?

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I think the note of The American Legion of Missouri or Connecticut binding merely the state organization without binding any individuals for that would be entirely satisfactory. Until National Headquarters has confidence in the solvency of states, we are sort of in poor shape financially. The experience that National Headquarters has already had on collecting the amount from states for buttons has been generally so satisfactory that where a state is sending in names if they couldn't send the cash, if they would send their note for $500 payable April 1 and $500 payable July 1, signed by the state commander and state treasurer would be satisfactory to National Headquarters.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Is it not a fact that a great many of the local posts are sending their national dues direct?

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: That is due to the fact that a good many posts were so afraid that they wouldn't get the *Weekly* that in order to avoid any possibility of delay, instead of sending to state headquarters or National Headquarters they sent them direct to the *Weekly*. They should go through state headquarters.

I think we all understand the motion now which is briefly this: That where states are not in a position to send the dollar along with the list that National Headquarters will, in special cases, accept the obligation of the state, payable 50% April 1 and 50% July 1. All those in favor signify "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." It is so ordered.

Creation of a National Headquarters Building Committee

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The building for headquarters. That is the proposition which is coming out and it might be well to have some sort of a committee, which can consider it in the meantime, in case the proper authorities in Indianapolis, Indiana would desire to accept our advice.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Mr. Commander, I understand this building is to be a memorial to the ex-service men and women of Indiana, in which accommodations will be provided for the Legion. I think it is well for us to wait for an invitation and not anticipate we will be invited.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KEENE (IN): The invitation has been extended. The primary purpose of the building is to be a memorial in which provision will be made for the National Headquarters of The American Legion.

We wanted a committee, a responsible committee, to make a definite statement as to what the requirements of National Headquarters would be in the way of office and other accommodations, or liable to be. I think that committee could cooperate very nicely. I would state here that in our public buildings in Indiana due to the activity of the art association, we have been able to build them on rather a higher plan than we did some ten years past.

I have an idea that this building scheme with some such general plan as a nationwide invitation to all architects to submit in formal competition for building. Our building plan contemplates four rough sections: one, a section to carefully and adequately for The American Legion, another section to have a convention hall or assembly capable of taking care of 4,000 or 5,000 or possibly 6,000. The third section will be a war library, collection files of all newspapers and such orders as we can get under our state librarian here. The fourth and last will

be of course the war museum, so that it is really a larger thing that The American Legion Headquarters. We want a committee that will tell us what they want in the way of accommodations and what their anticipations will be.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Is this to be dedicated to the soldiers and sailors and marines of Indiana?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KEENE (IN): It will be known as The American Legion Headquarters and War Memorial Building. We have all sorts of war activities in the state, and we don't want to invite opposition from various enterprises in our state scheme. The plan is slumbering in local minds of providing such quarters that The American Legion can invite the G.A.R. and Spanish War Veterans in the building.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I move that the national commander be authorized to appoint from the membership of The American Legion a committee of such size as he may deem necessary to be known as the building committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: You have heard the motion and seconded. Are there any remarks? All in favor signify "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." Carried. It is so ordered.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (MN): In this connection we passed a resolution providing that the next National Executive Committee should take steps for collection of war photos which I presume would be a war museum. If it were the intention to house that at National Headquarters, possibly the National Executive Committee should take steps to appoint a committee to consider that so that they might consult with the building committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: In this connection, the chair would like to call the National Executive Committee's attention to a very difficult problem which he constantly has before him; that is, in the appointment of committees. First is to have a committee representative of the entire country if possible. However, it is necessary for that committee to meet and the committees which have been appointed so far have been obliged to meet in Washington on account of legislative matters. Now it is an exceedingly difficult thing to get a man from the Pacific coast to serve on a committee and come down to Washington on a very short notice to serve on those committees and it is a pretty difficult thing to strike the happy combination of territorial representation and a committee that will actually function in one given place.

For instance, on this committee of a building for headquarters, no doubt it will repeatedly have to have a short meeting, two or three-hour meeting on short notice. I would like to have a committee representative of the entire country but to get a man from the state of Washington to come to Indianapolis for a few hours conference, it is a great hardship on him. Therefore in appointing committees it would be just as well to have them pretty good sized so that there would be at least a certain number of people who on short notice could come and attend to it and if the members of the committee living at a great distance are unable to attend, they can forward their views to the chairman of the committee so that in a way that section of the country, in spite of the distance, wherever the committee might meet, will be able to express its views on the proposition. I hope the National Executive Committee will keep constantly in mind the appointing of committees, not only in order to get territorial representative in medium distance, but men who are willing to work and will drop their business in order to come and in acting on this particular committee in question, it seems to me that we should have a pretty good sized committee so that even the far distant sections of the country will be able to be represented with their views. I would like some suggestion as to the appointment of such a committee. Any remarks on that?

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I can't speak for the majority of the states. A good many states I know appointed a committee for the selection of war memorials. Why would it not be feasible to have a committee of seven or nine including the heads of these committees which the state appointed. They could secure both the national material and the material for the individual states. Make it large enough so that there would be a sufficient number who could come and would be close enough to attend to make a quorum of that committee.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I will make a motion to the effect that the states be requested to hold their state elections so that the time for the offices for the state shall conform to the fiscal year also.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: You don't wish to dictate to the states as to when they shall hold their elections. When they are elected, they shall hold office from January 1 for fiscal year. We have a definite motion. *...Second.*

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (GA): I would like to know my status. I am not a member of the National Executive Committee. I was sent by the commander to be here. I understand I have no vote in the proceedings.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Are you the alternate?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (GA): I was designated by the state commander to come to Indianapolis.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The chair would rule on that technical point that the constitution refers to a National Executive Committeeman from each state and one alternate. From that point of view the only person entitled to a vote would be the National Executive Committeeman from that state or the alternate. When it comes to a vote, none but the original delegate or alternate would have any right to vote on a proposition. It would be interesting to hear from everybody. Whether he is technically authorized to vote or not.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I move the member from Georgia be permitted to enter the discussion and be granted the privilege of the floor. *...Motion seconded and carried.*

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (GA): I wish to oppose the motion from the gentleman from Pennsylvania. The constitution of the National Convention provides that the state departments themselves create their own constitution. Manifestly of course they have to be in conformity with the National Constitution but as I understand it, there is nothing in the National Constitution that makes it obligatory on the state, the time when officers shall go into office, to conform to the fiscal year. The fiscal year was intended for convenience in the accounting, but I think that the officers of the state department should go into office immediately after they are elected.

In Georgia as the matter now stands the officers go into office immediately following the State Convention. The advantages of that have been stated, to wit: that these men are recently elected, they are full of enthusiasm. It would have this added advantage it seems to me. We have a new set of officers going into Georgia today. They push the Legion in Georgia. Maybe California goes in two week later. They keep the thing going there and as these State Conventions are held over the country, there is always somewhere some new pep so to speak being put into the work. Otherwise, there is a big spurt, and then a letdown until the next time. Manifestly I think it is not well to have a man going into office thirty or sixty days after his election because then some of the first enthusiasm had died down.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The question is as to whether the National Executive Committee shall recommend to all states that where possible, they conform with the fiscal year as regards to tenure of office of the new state officers.

A negative vote on this proposition leaves the matter where it is and the states are to do as they see fit, so far as the state offices are concerned. All in favor "Aye." Contrary minded. "No." *...Motion failed.*

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KEENE (IN): The state and county organization has invited the National Executive Committee to dinner.

German Propaganda

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MESERVE (CT): I understand that all these things that are now being suggested are going out in the form of a bulletin to the states. Might I suggest that in that same bulletin, the national organization draw attention to the resolutions that we are adopting that states should act upon. There is one resolution, gentlemen, that has caused considerable contrary action. There has been considerate contrary action throughout the states and that is on resolution No. 17 on Page 54, and it relates to the German activities and the performance of German opera.

Many posts in some states have acted wholly in the spirit of that resolution and it hasn't been popular action, and I have had the experience myself. There has been one prominent performer who has received considerable notice throughout the country, that is Fritz Kreisler. I did attend a meeting and speak against the appearance of Kreisler in my home city. I spoke in the spirit and in the fulfillment of this resolution. I consider this resolution in effect a general order on every member of The American Legion throughout the country. I consider that it placed upon every member of The American Legion a duty, and duty has to be performed, whether or not it is pleasant or popular.

In my home city it wasn't popular and there hasn't been sufficient publicity given to the country at large for action of the Convention which was to "lend influence against the performance of German and Austrian performers." It so happened that the meeting that was held in my home city, in reference to the coming of Fritz Kreisler, was a short time before his scheduled appearance. The house was sold out and many appeared at the meeting who declared that they had the right to attend, that they were violating no spirit of Americanism, that they wanted to patronize art for art's sake and that regardless of what ex-service men or any service men, or The American Legion thought of it, they were going to attend.

The initiative, I think, in the objection to the coming of Kreisler was taken in Louisville and considerable publicity was given to it. Since then, there has been sporadic action throughout the country. In some places, posts have acted and requested that license for Kreisler 's appearance be cancelled and it has been done. Some places it hasn't been done, and in that locality where sentiment has been in favor of his appearance, those who have acted in the spirit of this resolution have been held up in speech and print as persecutors. That has been my experience, that I was persecuting a man who didn't fight against the United States.

This resolution makes no reference to the fact of whether he fought or didn't. The matter of the fact was, he fought until he was wounded. But at another place, in your state, I believe, the press said that the post at Pittsburg decided to write to Kreisler and find out what his present views were. In Lynn, Massachusetts, he was barred. In my home city where considerable publicity was given to the meeting of protest, his manager spread in the newspaper a facsimile telegram inviting him to play for The American Legion in New York and that I brought to the attention of the national commander. Another was the invitation by The American Legion to play in New York. I was told that the invitation to play in New York was authorized by The American Legion and would be withdrawn. It has been withdrawn. No publicity has been given to it.

All through the country those who have acted in sense of duty in opposition to the public performance of German and Austrian performers are held up as persecutors. Insufficient publicity has gone forth from National Headquarters and state headquarters justifying the action of those who have accepted this as a general order. We, all of us believe, some of us know, that it isn't pleasant nor popular to appear in opposition to the wishes of the artistic element of the community. It wasn't so in my place and the experience may have been had by others that anonymous communications are sent to you and you are held up as a "patrioteer," a coined word which is quite offensive, because it carries with it the suggestion of profiteer and play upon the word, and you get anonymous communications which tell you that patriotism is the last resort of a scoundrel and why should one object to the education of the American people through the violin. If he is doing that, he is helpful to our community.

It isn't a question of what one individual thinks, if he takes his duty as he should take it. That resolution places an obligation upon every member of the Legion throughout the United States to appear in opposition to the permitting of even such an artist, the greatest in the world probably in his line, even such as Kreisler. Attention should be called to the state department to that resolution, and it should be sent even further. I think even to the posts and throughout the publicity department, into the newspapers and if there has been action in New York which has caused to be cancelled or withdrawn the invitation to Kreisler to appear at a concert under the auspices of The American Legion, wide publicity should be given to that, and for their voiced disapproval of granting a license to Kreisler, particularly where a post has acted negatively, where posts have met and the matter of Kreisler's coming have been brought before it and they have decided to take no action. That places obligation to act. I think that it is rather a long preamble to the suggestion that the bulletin should contain notice of resolutions passed. So much for that.

In this Americanization committee I think great help can be done The American Legion and done the posts and members of the Legion throughout the country if there can be established, on the suggestion of the National Headquarters, a clearing house of information bearing on those who are appearing on the public platform and are dangerous to the principles of The American Legion, to the principles of Americanism. We have had up our way a Rev. Mr. Tucker, and I was told in Indianapolis last night that Miss Jane Adams is giving utterance to sentiments that are not pleasant and may be harmful and that Scott Nearing is also. Tucker whom we know has referred to The American Legion as "lot of sand baggers, rough necks" and similar expressions.

I think in reference to the work of Americanization that it is well that we have this committee before it adjourns, we should take as a committee some action written and sent, having reference to the deportation of Berkman and Goldman, congratulating some official in getting them out of the country. That is all in the line of Americanization. And I would like to ask if any action has been taken in reference to that resolution on Page 50, No. 2. Has anything been done on that? Paragraph 5, sub-paragraph 2.

One thing more. There have been suggestions that the minutes of these National Executive Committee meetings be sent to the state commanders and state adjutants and I would like also to suggest that copies of all bulletins and circulars be sent to state adjutants and state headquarters, also to each member of the National Executive Committee so we may have knowledge of what is going on in each field.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I want to make a motion that they be sent to the state commanders, state adjutants and National Executive Committeemen. I make that in the form of a motion. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: You have heard the motion made and seconded. Any remarks? In favor, "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." *...Carried.*

In reference to the Kreisler proposition, the chair would like to state when he returned from Minneapolis to New York City, I was advised that the New York organization was getting up a large benefit to take place in the Hippodrome and that General Alexander, the 77th Division Association invited Fritz Kreisler to appear. Just as soon as this was known, in order to get quick action, the New York state headquarters were immediately phoned. The New York state commander as not there but his adjutant was there, and his attention was called to this resolution. Many people who went to the convention didn't recall that resolution No. 17, and as a result of calling their attention to it, a difficult situation arose. General Alexander had originally invited Kreisler to appear. Therefore, it was necessary to get out of it. The date of the performance was put off as I was informed during February and March at which time Kreisler would not appear. I was told this not officially, but it was stated that Kreisler having received his official invitation from The American Legion, he immediately advised The American Legion he would be unable to appear. That is the way New York settled that. There were some states that didn't know about this. Every state was immediately notified, those within 24 hours mailing distance were written and those beyond that were sent a telegram.

...Meeting adjourned at 12:40 to resume business at 2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Session

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: When the meeting adjourned, we had not finished discussion of some of your points. Mr. Herbert.

Partial Payment of Dues

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HERBERT (MA): It is a question of whether a member should be required to pay a full year's dues who enters a late month in the year. It raised the question of whether a man who joins after July 1 should pay the full dollar or whether he should only pay dues of $.50 or some part of the dollar.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Therefore, in order get it in definite shape so the chair could entertain a motion.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I would move Mr. Chairman that we consider a member entering any period during the year as owing for the year. ...*Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I would like some information. As I understand we have $1.00 for one year. Next year we may change it, and it seems to me it is little enough contribution for any man who wants to support the organization to contribute one dollar. It is only fair to ask them to do so.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: All those in favor "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." It is so ordered.

Discussion of a Conscientious Objector

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: At our evening session Monday night, during the conference in Washington, Mr. Harrison Fuller, State commander of Minnesota brought up a case of conscientious objector and he submitted the following:

AMERICAN LEGION
BULLETIN NO. 31 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
OLD STATE CAPITOL
SAINT PAUL

December 10, 1919

THE BROMS CASE
(Recommendations of Department of Minnesota)
Department of Minnesota

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Saint Paul, December 9, 1919

Mr. Franklin D'Olier
National Commander, The American Legion
Indianapolis, Indiana

My Dear Sir -

The Department of Minnesota, American Lesion, presents for your consideration the inclosed papers relating to the case of Allan S. Broms of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The records show that Broms was convicted as a conscientious objector by military court martial at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and sentenced to twenty years in the federal prison.

That you may know the dangerous type of this man, the following taken from the opinion of Judge Advocate General Crowder, affirming the conviction in the case, is submitted:

"Short of army mutiny nothing more inimical to military discipline can be imagined than conduct such as displayed by the accused in this case. From the transcript of his statement, contained in the record it is plain that he is not only an educated man, but possessed of an energetic and forceful power of presentation and endowed with faculties calculated to give him more than an ordinary influence over his hearers and render him conspicuously successful in the work of proselyting in which it is not unreasonable to infer he has been engaged. A man such as this allowed at large is incalculably more dangerous than an enemy spy."

On or about March 11, 1919, for reasons we do not know, but after intersession by Dr. F. P. Keppel the Third Assistant Secretary of War, the sentence was commuted to three years.

On or about March 18, 1919, Broms was through a mistake at the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks, given his dishonorable discharge certificate and was released from confinement.

When the error was discovered the Adjutant General issued an order for the return of Broms to the penitentiary, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War. The indorsement of Dr. F. P. Keppel, Third Assistant Secretary of War on this order, a facsimile of which is attached, reads as follows:

"1st Ind.

"Third Assistant Secretary of War, May 17, 1919

"To the Adjutant General.

"1. By personal direction of the Secretary of War, Disapproved, in view of the fact that the prisoner is in legal possession of a discharge certificate and has been released from confinement.

(Signed) F. P. Keppel, Third Assistant Secretary."

The above clearly establishes the fact that Broms was released through a mistake and that the order for his return to the penitentiary, made out by the Adjutant General, was held up under the personal direction of the Secretary of War, Newton D. Baker.

Hence it is due to the personal intervention of the Secretary, and that alone, that this undesirable citizen and slacker keeps out of jail. He is now acting as secretary for the Communist Party of Minnesota and continues to address public meetings and distribute radical literature, attacking our form of government and our institutions. He is carrying on his insidious propaganda, more boldly and more openly than ever before. He considers his release as a vindication and his fellow conspirators in crime are imbued with a new courage in their nefarious operations.

In view of the flagrant misconduct of the Secretary of War in the Broms case and his persistent interference in other cases in behalf of conscientious objectors and slackers, the Department of Minnesota, representing 400 local posts and 50,000 former service men, requests that the National Commander immediately recommend that the President request the resignation of Secretary of War Newton D. Baker and his Third Assistant, Dr. F. P. Keppel; and we further urge that you demand of the proper authorities the immediate return to the federal prison of Allen S. Broms of Minneapolis convicted conscientious objector, slacker and communistic leader.

The Minnesota Department also requests that you make an effort to secure the immediate co-operation of all other state departments in making these recommendations effective.

Very truly yours,
Approved:
Harrison Fuller, Department Commander Horace G. Whitmore, Department Adjutant

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: As a result of a rather full discussion, it was finally decided that the national commander with a committee of three consisting of Mr. Fuller of Minnesota, Logan of Pennsylvania and Stuart of Virginia should frame a letter calling the secretary of war's attention to this case and present the letter to Secretary of War Baker. The following letter was written to Secretary of War Baker.

Washington, D.C.
December 15, 1919

The Honorable Newton D. Baker
Secretary of War
Washington, C. C.

Sir:

On or about March 18, 1919, Allan S. Broms of Minnesota was released from the United States Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he had been confined under sentence of court-martial. The facts in this case and all the attendant circumstances have been fully known to the United States authorities. Confinement of Broms for three years and dishonorable discharge had been ordered after most deliberate consideration.

By what has been officially described as a mistake, Broms was released from confinement before the expiration of his sentence and is now at large. The Commanding Officer of the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth has formally requested that Broms' arrest be ordered and that he be apprehended and returned to prison. This request officially made has received the endorsed approval of the Adjutant General of the Army and the Judge Advocate General.

The American Legion is informed that Broms is permitted to remain at large by reason of the fact that by your personal direction the Adjutant General's proposal to issue an order directing the apprehension and confinement of this man was disapproved.

In affirming the conviction of Broms, the Judge Advocate General said:

> "Short of armed mutiny nothing more inimical to military discipline can be imagined than conduct such as displayed by the accused in this case….A man such as this allowed at large is incalculably more dangerous than an enemy spy".

Furthermore, since his illegal release, Broms has become notorious for seditious utterances against the Government.

In view of your action in this case and the subsequent conduct of this man, the State Commanders of the American Legion have directed me to request that the necessary order be issued at once for the immediate arrest and confinement of Broms.

Very respectfully yours.
Franklin D'Olier
National Commander - American Legion

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The committee of three with the national commander waited on Secretary of War Baker and had probably a 45-minute conference. The letter was read to the secretary of war, and he looked through some papers on his desk and finally found these papers, relating to this case. After a discussion of about 45 minutes, the position was practically taken as this: That granting the mistake had been made if this man Broms had proved after the release by a mistake, to be a perfectly good citizen and had behaved himself, the question would not have been raised.

That is as much as he had been guilty according to this statement of seditious utterances therefore, he was an undesirable citizen, and Secretary Baker's attitude first was that this was a question for the local authorities to determine and arrest him under whatever laws might apply in his case. The point was brought up that he should be considered as being released under parole, and that Broms, because if his seditious utterances had therefore violated his parole, and the final result of the conference was statement by Secretary Baker that the case would be investigated immediately either through the Department of Justice or the attorney general and if it was proven that he was guilty of seditious utterances and therefore had broken his parole, that he would be rearrested providing, however, that the judge advocate general had told him that he might not have waived any rights he provided in that case. That was Tuesday of this week. Wednesday noon before the conference adjourned, the following letter was received from the secretary of war, dated the seventeenth.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington, D.C.
December 17, 1919

My dear Col. D'Olier:

After your visit yesterday, I took up the problem presented by the case of Allan S. Broms of Minnesota, and reviewed the record in the case with the Judge Advocate General. The endorsement made by Doctor Keppel after his conference with me is held by the Judge Advocate General's Office to be the equivalent in legal effect of a remission of the portion of the sentence which had not expired at the time the action was taken. This ended the power of the Secretary of War to direct the rearrest of Broms, and leaves as the remedy for any misconduct on his part prosecution under such laws as he may now violate.

I am grateful to you and the members of your committee for the presentation of your views on the subject and am sending this hurried note in the hope that it will reach you before the termination of the meeting of the executive committee.

Cordially yours,
Newton D. Baker
Secretary of War.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: That brought forth a further discussion and it was finally decided when the chair called the attention of the conference that they had no technical standing in the case, that the action taken was all that could be done. It was finally determined to refer this matter to the National Executive Committee for action and therefore I am laying it before you for whatever action you deem advisable and I think in this connection in order to get the angle of the different members there that it might be well for some of the others who were present at the conference to give us further information on that point. I have tried to present the case merely in a plain matter of fact sort of way without expressing any personal feeling or opinion whatsoever. The following resolution was adopted.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER:

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Indiana and the patriotic citizens of Indianapolis have shown such a generous spirit in their welcome to The American Legion in establishing its National Headquarters; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Indiana has shown splendid initiative and efficiency in providing office quarters for the National Headquarters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion extends The American Legion Department of Indiana and the patriotic and public-spirited citizens of Indianapolis, Indiana, its great appreciation for their generous and wholehearted welcome and assistance. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: All in favor signify with "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." *...Carried.* Motion made and seconded to thank Mr. Keene for the luncheon today. No objections. Motion carried.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HARRIS (SD):

RESOLVED, That the national commander be and hereby is authorized to select and have manufactured a design of official badge with a distinctive ribbon to be worn by members of The American Legion on appropriate occasions; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national commander be requested to take the necessary steps to have the War and Navy Department authorize the wearing of this badge on service uniforms.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Why limit it to service uniforms? There may be a change in the uniforms.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Any discussion at this point?

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Why not say uniform?

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: That of course would refer to the uniform over which the War and Navy Department have control. You have heard the motion. Question. All in favor, "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." It is so ordered. [with "uniform" instead of "service uniform."]

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER:

RESOLVED, That the national adjutant be and hereby is authorized to sell to departments, local posts and members of The American Legion, in such manner as may by him be decided upon, supplies required by these divisions of The American Legion, such as American Legion regulation button, American Legion official badge, American Legion Auxiliary's regulation button, American Legion banner, etc., all profits which may be derived from such sale to accrue to the benefit of The American Legion as a whole. *...Seconded and carried.*

Meetings of the National Executive Committee

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I have something that was called to my attention and was embarrassing to me. There was an article in the *Stars and Stripes* of last week's issue in which it claimed The American Legion, the national commander and a few of the members of the National Executive Committee claimed they held a secret meeting.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I went to New York immediately following the Minneapolis convention and have no knowledge of any such meeting.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: It was published on the front page of the *Stars and Stripes* in large heading.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I think that with the exception of those National Executive Committeemen who were present in Washington that since the national commander has left Minneapolis, he has not seen a member of the National Executive Committee. I had no knowledge of such a meeting.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I put this in the form of a motion. That all future calls of the National Executive Committee be made in writing to the members of the committee and that the purpose of the meeting be stated in calling it, the reason for that being that there are a great many members who are at a distance from the place of the meeting and there may be routine matters which they would not care to attend, but if there were something coming up of importance to the state, they would make it a point to get here. When we came today, none of us had any knowledge or information as to what the meeting was for and merely got the word from our state office that there would be a meeting of the committee and asking if we could attend. I put that in the form of a motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: That point is exceedingly well taken and, in this instance, would state that the treasurer said he would be unable to serve after the headquarters started to move from New York to Indianapolis. We did not have an accurate list of the addresses of the National Executive Committee. We have no exact list at the present time. Some states did not elect their National Executive Committeeman. You have heard the motion. Any remarks?

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: It is not the intention of the motion to restrict the action of that meeting to call.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I didn't put that in the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: You have heard the motion. All in favor signify "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." It is so ordered.

Committee to Cooperate with the War Risk Insurance Bureau

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: It if is permissible along these lines, in conversation with Mr. Taylor and Mr. Raege, two members of the Legislative Committee, in Washington on Thursday I suggested to them certain things along lines which should be embodied in the contract of insurance which we expect the government to issue, for the protection of ourselves and to take it out of the hands of the government red tape as far as the administration of the contract was concerned. That is between the individual policy holder and the government officials of the various departments.

They were of the opinion that The American Legion should dictate the policy which would be issued by the department and Mr. Taylor or Mr. Raege suggested that the commander be instructed to appoint a committee, a handpicked committee to decide upon the policy which the war risk insurance would issue, that is decide upon its contract condition, then present that decision to the legislative committee to be enacted in a bill which could not be changed from time to time unless Congress so decided. I would like to hear some other opinions on that. I think it would be very interesting to hear from those members who were present at the conference. We spend three day and two evenings going over this whole proposition pretty thoroughly and I think it would be well if any of you were present at those meeting would give us a side light.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BERRY (TN): I think we can get the type of policy that the men want. I see by applying this committee that we have everything to gain and nothing to lose. I believe the judgment of this committee will almost be final in securing the type of policy the men want.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Does that include the payment of the face of the policy - lump sum?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BERRY (TN): That was to be one of the features mainly discussed, either way.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: As I understand the Sweet Bill, there shall be the privilege of demanding a lump sum payment. The lump sum payment, however, is not included in term insurance. It is merely on converted insurance. Any further information?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (GA): Mr. Commander, I was present at that conference. With reference to the term insurance being paid in a lump sum at maturity, that is provided not in the Sweet Bill but in the Wason Bill which the Legislative Committee is pushing and hopes to get through soon. A specimen policy that they have out so far is as liberal contract I think as they can possibly get out, limited only by the limitations of the law as it exists now. I think the Bureau of War Risk Insurance is trying to get out a form of policy that is a standard policy, one that contains all the provisions of the standard American insurance policy. I think that their attitude is going to be to make that as liberal as they possibly can. I think if we would attempt to go in there and tell them about that, we would be interfering in an administrative detail. I think the thing we have to do is to recommend certain changes in the laws which absolutely serve to make the contract a go with the serviceman, but I don't think we could be any particular good to try to have incorporated in the law the form of policy contract.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Any further remarks?

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: That isn't the practical way to look at this question. The way to look at the policy proposition is this gentleman: To get it away from any rulings that may be further held as to what will be the position of the department in this or that or any other respect to any policy constitution so that anybody can pick up that contract who can read intelligently and know what the contract so provides that it will take our insurance question out of any rulings entirely so far as any department of government is concerned.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Any motion?

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I will make that a motion, that the chair appoint a committee, the number to be left to the discretion of the chair. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: As I understand it, the motion, therefore, is to the effect that the chair be empowered to appoint a committee to cooperate with the War Risk Insurance Bureau to the end of drawing up a policy which shall meet the idea of the Legion. It has been duly seconded. Those in favor signify by "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." ...*Carried.*

In order to assist the chair in appointing that committee, I will ask Mr. Berry of Tennessee, Mr. Harris of South Dakota, and Mr. Bloodworth who were present at all the conferences, who have a pretty fair line-up on the men who were present there and let them choose five men whom they think understand the proposition thoroughly and whom they also believe would be able to function properly, and I believe that you three are in very much better position than even I am to choose who those men shall be, and the chair will be only too glad to appoint those five men.

The American Legion Weekly

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BERRY (TN): In regard to *The American Legion Weekly*, we must not have the average standard of that above the average intelligence of those to whose hands that paper is to go. I have talked to large numbers of men and asked them what their opinion of the *Weekly* as it now stands. They are interested in the editorial page and the bulletin board, but our fiction pages do not bring the return on the expense that is being put on them. They compare that to the *Stars and Stripes*. They are interested in what the Legion is doing to Kreisler in Louisville. It would be well for the manager of the *Weekly* to consider a reduction in the amount of space given to fiction and incorporate a few pages of live notes of interest such as those items I have recalled. It will mean more to the average man of the *Weekly*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: In that connection, I think it would be exceedingly helpful to the management of the *Weekly* if the National Executive Committee would make a special point to inquire just along such lines as Mr. Berry brought out and not hesitate to write frequently to headquarters; that whatever suggestions are made can be forwarded right to Mr. White for his consideration because I know he would appreciate it and I know that it would help him a very great deal. I think it might be well, if you can drop a line either to me or direct to Mr. White of the *Weekly*. I know that I personally would appreciate it very much indeed because the great difficulty with those of us, we can at times lose touch with local situations through the country and you other people can keep us in line.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CHAMBERS (MA): When I went back home after the convention, I got in touch with Navy people, and they got in touch with me. I am a naval man. I want to ask every member the National Executive Committee that when you go back to your states, please refer anything to me along Navy lines. A great deal of this work will fall upon me. I received a telegram while enroute from New York stating that the Navy men are going to organize there immediately.

Women's Auxiliary

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The chairman of the Woman's Auxiliary of The American Legion is E. Lester Jones of District of Columbia. There are some ten different organizations which are willing to be the Women's Auxiliary of The American Legion. A bulletin was sent out to all states in reference to the Auxiliary. The National Executive Committee instructed the chair to appoint a committee of seven which will draw up a temporary charter. The National Executive Committee will accept it or modify it. For the present as authorized by the constitution, they can become adopted by each local post. The committee has only just been appointed and will probably meet the latter part of January or February. The first duty of this committee will be to draw up a temporary charter and send it to the National Headquarters.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (WI): Will they have the same form of charter as the local posts?

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: We intend to have it the same as the temporary papers. For instance, any post wants for form an Auxiliary. The post officers will approve of it, then the state headquarters will okay it and National Headquarters will issue the charter.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: In view of the War Department General Order 345, I make the following resolution:

WHEREAS, A recent War Department Order announced the policy of releasing service man to civil life who had been in hospitals under treatment more than twelve months, without provision of any kind being made for their treatment in civil life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of The American Legion that the carrying out of such an order would entail great hardships to a large number of service men and the War Department is requested to modify such order until such time as the War Department or some other branch of government has organized medical or hospital service to adequately care tor these men.

Creation of Posts

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I want to call to your attention page 50, paragraph four, "Be it resolved, By The American Legion in Convention assembled, that we extend most deep appreciation and loyal thanks to the press and all papers, magazines, and publicity committees who have so graciously assisted The American Legion."

Page 54, paragraph 19 - two and three are not clear to me. "(2), Therefore be it resolved, that a ruling be made, eliminating in the future, posts of any other class and confining organization to community posts: and (3), Resolved further, That the state organization be requested to endeavor, in so far as possible to effect combinations or unions of already established unit posts with others organized on the present regular and recommended basis."

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Some 15 or 20 men were getting together and organizing posts according to their denomination, rank, etc. I have had a number of cases where the different companies or divisions wanted to form a post of their own. For instance, the 125th Field Artillery were organizing a post. I took it up with them. Have them organize large posts instead of so many small ones. Any person who has an honorable discharge can become a member of The American Legion and he cannot be denied the privilege of joining, if he is an honest and straight man, he should not be denied the privilege of becoming a member.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: According to the resolution I get from the committee of resolutions, the application for membership should come up before a post meeting.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Some posts were trying to work on a social basis where Tom, Dick and Harry wanted a post to themselves, but we must keep them all together and see that there is not a social distinction. Make them large and keep them away from the social conditions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The headquarters has always been that. Our great idea is to get a large number and as many as we can into the Legion

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I understand a bill has been introduced by Mr. Davies, H.R. 650. If this matter were called to the attention of the department, it seems to me the state would aid the Department of Justice in securing an act of such measure. Congressmen Johnson of South Dakota read the entire resolution, and committee reports of The American Legion, so we know that these resolutions are on record.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The first official book of The American Legion is being gotten out and our end will be distributed to all delegates at each convention, also one to each post. Secretary Wood is drawing it up. He is a writer and is working on it for the Legion at the present time.

Memorial Buildings

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: What has been done about memorials? Page 23, paragraph 8. "We recommend that each state individually determine for itself the nature, for and construction to be used in memorials erected to their fallen comrades."

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: This memorial type of building which was shown at the convention is really carrying out the civic center idea which has been growing, where the whole populace will get the benefit of it.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Over 300 cities have taken this up. We want to encourage big returns in the country. The Legion has taken it up all over the United States.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I have planned a bulletin as to where they can get instructions concerning the plans of a memorial building and I have also in addition to that answered several letters relative to the disposal of funds which are now seemingly in the hands of someone who doesn't know how to turn them over. They are directing the building of a memorial building and the bulletin which I was getting out will cover that.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: We want to show the country that we are not getting anything for ourselves only. It will not be a building for The American Legion members only but for the public also.

Expenses of National Executive Committee Members

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (NE): There is a matter that our state executive committee requested me to direct the attention of this committee to and that is in regard to the expenses incurred by the members of the National Executive Committees in coming to and going from the executive meetings.

Many of the men come long distances and some of us have to be gone nearly a week. We don't feel like giving up our business for that length of time and make an outlay of expense at the same time. I realize too that there are members of this committee who cannot do that. In my own state, the executive committee will bear the expenses of the National Executive Committeeman to these meetings, but they suggested that I offer a motion here to the end that National Executive Committee defray the legitimate expenses of all committeemen attending the meetings within the next year on account of the Legion being in the formative period. That is in the form of a motion, that the national treasurer defray the expenses of the National Executive Committeemen to and from the place of residence. *...Second.*

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Was that taken care of in our National Executive Committee meeting just after the convention at Minneapolis? Mr. Bolles told me a while ago that it was.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: It was said up there all committeemen would attend committee meetings at no expense to Legion. That question has been brought up a great many times and it is realized that unfortunately in throwing a great burden upon certain individuals. The only excuse for allowing such a condition as that to continue is based upon the present unfortunate financial condition of the National Headquarters, and of course in our present situation, whatever money is paid out that will just have to be borrowed until ultimately *The America Legion Weekly* can pay that back.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: In view of the financial situation of the Legion at this time, it was forced to rule, correct or not, that it would merely cover the national officers because if you sit down and figure this out, you realize that it cost a good many thousand dollars. Of course, we know the only reason that this conference was possible in Washington was because the War Risk Insurance Bureau furnished the transportation of everyone who attended, and it is absolutely right that these committeemen should have their expenses paid, when our conditions are such that we can afford to do it.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: An amendment by adding to it that payment of these expenses be deferred to such time as the condition of the national treasury will warrant it. It is a matter in my mind that is really a national responsibility and not a state responsibility. The states of the union don't pay salaries of the representatives in Congress.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I am merely asking the committee to pass the motion to allow the expenses, and the expanses can be taken care of in any way the National Executive Committee sees fit. I want to know whether or not I can go back and report whether my expenses will be deferred, taken care of by the National Executive Committee or not.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Don't you think under the circumstances when we are $140,000 in the hole that this matter might be deferred, that the expenses be paid for by the committeemen or appeal to the state headquarters for it. When we are struggling along at $140,000 in the hole, just elected a new treasurer with a heap of debt on his back, that it is a pretty hard proposition to saddle this debt off for the meetings of the National Executive Committee on the national funds. Of course, those who can afford to come will come and those who couldn't, wouldn't come, but I think it would be a good idea at the present time to states, and have the states pay their expenses. There would probably be some who would have to remain at home, but there would always be enough who can afford to pay their own expenses to come.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: A man's financial standing should not interfere with his opportunity afforded of occupying any office in The American Legion. I don't feel that I can leave my business. When I leave my business, my office is locked. I don't feel like I should come here four or five times the next year and pay my expenses. The state department will either pay it or the National Headquarters will pay it. It seems that any organization which ultimately will have approximately 4,800,000 members ought to be able to pay at least the expenses of the National Executive Committee. While I appreciate the formative period of this organization is such that they can't borrow great sums of money, I think some arrangement could be made whereby the National Executive Committee could pay the expenses.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Any further remarks? It seems to me to be absolutely fair when we get into proper shape that a reasonable allowance should be made for attendance at these meetings.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: We should defer asking for any until we get into better financial position that we are. Whenever it is decided to pay any portion of these expenses that it be an allowance made based on transportation, and an allowance for hotel expenses. One man is willing to take one seat, another wants a section of the car, another man wants a $5.00 room and still another is satisfied with a $3.00 room. It isn't fair to put that cost of high living on the association, therefore let us when we decide on it, decide on an allowance based on the general expenses, but I do believe the whole matter should lay over until our next meeting until we see where the finances of the Legion have reached. I therefore move that the matter be laid on the table until our next meeting. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Any remarks? By way of suggestion if it would help the state departments, we might suggest that the national organization realizes that it should pay for these expenses but in view of its present financial condition, requests the state departments to care for expenses of their representatives.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: We ought to take action now recognizing the responsibility of the national body for the legitimate traveling expenses of these meetings.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: A substitute motion that the national organization should bear the expenses of the National Executive Committeemen when the treasury is sufficiently in funds to do so and until such time the states be requested to bear the expenses of the National Executive Committeemen.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: No self-respecting state, and that means 48 states in the Union, want to have any such thing as that passed back to it. This is recognized apparently from the discussion. It is a liability of the national department. We are gathered for national business, transacting national business, and therefore it puts a man in an extremely embarrassing position if the matter is referred at all to his state. The states are not much better off that the National Headquarters financially, and I strongly object to the inclusion in the substitute motion of reference to state headquarters. We are gathered for the transaction of national business.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I think we ought to give railroad fare and a definite per diem which would be fair to everyone. It is left up to each individual man as to what his standard of living and what his expenses shall be. Each one might have a greatly different expense account. I believe it should be a definite per diem on top of the railroad fare.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Could it not be on so much per mile?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LINXWILER (MT): Make it on a basis of so many cents per mile, then let up spend what we want to. Amendment to his motion. The method of determining the expenses shall be left until the occasion arises for paying it.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Make it seven cents a mile.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Was this a substitute motion for all previous and pending motions?

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I move that it be the sense of this meeting that expenses of the National Executive Committeemen should be paid by the National Headquarters and those in attendance at all of the called meetings of the national body should be paid when the state of the treasury permits and that the method of payment be determined by the Finance Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: You have heard the motion. All in favor signify with "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." *...Carried.* The National Executive Committee might be interested in hearing a preliminary report of the military policy.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: To revert back to the suggestion I made during the morning, that the National Executive Committee commend as well as to condemn and that I think it would be good policy for this committee to have a resolution go out from this meeting commending the action of whoever is responsible, or however many are responsible, for the deportation of Berkmann, Goldman. They are already on board a ship leaving the country and I think it would be well to have a committee of three appointed to draw up some resolution in regard to this matter. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: You have heard the motion, that a committee of three be appointed to draw up this resolution. All in favor "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." It is so ordered.

Report: Military Policy Committee

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Before that committee withdraws, they might be interested in hearing the Military Policy Committee. No objections. The Military Policy Committee was appointed. The chair realized the great difficulty in appointing a Military Policy Committee, no matter who would be appointed, there would be objections to them. No matter who had been made chairman of the committee, there would be a great many disapprove and after giving it, using the words of the Methodist minister, "prayerful consideration," chose as chairman, the first National Vice Commander, Allan Tukey of Nebraska who is a 2nd Lieutenant, wounded at Scissons; Mr. Llewellyn of the state of Washington, a national guardsman; Mr. Foreman of Chicago, a national guardsman. Mr. Galbraith was put on from Ohio; Mr. Stimson, former secretary of war was put on from New York state and in order that the South might be full represented, on account of their peculiar conditions down there, Mr. Lindsley of Texas was put on so that the minute anybody from the South seeing the name of Mr. Lindsley would realize that the Southern point of view was fully considered and the naval representative is yet to be chosen. That committee unfortunately was not able to be present altogether. An informal conference was held with the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate, called in Washington a week ago Wednesday. The four persons present were Mr. Tukey of Nebraska, Mr. Foreman, Mr. Galbraith and Mr. Stimson. They held a meeting before the Military Affairs Committee. One week later a further conference was held. Only two members were able to attend that meeting: Mr. Foreman and Mr. Tukey. Covering the situation, Mr. Tukey wrote me a letter under date of December 17 which I will read to you.

Washington, D.C.
December 17, 1919

Mr. Franklin D'Olier, National Commander
The American Legion
Meridian Life Bldg. Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. D'Olier:

Your Committee on Miliary Policy met in Washington, Tuesday, December 9, at which were present the following: Messrs. Foreman, Stimson, Galbraith and Tukey, and Mr. Thomas W. Miller, Chairman of the National Legislative Committee.

After deliberation and discussion among ourselves and with interested parties, we appeared before the sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, Wednesday, December 10. At this hearing we tried to confine ourselves to generalities covered by our resolutions as adopted at Minneapolis. We did not present many suggestions in detail. Attached hereto is a copy of our statement as submitted to the Senate Committee and to the Press. (Exhibit 1) [Not included in minutes]

Mr. Stimson was unable to remain longer in Washington or to return for our next hearing before the Senate sub-committee, which was held on Wednesday, December 17. Attached is our statement as made on that date. (Exhibit 2) [Not included in minutes]

It is the opinion of the members of the committee who remained for the second hearing that there will undoubtedly be a compromise effected between the various groups interested in military training, and that as a result there will very probably be a bill proposed which will be acceptable under resolutions. One of these compromises will affect the National Guard, and a suggestion of several members of this Committee was made to the Senate Committee that a possible solution lies in providing that a young man subject to Military training might elect to take the training in a National Guard organization. It would be necessary that he receive equivalent training and that that training be under the same regulations and administration as that which is given the members of the Citizen army in training camps. There should be a maximum limit to the size of the National Guard

We proposed to the Senate Committee that there should be one Army of the United States including as small a permanent force as possible, and a Citizen Army - the National Guard to be part of the Citizen army; that members of the Citizen army should be subject to military service only in time of war unless they voluntarily joined the National Guard. As members of this organization, they should be subject to service as at present.

Your committee made several other suggestions regarding the reorganization of the regular army with an eye to a house-cleaning of inefficient officers and fair means of promotion of competent officers. We insisted that the General Staff should be liberalized by a mixture of citizen officers and that that part of the War Department General Staff, which has in any way to do with the training or administration of the citizen army, or if it be so-called the "General Staff of the Citizen Army," should contain at least fifty per cent citizen officers. We suggested an amendment to the 119th Article of War, so as to provide that the relative rank of all officers, whether regular or citizen in the same grade, should be based on active service in that grade. We further insisted that no person should be admitted to the United States Military Academy until he had completed training in the Citizen army in such a manner as to justify a recommendation as to military aptitude and efficiency: and that any vacancies created in the reorganization of the regular commissioned personal should be filled by selection from competent veterans of the war.

Some of the Committee's recommendations regarding a Citizen army follows: That no person be subject to compulsory training who served at any time during the war in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps; veterans of the war now in civil life to be entitled by right to initial appointment in the reserve in the grades held by them upon their honorable discharge, or in any higher grade for which their qualifications have been demonstrated in active service; that all reserve officers and members of the reserve, i.e., men coming out of training or volunteers from among veterans to be assigned to definite units or staffs organized in the locality of his residence; that so far as possible, the names of both National Guard and National army units which served in the war be preserved, and these units located in the localities from which they came; that the training to be given in the different areas of the country should be adopted to their different climatic, educational, industrial, geographical and other conditions; that provision be made for instruction in the American language of all persons not sufficiently instructed to be able to profit by the military training, this instruction to be given in or out of the military service as regulations may prescribe.

The committee adjourned December 17, to meet in January at which time we shall probably appear before the House Committee, as well as attend further conferences with the Senate Committee

Very respectfully submitted,
Allan. Tukey
Chairman, Military Policy Committee
The American Legion

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: The Military Affairs Committee unquestionably have a difficult problem on their hands. Unquestionably there is a strong feeling against military training. That committee is proceeding cautiously, feeling out their way because they realize that any general bill which will receive the approval of The American Legion must necessarily be a compromise measure. I was personally very much impressed with the spirit of the members of the committee. The members of the committee had just one thought in mind and that was what is best for The American Legion.

The following resolutions were passed:

RESOLVED, That the Fiscal Year of the Women's Auxiliary of The American Legion shall begin January 1, and end December 31, of each year and that all dues shall become payable on the first day of the said fiscal year.

WHEREAS, Alexander Birkman and Emma Goldman, radical leaders, are now on board ship and about to be deported; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion through its National Executive Committee hereby expresses its approval and satisfaction of the action of the government in these particular instances and has confidence that the government will continue in its effort to rid this country of such undesirable aliens.

Solicitation of Funds

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HARRIS (SD): In referring to the incident that happened some short time ago at Centralia, and their appeal for funds. I believe it should be within the discretion of this body to let it be known to the various state organizations, or rather that this body should take some action preventing any post from sending out a miscellaneous appeal for funds, and that also such appeals be referred to the national executive headquarters and only such appeal go out with their authorization.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: In that connection the chair would state that when this matter as first called to the attention of the National Headquarters, a telegram was immediately sent to the state officers of Washington for information. The following day, a telegram was sent to National Headquarters stating that a definite sum of 25 cents per member was asked for and National Headquarters again wired to the state of Washington and called their attention to the fact that it didn't make any difference how worthy the project might be, how necessary it might be to take immediate action, that it would be absolutely impossible to act on such a thing as that except first with the approval of the National Executive Committee.

A bulletin was sent to the states requesting them to take no action whatever in the matter until definite action had been taken by the National Executive Committee and the approval of the National Executive Committee was given. In talking to the state commander of Washington down in Washington, D.C., he explained that the telegram was the result partly of over-enthusiasm on the part of certain of their members. The commander of that post, having been one of the men who was killed and this group of some twenty members sent that telegram

because they received telegrams from many posts asking them if they could help them in raising funds. He wasn't giving that as an excuse, but just saying why they had done it without consulting him and he as state commander instructed them under no circumstances must they consider such an act in the future. The wire, we sent out to all states, was addressed to states beyond 24 hours mailing distance, and a bulletin written to those within the distance, calling their attention to this as an illustration.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LOGAN (PA): No post ought to be allowed to go out of its community to solicit funds without some authority from the department headquarters within their own state. If they were going beyond the state, it ought to come from this body. We ought to establish some rule that no post could go out publicly to solicit or ask people to buy tickets without the approval of all of their posts or department commander or some arrangement like that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I think the committee could leave this to the department, where a state overlapped another state that is a national matter, but where it come to management within that state, I think it should be brought to state headquarters.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LOGAN: We have nearly all these thing uniform. If we haven't the authority that is another thing. We have been advised that it is the sense of the National Executive Committee that before any post undertook to solicit funds in any manner whatever, that they communicate with their commander and get the approval of the department commander or executive committee.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Mr. Commander, I think the post should be able to act within its individual locality without consulting the state commander

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LOGAN: In large communities you will have many posts. These different posts are going into offices with requests to buy tickets or subscribe or something of that kind and what I am afraid of is that it will put a bad taste in the public mind about what we are doing. If a certain post had undertaken to collect money or you might say in case of the city, let them get together and have one entertainment. While the county was endeavoring to get together a big movement, there were several posts come out with little affairs. This same request is coming in from one post after another.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: Couldn't that be a matter controlled by the Allegheny County Post?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LOGAN: Why shouldn't we have a general plan throughout this country? We advised that they take it up with the state. I wouldn't ask this committee to pass on Pennsylvania or Iowa or Ohio or any place else.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LINXWILER (MT): We have found it necessary to do that in Montana. That all posts have a representative of one member and anything that comes up in connection with the benefit of the Legion, individual posts, or anything of the kind is handled by a city executive committee.

Law and Order

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: There is one very important feature which I think if there is nothing else, we might bring up at the close of this meeting, that is exceedingly important matter of the stand of the American on law and order. Of course, we all realize that The American Legion represents some nearly five million ex-service men who have proven their patriotism and loyalty, but we realize that there are one hundred million Americans who are also loyal and patriotic, and The American Legion has no monopoly on patriotism and loyalty, on law and order or 100% Americanism.

The American Legion has been accused mostly unjustly of being so keen for law and order that some of the over-enthusiastic Legionnaires have in order to justify their position, taken law and order in their own hands. In certain directions, some of your citizens who are not members of the Legion are not altogether satisfied to have The American Legion take law and order in their own hands. I believe that it is most important at this time that the state should watch this feature very closely. It is absolutely essential at this time that The American Legion should be absolutely an example of law and order and realize that nothing can be done except through the orderly process of government.

The American Legion has grown so rapidly and has become so strong that we need fear no outside force. We have to be very, very careful that no thoughtless act of our own from within makes us lose the support and approval of the one hundred million other American citizens who are just as much interested in the maintenance of law and order as we are, and I believe that it is only by taking such a stand as that, that we will be able to cooperate with all the other forces for law and order and 100% Americanism and in that way act as the great stabilizing influence in these days of readjustment and I think it would be well for us to take back to our states this thought that we might diplomatically, or as well as we can, curb this over-enthusiasm on the part of some of our Legionnaires and impress upon them that it is distinctly up to them to set an example for law and order.

The commander of the State of Washington, in referring to the Centralia episode, referred to the fact that in spite of the provocation of four American Legion members having been murdered in cold blood that when these radicals had been caught and put in jail, and an effort had been made to lynch them, that when the mayor of the town called upon the Legion to lend assistance, they prevented the lynching of those men. In other words, I don't believe a finer illustration could be given then what The American Legion did in that particular instance.

I know every state commander and every member of the National Executive Committee can help these headquarters in sending in their suggestions from time to time as to just how that feature can be handled and how every member of The American Legion can be impressed with the fact that he must at all times and under all conditions set an example to the people of this country for the lawful and orderly proceedings of the government. We will probably send out a bulletin emphasizing that feature so it can be brought to the attention of every post in the country.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I would like to suggest that the remarks to this committee by the commander be published in *The American Legion Weekly*. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: All in favor signify "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." *...Carried.*

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: Is it proper for a man who is seeking political preference to speak at a meeting of The American Legion?

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I would like to quote Section 2 of Article 2.

There is one more thing I want to tell you about and that is when I got back to New York right after the Minneapolis Convention, it was rather a deserted headquarters. My position was not a happy one for several weeks. I was pretty well deserted and working under more or less pressure trying to get committees together and trying to persuade people to come and work for the Legion and to become religious. Some would say, "I have married me a wife, and I cannot do it," and another, "That is all very fine, but I cannot do it."

We finally got together and began functioning and then Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, when the state commanders all came together, they showed the most wonderful spirit you ever saw in your life and when I realized that they worked so hard, they thought so clearly, they played so fairly, they had just one idea in their mind, the good of the Legion, and when I come to this meeting here and see the same spirit prevailing, all I can tell you is that it is worth more to me than a month's vacation. I want to thank you heartily for the spirit of cooperation because that is the spirit that is going to make this coming year a year of great success for The American Legion. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Convention at Minneapolis, condemned any tendency to resume relationships with Teutonic activities and warned against the various devices intended to aid enemy sympathizers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we do heartily endorse the stand of those American Legion posts and individual members of the Legion who have publicly protected against scheduled performances of German opera and public performances by German and Austrian artists and who have taken action against enemy sympathizers who are organizing ostensibly for the purpose of affording relief to the civilian population of enemy countries, but in reality for the purpose of organizing and spreading anti-American propaganda; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we commend the actions and attitude of said posts and individual members as being the exemplification of the pronounced policy of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: I think we should take action commending them for it. It is up to us to support the men who have supported the Legion and commend them for the stand and to let them know when the Legion says something, they mean it.

UNIDENTIFIED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: I propose in addition to that resolution that you will incorporate there the posts that have taken action in accordance with the spirit of the original resolution. Why I refer to that is The American Legion in the town that I live in is in very bad because it put of out of business a German-Austrian Aid association which was composed of the leading citizens of the town and as a result they think we are radical young kids and don't realize that we are acting in accordance with the feeling of the national body. I merely incorporate the additional fact of item number 13 on page 48.

NATIONAL COMMANDER D'OLIER: For fear of leaving some posts out, could not that be so worded that the states be requested to commend those posts which to their knowledge have taken such action? You have heard the motion, Are there any further remarks? Signify by "Aye." Contrary minded, "No." *...Carried.*

Moved and seconded that we adjourn until meeting is next called.

...The National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.

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