
DIGEST OF MINUTES

*National Executive Committee
Meetings*

The American Legion

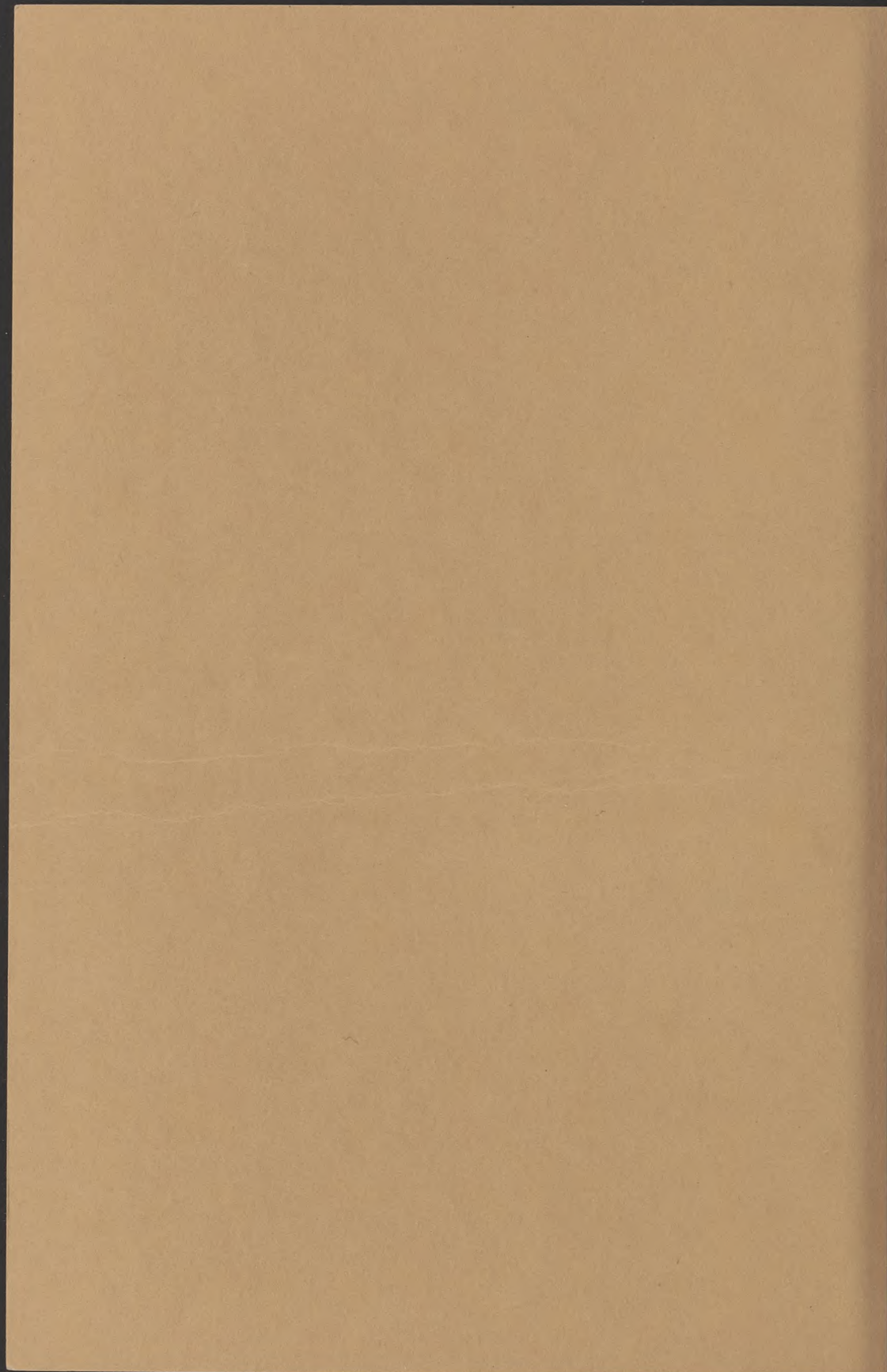


LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

September 2 and 6, 1956



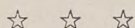
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DIGEST OF MINUTES

National Executive Committee

Meetings

The American Legion

SUNDAY, AFTERNOON SESSION, SEPTEMBER 2, 1956

The pre-convention meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, held on Sunday, September 2, 1956 at the Biltmore Hotel, convened at 2 p.m., National Commander J. Addington Wagner, Michigan, presiding. National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore served as secretary.

Following posting of the colors, invocation was offered by National Chaplain, Reverend Joseph MacCarroll, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

National Commander
J. Addington Wagner

National Chaplain
Rev. Joseph MacCarroll

Past National Commanders:
John R. Quinn
Stephen F. Chadwick
Raymond J. Kelly
Milo J. Warner
Roane Waring
Warren H. Atherton
James F. O'Neil
Arthur J. Connell
Seaborn P. Collins

National Vice Commanders
Guy Stone
John H. Van Horn
L. Everett Page
Wm. J. Holliman

Department Committeemen

Alabama—Hugh W. Overton
Alaska—Perry S. McLain
Arizona—Calvin R. Sanders
Arkansas—Dr. G. D. Murphy
California—Wm. R. Burke
Canada—John B. Finucane
Colorado—Wm. R. Egan
Connecticut—Joseph G. Leonard
Delaware—Wm. J. B. Regan
D. of C.—Robert R. Bunch
Florida—E. Meade Wilson
Georgia—James E. Powers
Hawaii—Dr. P. M. Corboy
Idaho—Harry R. Harn
Illinois—S. Wm. Ash
Indiana—Lawrence H. Hinds
Italy—H. Armand DeMasi
Kansas—Dale L. Duncan
Kentucky—Charles M. Blackburn
Louisiana—Dr. A. R. Choppin
Maine—Ralph M. Merrow
Maryland—J. Edward Walter

Massachusetts—Charles N. Collatos
Michigan—Robert G. Mathieson
Mexico—William J. Siebert (alternate)
Minnesota—Carl L. Lundgren
Mississippi—R. S. (Polly) Armstrong
Missouri—James B. Kerrigan
Montana—Grover C. Schmidt
Nebraska—John E. Curtiss
Nevada—Thomas W. Miller
New Hampshire—Eli A. Marcoux
New Jersey—Wm. G. McKinley
New Mexico—Reed Mulkey
North Carolina—R. C. Godwin
North Dakota—William Stern
Ohio—Clarence W. Whitemeyer
Oklahoma—Preston J. Moore
Oregon—Hollis Hull
Pennsylvania—Walter E. Alessandroni
Puerto Rico—Ramon R. Guas
Rhode Island—John A. Ryer
South Carolina—E. Roy Stone, Jr.
South Dakota—Claude A. Hamilton
Tennessee—Rev. Wm. H. Moss
Texas—Albert D. Brown, Jr.
Utah—Wm. Sutteer
Vermont—Clarence S. Campbell
Virginia—Lemuel W. Houston
Washington—Loris Winn
West Virginia—Dr. P. E. Kercheval
Wyoming—E. J. Goppert

Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was suspended and approved as mailed out in digest form.

APPOINTMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

E. Meade Wilson, Chairman, Fla.; Reed Mulkey, New Mexico; E. Roy Stone, Jr., So. Carolina; Clarence S. Campbell, Vermont; Lawrence H. Hinds, Indiana.

The Committee was ratified.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

E. Meade Wilson, Florida, Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

Gentlemen: Those we are memorializing this afternoon are: C. Thomas Busha, Jr., Montana; Edward Driemeyer, Illinois; Anton Christian Halls, South Dakota; Charles E. McKenzie, Louisiana; Dr. Matthew A. Tinley, Iowa; N. P. Peterson, Washington:

(The members arose and stood in silence as the following resolutions were read.)

MR. WILSON (continuing): Gentlemen, those we are memorializing this afternoon are: C. Thomas Busha, Jr., Montana; Edward Driemeyer, Illinois;

Anton Christian Halls, South Dakota; Charles E. McKenzie, Louisiana; Dr. Matthew A. Tinley, Iowa; N. P. Peterson, Washington:

"Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, N. P. Peterson, Washington, past department commander, member of the National Executive Committee during the years 1949-1951, and currently serving as vice-chairman of the Agricultural and Conservation Committee, and

"Whereas, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this second day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty-six, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, N. P. Peterson; that we commend to all men his works, and to God his spirit and be it further

"Resolved, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution be presented to his family."

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER GUY STONE OF GEORGIA

National Vice Commander Guy Stone of Georgia was given unanimous consent to deliver a brief oral report to the National Executive Committee:

Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, and Fellow Legionnaires:

For eight years I have been a voting member of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, seven years as National Committeeman from the Department of Georgia, and this year as National Vice Commander.

This is the first time in those eight years that I have appeared before the Executive Committee except to report as chairman of the Special Committee on the Reorganization of the Department of Panama, as chairman of the Liaison Committee of the National Executive Committee to the Economic Commission, at the fall meeting in 1950; invited the members of the committee to the Homecoming for Earle Cocke, Jr., and last fall having participated in presiding over a part of the session and at the May meeting of the National Executive Committee.

But should the occasion have demanded my appearance, I can assure you that I would have come to the defense of The American Legion. I feel that I would be negligent of my duty and obligations as a Legionnaire and national vice commander if I did not bring you to some observations that I have made, and recommendations which will help this organization of ours.

My remarks are going to be frank, and I sincerely trust that they will be received in the same spirit as they are given.

I have complete confidence in the members of the commissions, committees and the employees. With a potential membership of over 22 million members, it is not hard for us to receive a membership of a little over 2¼ million members. This is the third successive year that our membership has been declining.

I know that you will agree with me that it is our duty and obligation to make an appraisal, to try to find ways and means to stop this downward trend in the membership of this great organization of ours. I feel that The American Legion is a God-inspired organization, founded upon the glorious ideal of continued service to God and country, and having dedicated ourselves to unselfish service to community, state and nation, which means to God and country.

It is that dedication which has given me through the years the mutual association of veterans in The American Legion, and has given it direction and aroused interest.

The American Legion program represented unique lip service of highest idealism and practical realism. It provided an outlet for both the spiritual and physical energies and impulses. That explains why The American Legion has been able to attract so many thousands of volunteer workers in its activities. That has been the key to the universal success of American Legion programs.

It is upon this sound foundation that The American Legion has been built by its volunteer workers into the largest veterans' organization in the world and in all history. There has never been an organization that could approach it in prestige, in public good will, influence and record of accomplishments. All this has been accomplished through the efforts of volunteer workers.

An organization cannot remain static. It either makes progress or it finally passes into oblivion.

My observations are:

1. We are not getting our programs to the post level—the grass roots of The American Legion.

2. Our volunteer workers are diminishing year by year. Our membership clearly reflects that this is true. Without the success of these two objectives, we cannot make progress and hold the prestige that we have earned since 1919.

3. With the enormous amount of material mailed from headquarters at Indianapolis and Washington, much of it is thrown into the waste baskets in the departments. Department headquarters are flooded with bulletins and other materials which it is impossible for them to get to the post level. Department officers are dependent upon volunteer workers at the district and post level to carry American Legion programs through to a successful conclusion.

Until we get back to the full basic principles of The American Legion—Rehabilitation, Child Welfare, Americanism and National Security—we are going to have a hard job of selling The American Legion to potential members and to hold many of the members that we now have.

In 1946 we had a membership of over 3½ million members. By 1956 our membership had declined to just a little over 2¼ million. In the meantime, more than 2 million Korean war veterans became potential members of The American Legion. In 1946 we had on the payroll 448 employees. In 1955 operational expense of national headquarters had increased more than \$800,000 annually.

In the meantime our membership had dropped a little under half a million members. Payrolls, social security and retirement have increased more than \$700,000, and maintenance cost of national headquarters at Indianapolis and Washington had increased more than \$87,000.

In the meantime, it is quite noticeable that travel for volunteer workers, members of commissions and committees, increased a little over \$4,000. It has now developed that most of the

work of the commissions and committees is carried on by small executive sections. These executive sections are composed of a very, very small percentage of the members of the commissions and committees.

Many good Legionnaires are disillusioned. They find themselves on committees and commissions which they have never been authorized to attend. All they know is what they read in the report about what that commission or committee acted upon.

This is most discouraging and disheartening to many good Legionnaires. It certainly does not encourage volunteer workers to continue to work. This organization of ours was built with the life blood of volunteer workers. Truly this is a most unhealthy condition. We have a great responsibility in solving this unhealthy condition.

I do not know who authorized the recent meeting of Area C Rehabilitation and Economics Conference at Nashville, Tennessee. This conference was held at the same time that three other events were taking place in Area C—the Midwinter Conference of Alabama, Louisiana, and a June baseball conference at Columbia, South Carolina.

At the Nashville meeting I would estimate there were not more than eight or ten Legionnaires present outside of national employees from outside Tennessee. At that meeting in Nashville there were present eight national employees of The American Legion from outside Tennessee, authorized to attend.

I would like to make myself clear. I am heartily in favor of area conferences, but the dates should be selected with more care. Overlapping of national employees at these conferences should be eliminated.

Members of the National Executive Committee and fellow Legionnaires, I am leaving you with this parting thought: The star which adorns the center of our American Legion emblem, with the letters "U.S.", leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion sky. What does the star signify? It signifies constancy of purpose, because the stars are affixed in the heavens while the planets, the moon and the sun wander. As the stars do not wander, so The American Legion should not wander from its fixed purposes—rehabilitation, child welfare, Americanism, and national security.

APPOINTMENT OF PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE

National Commander Wagner nominated the following as members of the Pilgrimage Committee: James P. Ringley, Ill., Chairman; Joseph G. Cardy, N. J.; Maurice Stember, N. Y.; Wm. R. Burke, Calif.; Herman F. Luhrs, Mich.; Louis Johnson, W. Va., past national commander; Henry H. Dudley, Neb., immediate past national adjutant; The nominations were ratified.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Upon motion seconded and approved, the following report, presented by Herman F. Luhrs of Michigan, chairman of the National Legislative Commission was duly accepted.

National Commander Wagner and gentlemen of the National Executive Committee: To comply with

a printing deadline it was necessary to meet the cutoff date of July 9, 1956 when submitting our report to be incorporated in the official 'Reports of the Thirty-eighth Annual National Convention.'

Congress adjourned on July 27, 1956 and we have prepared and attached a supplemental statement showing public laws pertinent to The American Legion's program enacted during the Second Session of the 84th Congress. This statement, together with our detailed report, gives you a full and complete outline of our legislative efforts during the last session of Congress.

While a good portion of our work during the last Congressional session was of a defensive nature, nevertheless I think you will agree that several measures were enacted of benefit to veterans, as indicated on the attached statement.

Due to the comparatively short time that intervened between the date of our report and the adjournment of Congress there is no occasion for going into detail at this time other than to state that HR-7886, the War Veterans' Security Bill, which passed the House on June 27, 1956 (as stated in our report) was not acted upon by the Senate. After passage by the House, the bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Byrd, (D., Va.,) Chairman, on or about July 2nd, 1956, requested reports thereon from the Bureau of the Budget; the Treasury Department; the Department of Defense and the V.A. The Chairman advised National Commander J. Addington Wagner he would not hold hearings on HR-7886 until these Departments of the Government submitted their respective reports. A vigorous campaign was waged by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary to get the bill out of the Senate Finance Committee, but up to the time Congress adjourned on July 27, 1956 the four Governmental agencies above mentioned had not complied with Chairman Byrd's request.

We have in our files letters from over a majority of the Members of the Senate advising they would support HR-7886 if given an opportunity to vote on the bill. National Commander Wagner and other American Legion representatives were in constant touch with Chairman Byrd and exhausted every effort to get action on the bill, but to no avail.

With reference to legislation to increase benefits for service-connected veterans, and as you well know, The American Legion had a bill introduced to accomplish this purpose and testified in support thereof. However, Congressman Olin E. Teague, (D. Texas) Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, for reasons best known to himself, kept this legislation bottled up in Committee. Under date of July 3rd, 1956, the Veterans' Affairs Committee reported out HR-12, 033 granting increases for service-connected veterans; the bill passed the House on July 12, 1956, by a vote of 391 to 0, with 40 members not voting, and went to the Senate Finance Committee where exactly the same situation attained as stated above with reference to HR-7886.

As a result, when Congress adjourned on July 27, 1956, HR-7886 and HR-12,033, both strongly supported by The American Legion, were pending before the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate was thus deprived of an opportunity to vote on either bill.

On the very last day Congress was in session strong attempts were made to amend and weaken the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act. This was done through the medium of attaching several 'riders' to HR-6888, commonly referred to as

the "Shepherders' Bill." While the Bill, as amended, passed the Senate, action thereon was blocked in the closing hours of the House session.

At the risk of being repetitious, I would once again like to urge you to use your good offices so that all resolutions seeking the enactment of legislation that come up for consideration during the 1956 National Convention receive careful study and scrutiny to the end that The American Legion will not be placed in the unfair position of having to carry unnecessary burdens in the field of legislation on any unrelated matters, by the adoption of resolutions not germane to the purposes for which it was organized.

Our greatest problem before Congress is the advocacy of legislation, in keeping with resolutions adopted at national conventions, and meetings of the National Executive Committee, which have absolutely nothing to do with the objectives of a veterans' organization. Time and time again old friends of ours, who are good Legionnaires, and who have been members of Congress for many years, remind us that we are wearing out our welcome in requesting the passage of legislation that has nothing to do with veterans or veterans' organizations. I cannot impress this too strongly upon you.

Furthermore, we will have many problems to face in the fields of Social Security, Pension, Compensation, Hospitalization benefits, as well as the Bradley and Hoover Commissions' recommen-

dations adverse to veterans' interests. Therefore, it behooves us to be continuously on our guard, and I hope and trust that you will cooperate to the end that your newly-elected department commanders promptly appoint interested and active chairmen of their Department Legislative Committees. It is most discouraging to note that during the current year several Departments did not see fit, in spite of repeated requests, to submit the names of their Legislative Chairmen until late in the Legion year. This would seem to indicate that those Departments at least are not interested in legislation affecting veterans and their families. This is a deplorable state of affairs and if it continues could well result in the breakdown of our legislative efforts.

We urge you gentlemen of the National Executive Committee to work closely with your department commanders to the end that this condition may be corrected.

We have a few resolutions which were adopted at the meeting of the National Legislative Commission on August 31, 1956, and trust they will receive your favorable consideration.

In conclusion, I wish to express to National Commander Wagner, to all of the other national officers and to the members of the National Executive Committee, the appreciation of the National Legislative Commission for the valued advice and splendid support tendered throughout the year.

**PUBLIC LAWS PERTINENT TO AMERICAN LEGION
PROGRAM ENACTED IN THE SECOND SESSION, 84TH CONGRESS, 1956**

Public Law No.	Date Approved 1956	Legion Resolution	Short Title
398 HR-7036	Jan. 28	647-1954	To amend section 37 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 with respect to the earned income limitation on retirement income.
408 HR-7094	Feb. 15		To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1939 relating to unlimited deductions for charitable contributions. (For general information.)
415 HR-6043	Feb. 20	Res. 499-1954 Point 11 Res. 622-1955 Point 13	To provide for the maintenance of the Merchant Marine Academy.
430 HR-7588	Mar. 16		Granting U.S. Citizenship to children born abroad, during period December 31, 1946, to December 24, 1952, to an alien parent and a parent who is a U.S. citizen in the military service. (For general information).
432 H.J. Res. 582	Mar. 19		Additional appropriations for Department of Labor for fiscal year 1956. (For general information).
440 S-3452	Mar. 29		Increasing authorized appropriation for an AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SYSTEM. (For general information).
446 HR-3557	Mar. 29		To amend the act for settlement claims for damage or loss of property by military personnel and certain civilian employees. (For general information).
461 S.J. Res. 95	Apr. 2	Res. 80 May, NEC 1955	To authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to prepare plans and estimates for the election of a suitable MEMORIAL TO GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING.
465 HR-8320	Apr. 2		To provide additional funds for school milk and brucellosis eradication programs for the current fiscal year. (For general information).
467 HR-9064	Apr. 2		Treasury-Post Office appropriations for fiscal year 1957.
489 S-1834	Apr. 23		Relating to computation of RETIRED PAY OF CERTAIN RETIRED COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE COAST GUARD. (General information).

Public Law No.	Date Approved 1956	Legion Resolution	Short Title
490 HR-8107	Apr. 23		UMT Trainees. —To amend the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952 to increase the pay of 6-month trainees. (Legion supported).
492 S-2587	Apr. 27		To amend the PHS Act to authorize the President to make the commissioned corps a military service in time of emergency. (For information).
497 HR-9428	Apr. 30		To provide for the procurement of medical and dental officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Public Health Service. (For information).
515 HR-4118	May 9		To amend the Merchant Marine Act relating to the computation of the 10-year recapture period.
526 HR-4051	May 18		To provide for the relief of certain Army and Air Force nurses, and for other purposes (longevity pay).
528 HR-6769	May 18		To amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide better facilities for the enforcement of the customs and immigration laws," to increase the amounts authorized to be expended.
533 HR-10004	May 19		Making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956 and for other purposes (\$140,000—American Battle Monuments Commission for Dedication of World War II Memorials) (VA—In-patient care, increased from "\$246,000" to "\$357,700") (VA—Out-patient care, increased from "\$170,000" to "\$208,000") (Compensation and Pensions, \$10,000,000) (Readjustment Benefits, \$185,000,000)
535 HR-8130	May 22		To designate the bridge to be constructed over the Potomac River in the vicinity of Jones Point, Virginia, as the "Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge."
538 S-2286	May 28	499-1954 622-1955	To amend the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 so as to provide for the utilization of privately owned shipping services in connection with the transportation of privately owned vehicles.
541 S-3237	May 28		To provide for continuance of life insurance coverage under the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Act of 1954, as amended, in the case of employees receiving benefits under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.
547 HR-8904	May 31		To amend certain laws relating to the grade of certain personnel of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps upon retirement.
550 S-1378	June 4	499-1954 622-1955	To clarify and consolidate the authority to require the establishment, maintenance, and operation of aid to maritime navigation on fixed structures in or over navigable waters of the United States.
554 HR-11177	June 4		Appropriations for the Departments of Agriculture and Farm Credit Administration for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957, and for other purposes.
555 S-2562	June 4	Un-numbered 1954 and 1955	To amend the United States Informational and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, as amended.
556 S-3315	June 4		To amend Section 5 of the Civil Service Retirement Act of May 29, 1930, as amended.
561 HR-5652	June 4		To provide for the relief of certain members of the Army and Air Force, and for other purposes.
562 HR-5862	June 4		To confer jurisdiction upon United States District Courts to adjudicate certain claims of Federal employees for the recovery of fees, salaries or compensation.
569 HR-9429	June 7	45,196 and 430-1954; 443-1955; 49-NEC May '55	To provide medical care for dependents of members of the uniformed service, and for other purposes.
573 HR-9390	June 13		Appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957, and for other purposes.

Public Law No.	Date Approved 1956	Legion Resolution	Short Title
574 S-3515	June 13	83-1955	To amend the National Housing Act, as amended, to assist in the provision of housing for essential civilian employees of the Armed Forces.
578 HR-9536	June 13		Appropriations for the Executive Office of the President and sundry general Government agencies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957, and for other purposes.
579 HR-10251	June 13		To authorize the Administration of Veterans' Affairs to deed certain land to the City of Grand Junction, Colorado.
580 HR-2216	June 15		To amend the Act of June 19, 1948 (ch. 511, 62 Stat. 489), relating to the retention in the service of disabled commissioned officers and warrant officers.
582 HR-4437	June 15		Relating to withholding for State employee retirement system purposes, on the compensation of certain civilian employees of the National Guard and the Air National Guard.
584 HR-4704	June 15		To provide for the examination preliminary to promotion of officers of the naval service.
585 HR-8477	June 15		To amend Title II of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, by providing flexibility in the distribution of women officers in the grades of Commander and Lieutenant Commander, and for other purposes.
594 HR-3255	June 18		To amend the Classification Act of 1949 to preserve in certain cases the rates of basic compensation of officers and employees whose positions are placed in lower grades by virtue of reclassification actions under such Act, and for other purposes.
599 HR-6274	June 19	512-1955 26-NEC May '55	To provide that no fee shall be charged an honorably discharged veteran, or legal representative, for copy of his certificate of service.
600 HR-692	June 20		Authorizing a special canceling stamp or post-marking die bearing the words "Pray for Peace."
601 HR-5516	June 20		To amend the Army and Air Force Vitalization and Retirement Equalization Act of 1948 regarding recognition of service of certain field clerks.
603 HR-10721	June 20	393,355-1955	Appropriations for Departments of State and Justice, the Judiciary, and related agencies for fiscal 1957.
604 HR-10899	June 20		Fiscal 1957 Appropriations for Commerce Department and related agencies.
606 HR-9838	June 21		To authorize transfer of officers of the Nurse Corps of the Regular Navy and Naval Reserve to the Medical Service Corps of the Navy.
610 HR-3744	June 22		To amend an Act of July 1, 1947, to grant military leave of absence with pay to substitute employees in the postal field service.
611 HR-2106	June 25		To provide that the enlistment contracts of members of the Armed Forces shall not terminate by reason of appointment to any of the service academies or in the Naval Reserve.
619 HR-10417	June 25		To amend the Federal Register Act regarding public proclamations in a period following an attack upon the U.S.
620 HR-9285	June 25		To amend the Career Compensation Act of 1949 in relation to the refund of re-enlistment bonuses.
623 HR-9739	June 27	128-374,535 1955	Independent Officers Appropriations, 1957.
624 HR-11473	June 27		Appropriations for Legislative Branch 1957.
626 HR-8922	June 29		To provide for the relief of certain members of the uniformed services.

Public Law No.	Date Approved 1956	Legion Resolution	Short Title
632 HR 9852	June 29		To extend until June 30, 1958, provisions of Defense Production Act of 1950.
634 HR-9824	June 29	177-1955 50-NEC May '55	War Orphans' Educational Assistance Act of 1956.
635 HR-9720	June 29	297.573 and 595-1955	Appropriations for Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and welfare for 1957.
639 HR-10986	June 29		Fiscal 1957 appropriations for Department of Defense.
641 HR-11319	July 2	91-1955	Fiscal 1957 appropriations for Public Works.
651 S-2512	July 3	362-1955 17-NEC May '55	To erect appropriate markers in Memory of Unknown War Dead.
655 HR-7227	July 3	230-1955 131-1954	Relative to donation of surplus property for civil defense purposes.
656 HR-10766	July 3		To authorize the payment of compensation for certain losses and damages caused by U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.
665 S-3307	July 9	601-1955	Re-employment rights of Reservist be protected.
676 HR-9952	July 9	None	Lump-sum readjustment payment for members of Reserve Components.
689 H.J. Res. 501	July 11	None	U.S. Participation in NATO.
697 HR-10441	July 11	None	Amending the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940, relating to insurance benefits.
698 HR-10504	July 11	500-1955	Alaska homestead lands.
699 HR-11127	July 11	588-1955 211-1954	Grant of certain public lands to the states for school purposes.
701 HR-11027	July 11	622-1955 499-1954	Amend title VII of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 to provide for experimental operation and testing of vessels owned by the U.S.
723 HR-8636	July 16	35-NEC May, '56 285-1954	Continue until June 30th, 1957 the suspension of duties and import taxes on metal scrap.
724 HR-8228	July 16	35-NEC May, '56 285-1954	Suspend for two years the duty on crude bauxite and calcined bauxite.
725 HR-10269	July 16	35 NEC May, '56 285-1954	Provide for the temporary suspension of the duty on certain alumina.
728 HR-11619	July 18	349-1955 582-1954	Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and the Narcotic Drugs Import and Export Act to provide for a more effective control of narcotic drugs and Marihuana and for other related purposes.
733 S-3982	July 19	35 NEC May, '56 285-1954	Provide for the maintenance of production tungsten, asbestos flourspar and columbium-tantalum in the U.S., its territories and possessions.
764 HR-11320	July 24	349-1955 582-1954	Amend certain laws affecting control of narcotics, in the District of Columbia.
766 HR-2854	July 24	15 NEC May, '55	Increase penalties applicable to seditious conspiracy advocating overthrow of Government.
792 S-3498	July 25	85 NEC May, '55	Extend the authority of American Battle Monuments Commission to all areas of U.S. Armed Forces operations since 1917.
800 HR-11766	July 25	8 NEC Nov. '55	Provide for the establishment of the Horse Shoe Bend National Military Park in Alabama.
805 S-3705	July 26	622-1955 499-1954	Require periodic survey of national shipbuilding capability.
813 HR-12237	July 26	588-1955 211-1954	Encourage and assist the States in the establishment of State committees on education beyond the high school level.
847 HR-4127	July 30	None	Amend the Korean G.I. Bill of Rights concerning courses of instruction which have been in operation for less than two years.
848 HR-6243	July 30	622-1955 499-1954	Authorizing the construction of a nuclear-powered merchant ship to promote the peacetime application to Atomic Energy.

Public Law No.	Date Approved 1956	Legion Resolution	Short Title
851 H.J. Res. 396	July 30	None	Establish a National Motto of the United States.
854 HR-7619	July 31	None	To adjust the rates of compensation of the heads of the executive departments and certain other officials of the Federal Government.
856 S.J. Res. 165	Aug. 1	3 NEC May, '56	Approving the relinquishment of the consular jurisdiction of the United States in Morocco.
879 HR-5738	Aug. 1	85-1955 102-1954	Authorizing flight instruction during Reserve Officers Training Corps programs.
880 HR-7225	Aug. 1	None	Amending Title II of the Social Security Act to provide disability insurance benefits for certain disabled individuals who have attained age 50, to reduce to age 62 the age on the basis of which benefits are payable to certain women, to provide for continuation of child's insurance benefits for children who are disabled before attaining age 18, and to extend coverage.
881 HR-7089	Aug. 1	77-1955 102 NEC May '55	To provide benefits for the survivors of servicemen and veterans.
893 HR-3882	Aug. 1	None	Requiring the registration of certain persons who have knowledge of or have received instruction or assignment in the espionage, counter-espionage, or sabotage service or tactics of a foreign government or foreign political party.
898 HR-9260	Aug. 1	203-1955 13-NEC May, '55	Amending Title III of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended.
915 S.J. Res. 105	Aug. 2	118-1955	Authorizing the President of the United States to designate the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as Constitution Week.
919 S-2887	Aug. 2	None	To further protect and assure the privacy of grand or petit juries in the courts of the United States while such juries are deliberating or voting.
942 S-3821	Aug. 3	622-1955 499-1954	Authorizing the construction of two prototype ships, and the conversion of one Liberty ship, by the Maritime Administration, Department of Commerce.
949 HR-11695	Aug. 3	588-1955 211-1954	To extend until June 30, 1958, the programs of financial assistance in construction and operation of schools in areas affected by Federal activities under the provisions of Public Laws 815 and 874, 81st Congress, and to make certain other changes in such provisions.
958 S-1833	Aug. 3	622-1955 499-1954	Amending the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, as amended.
968 HR-12270	Aug. 3	83-1955	To authorize certain construction at military installations.
975 HR-8157	Aug. 3	362-1955 17 NEC May '56	Provide for the burial in the Memorial Amphitheater of the National Cemetery at Arlington, Va., of the remains of an unknown American who lost his life while serving overseas in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Korean conflict.
1003 S.J. Res. 187	Aug. 6	622-1955 499-1954	Extend the operation of the Emergency Ship Repair Act of 1954.
1004 S-3113	Aug. 6	622-1955 499-1954	Amending Section 9 (c) (2) of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946, as amended.
1007 S-2226	Aug. 6	None	Authorizing the Attorney General to dispose of the remaining assets seized under the Trading With the Enemy Act prior to December 18, 1941.
1010 HR-9875	Aug. 6	None	Amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to provide that the tax on admissions shall apply only with respect to that portion of the amount paid for any admission which is in excess of \$1.
1017 HR-11554	Aug. 7	622-1955 499-1954	To amend certain provisions of Title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, to facilitate private financing of passenger vessels in the interest of national defense.

Public Law No.	Date Approved 1956	Legion Resolution	Short Title
1020 HR-11742	Aug. 7	None	Housing Act of 1956.
1028 HR-7049	Aug. 8	None	Revise, codify, and enact into law, Title 10 of the United States Code, entitled "Armed Forces," and Title 32 of the United States Code, entitled "National Guard."

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMISSION

Upon motion, seconded and approved, the following report, presented by Harold P. Redden of Massachusetts, chairman of the National Finance Commission, was accepted:

Mr. Commander and gentlemen of the Executive Committee:

The National Finance Commission was in session August 31-September 1, all members present except Vice-Chairman Dwyer. Also present were Past National Commanders Cocke and Quinn, members of the Liaison Committee of the National Executive Committee.

National Commander Wagner spent some considerable time with your National Finance Commission reviewing budget conditions for the year. Several items were transferred within the budget, and extended discussion was held relative to our present and future finances.

It appears at the present time, subject, as we know from past experience, to fluctuations in advertising revenue, that there will be a deficit for the fiscal year of somewhere between \$120,000 and \$140,000. It is the opinion of your Finance Commission that in order to maintain a healthy fiscal condition additional per capita revenues are necessary. Your Finance Commission is therefore recommending to the National Convention Finance Committee an increase of per capita tax of a minimum of 25 cents.

Your Finance Commission is deeply appreciative of the time your National Commander Wagner has spent with the Finance Commission. As usual, we are indebted to liaison members, Past National Commanders Quinn and Cocke, for their deep interest and sound advice relative to the finances of this organization. It is probably wholly unnecessary to state that Comptroller Crawford and his entire staff have given us the fullest cooperation during this present administration.

REPORT OF NATIONAL EMBLEM COMMITTEE

Your Emblem Committee met in a regularly called meeting at Los Angeles, California on August 30-September 1, 1956, with nine members present—Julius Levy, chairman (Pennsylvania); V. S. Christensen, vice-chairman (Wyoming); Frank Hale, vice-chairman (California); Sam Crawford, vice-chairman (Virginia); Nicholas Scaramella (Massachusetts); Louis H. Renfrow (Missouri); Fred Devlin (New York); Louis Baker (California); Hart Snyder (Washington). Bert Barnes from Tennessee was unable to attend.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The gross sales for the first six months of this year amounted to \$632,302.53, an increase of \$33,800.51 as compared with the first six months of 1955. The net profit for the first six months of 1956 after distributions established by the Na-

tional Finance Commission was \$58,652.86, a decrease of \$3,570.95 as compared with the first six months of 1955.

While the gross income showed an increase, the net profit showed a decrease because of the increased overhead in two items—the use of the machines, and the overtime necessary to handle the increased business.

The committee, taking these items and others into consideration, empowered the chairman and anyone he may designate up to three, to spend sufficient time at the National Headquarters sales office to make a study of present merchandising methods and pricing, and a reorganization of operation, in an endeavor to increase the net profit from the merchandising by the Committee, and make their report to the fall meeting of the Emblem Committee.

The committee spent a good deal of time in a discussion relative to the mark-up on items that must show a slight increase this year due to the increased cost of materials and labor that have occurred throughout the suppliers.

A detailed discussion was held on the new catalogue, and it was unanimously agreed that this new catalogue had been excellently prepared, and had made a very distinct contribution to the increase of the business shown in the financial report. It was agreed by the committee that the 1957 catalogue should be ready for distribution as near after January 1, 1957 as possible, in order to take advantage of the spring business which will accrue from the receipt of this catalogue.

INVENTORY

The inventory continues in good shape and shows a slight increase because of the business that occurs due to the changing of post, department and national officers, and the holding of the department and national conventions. The increase is also due to the necessary stocking of the new combination of trousers and jackets. We do not anticipate any appreciable change in this situation, and do look for a reduction in the inventory in the near future.

CONTRACTS

In line with the usual procedure, specifications were mailed in June to fifty firms throughout the country, with invitations to bid on our contract requirements for the year 1957. Sealed bids were submitted by ten firms, representing a total of forty-five bids on various sections established for our merchandise. These sealed bids were opened by the National Emblem Committee in the presence of representatives of the bidding firms, on August 30, 1956, after which a tabulation was made of all bids.

After thorough discussion and consideration of every phase of each bid, a decision was made as to the firm to be considered as the successful bidder.

Submitted along with this report is a resolution entitled, "Awarding of Emblem Contracts", for

consideration and action by your committee. On approval of this resolution, samples (as required by the specifications) submitted by the successful bidders will be laboratory tested. Thereafter, contracts will be awarded in the manner and form heretofore approved.

As bids were examined, it was determined that only one bid was received in the following categories—caps, colors, embroidered emblems, markers and bells, and school award medals and plaques. It was the consensus of opinion of the committee that the members express their appreciation to those particular suppliers who over the years have given us comprehensive and competitive bids, even though they had no opposition, and have kept their prices within price limits of the existing market so that the cost to the individual Legionnaire would not have to be markedly increased. The committee has always felt that where price, performance and quality were concerned, quality and performance ranked ahead of price, and in awarding the contracts this year all of these considerations were taken into consideration, and the vote of the committee was made with these matters in mind.

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

The personnel using the present mechanical equipment have had instructions in how to operate such machines so that the maximum use may be obtained from these machines and thereby reduce overhead of personnel in the National Emblem Sales Division. The committee received the report that the instructions and personnel need strengthening in order to permit a maximum use of the machines in the future beyond their present use, and therefore give the Committee the opportunity to show a reduction in personnel cost because of the efficiency of the machine.

The Emblem Committee feels that its primary function as expressed by the chairman, and agreed to by all members of the committee, was to give each individual Legionnaire the finest quality of material at the lowest possible price, consistent with a modest profit that would accrue to the national organization. This policy of operation has been carried out consistently throughout the year, and will be carried out, it is hoped, in the years ahead so that the Legionnaire will wear the official emblem of The American Legion, the official cap of The American Legion and the official uniform of The American Legion without spending a great amount of money to buy or acquire such material.

Your committee regrets exceedingly that the General Manager, Carl Morris, has been desperately ill and has undergone two major operations in the last ten days. It was the unanimous vote of the committee that a telegram be sent him, hoping for his speedy and uneventful recovery, and that he might return to duty at the earliest possible time.

Your committee could not close this report without expressing to all of the employees of the National Emblem Sales Division our appreciation for their loyalty and conscientious work.

RE-ORGANIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Upon motion, duly seconded and approved, the following report, made by Wm. G. McKinley of New Jersey, chairman of the Re-organization Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee, was accepted:

Mr. Commander and members of the Executive Committee: May I open my report on a personal note, and express to you, my colleagues, my deep gratitude and appreciation for the innumerable letters and telephone calls, and what-have-you, that came to me during your May meeting. I want to assure you that I was overwhelmingly affected by your kind and sympathetic interest in my illness. May I say to one and all collectively and personally, thanks very much for your kindness.

As far as reorganization is concerned, we have no new propositions to introduce at this meeting. We have succeeded in having the constitutional amendment approved by the Executive Committee at its May meeting, as cleared through the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with their approval, and it will be so reported to the convention.

I would ask that the Executive Committee members please indicate to your departments so that all delegates may know what this business is all about—and, of course, I solicit your support of that amendment.

If the amendment clears the convention—and we hope and expect it will—it is the intention of the Reorganization Committee to be able to present to you, at your October meeting, the Code which will be authorized thereunder. There will be an adequate opportunity for you to discuss the Code, and of course you will get a second crack at it before it goes into absolute effect in your May meeting.

We are bending every effort to produce that Code in acceptable form. We have received and are now holding on the agenda a number of very constructive suggestions, and I solicit from you, between now and your October meeting, any further comments that you may have to offer. We will appreciate them and we will endeavor to weave them into the Code so that the best product will be forthcoming.

We hope we will be able to report to you in October on the next major task that you have assigned to us, and that is the matter of a Research Section at National Headquarters. We have pretty well gelled our ideas structurally on it, but we have a staff member now getting in touch with all directors of commissions, with commission chairmen, to compile experience on what research work we are presently committed to in the area of all the commissions. We expect to have that in pretty good form within another couple of weeks.

Tentative arrangements have been made for me to meet Ed McGrail and Young Davis in New York, when we will have a chance to shake that stuff down. We anticipate having a concrete proposal to make to you at your October meeting.

I think those are the two major things which concern you at this moment. They are tasks that you have directly assigned to us and are definitely in the works now. We will have other reports to make on other tasks that are presently pending.

May I close with this request: Please inform your delegates what the score is on these things. You know it.

It has twice passed your meetings. We have been in touch for two consecutive years with every department commander and every department adjutant as well as every member of the Executive Committee. We have received no formalized objections from any department. Let's put this in the works and get the job done.

Thanks very much.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

Upon motion, duly seconded and approved, the following report, presented by James F. Daniel, Jr., South Carolina, chairman of the National Americanism Commission, was accepted:

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee: In conformity with the notation on your agenda that only matters of emergency nature will be considered, I wish to report briefly that twenty-five members of the National Americanism Commission and related committees were called to meet here in Los Angeles Friday and Saturday, August 31-September 1. Twenty-two members were present. Seven deferred resolutions were acted upon. All other business before the Commission was properly disposed of.

A full and complete report will be made in accordance with established procedure.

Thank you.

CHILD WELFARE COMMISSION

Upon motion, duly seconded and approved, the following report by George Ehinger of Delaware, chairman of the National Child Welfare Commission, was accepted:

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee: Your Child Welfare Commission has had a very full two-day meeting on August 31 and September 1. Activities of the past year were reviewed, and tentative plans for the coming year made.

The commission's report is printed in the volume of reports to the convention, and there is no need to repeat the information which is available to you there. However, it is worthy of note that during the twelve-month period June 1, 1955 through May 31, 1956, American Legion posts and departments, together with the affiliated organizations and the National Headquarters, reported total expenditures from our own organization funds of more than \$6,700,000.

Of this total expenditure, some \$3,500,000—well over half—came from American Legion posts and departments. As far as the Legion itself is concerned, this is an all-time record. In addition, thirty-three departments increased the number of posts submitting reports, and two more did just as well as last year.

I have presumed upon your time to give you this brief accounting of our annual child welfare reporting program for the reason that about two and a half years ago your Child Welfare Liaison Committee suggested that the Commission might consider ways to improve the completeness of child welfare reporting by American Legion posts. For 1956, 41 per cent of all American Legion posts did submit child welfare reports.

We have no urgent matters to come before the Executive Committee for action at this time. Our commission has recommended a number of steps in the administrative operation of the Division, and these recommendations will be reviewed with the proper administrative officers.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of this body for your attention to the needs of this child welfare program which has come to mean so much to all of us, and especially do we express appreciation to the members of the NEC Child Welfare Liaison Committee for their

very helpful participation and counsel — John Curtiss, Bob Mathieson, John Ryer, Dr. Murphy and Bill Moss.

NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMISSION

Upon motion, duly seconded and approved, the following report by Harry L. Foster, California, chairman of the National Convention Commission, was accepted:

Mr. Commander and gentlemen of the National Executive Committee: These matters are not emergencies, but I thought there were one or two highlights of your sessions that perhaps you gentlemen would like to know about.

First, as was promised to you on several occasions by the City Councilman, Wilkerson, of Los Angeles, that if you came to Los Angeles there would be no smog, this is the first time that a representative of a city has been able to fulfill all of his promises, because fortunately we have no smog in Los Angeles at the present time, and they have been very kind with their weather. We do hope it will hold true, Bill, until after the parade tomorrow.

The Convention Corporation, under the direction of Leon McCardle as chairman, and Bill Burke as president of the Corporation, has done an outstanding job. We have met with them continuously throughout the past year. I might say to you gentlemen that their committees have been functioning 100 per cent. They have kept within their budget; as a matter of fact, they have spent less. I am assured by Mr. McCardle that it appears now that The American Legion convention will be put on and will not be any loss to the Corporation nor to the national organization.

I think that speaks well for the splendid organization that they have had all year.

We have had considerable interest in our future conventions. As you know, you have already approved Minneapolis in 1959, and you have approved Atlantic City, opening September 15, 1957. That left 1958 open. We have been presented with a desire on the part of the commission members to attempt to make every effort to secure a city in the Midwest, and for that reason we have requested the Department of Illinois to set up a special committee to see whether or not it would be possible to have the 1958 Legion convention in the City of Chicago.

That committee has been appointed, under the chairmanship of Jim Ringley, who has met with the Mayor of Chicago, Mayor Daley, and we have every reason to believe that perhaps we will have an opportunity to meet in Chicago in 1958.

For that reason your commission is making no recommendation to you today for the 1958 convention, because we do want to work out the possibilities of meeting in Chicago. We will come into the meeting in October in Indianapolis, at which time a subcommittee, under authorization of the full commission which has been meeting here today, will recommend to the National Executive Committee the cities for the 1958 and 1960 conventions.

For your information, the following cities have shown interest in our future conventions: Chicago; Los Angeles; Boston; Philadelphia; Miami Beach; Cleveland, and Detroit. All of these cities are anxious to have us consider their city, and perhaps we are in a pretty good position for future conventions.

I think this is about all we have to report that is of any great importance to you now. I want to thank the Executive Committee for their splendid cooperation with the National Convention Commission during the year.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

Upon motion, duly seconded and approved, the following report, presented by Adolph F. Bremer, Minnesota, chairman of the Economic Commission, was accepted.

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee: Thirty-four members of the National Economic Commission and its five committees met August 31 and September 1, 1956 at Patriotic Hall, Los Angeles; heard a number of governmental representatives relative to the programs of the Commission and its committees; reviewed the activities, success and disappointments of the various committees during the year; re-examined the policies of The American Legion in so far as they affect the commission; compared the responsibilities of the staff with personnel now made available to the commission; reiterated the importance, to The American Legion and the veteran, of a job and a home as the end result of a successful rehabilitation program, and adjourned.

Mr. Commander, although we believe there is fire within the National Economic Commission, we have no conflagrations, disasters, drownings or other emergencies to bring to the attention of the National Executive Committee at this time.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Upon motion, duly seconded and approved, the following report, presented by George T. Lewis, Tennessee, chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission, was accepted:

Mr. Commander, and members of the National Executive Committee: The Internal Affairs Commission's executive session has been meeting here for the past two days. We had a number of matters before us. We have a mimeographed report on the table at the back of the room, containing our six-page report and nine-page exhibit. Perhaps the two most important matters to come before us were the 40 and 8 matter and the Uniform Code of Procedure.

I do not feel that I can fairly say that there is anything in the nature of an emergency in the report. Therefore, sir, unless there are some questions about any particular phase of it, I move that the report be received and filed.

REPORT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

A meeting of an executive session of the Internal Affairs Commission was held in Los Angeles, August 31 and September 1, 1956. The following members were present: George T. Lewis, Jr., chairman, of Tennessee; Ben Holmes of Alabama; Max Brents of California; Clarence E. Brooks of Illinois; Robert F. Murphy of Massachusetts; Edmund J. O'Keefe of New York; George H. Werkley of New York; James J. Lyons of Illinois; Sam W. Waggoner, III of Mississippi; William P. Kellam of Virginia; Arthur J. Hopkins, of Wisconsin; Frank Gordon of Oklahoma, and George M. Paradise of Iowa.

The following committee members sat in on one or more of our sessions:

Halsey W. Stickel of New Jersey; Samuel M. Birnbaum of New York; Joseph Jones of Michigan; Alfonso F. Wells of Illinois, and Venio Sacre of Michigan, chairman and members, respectively, of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Mancel B. Talcott, chairman of the Graves Registration and Memorial Committee, Illinois, and William McIntyre, member of the Founders Club and vice-chairman of the Graves Registration and Memorial Committee, New York.

Howard C. Kingdom of Ohio; Truman Wold of North Dakota and Frank Johnston of Illinois, chairman and members respectively of the Membership and Post Activities Committee.

William R. Burke, California, NEC Liaison member.

A resolution on an Alaskan war memorial was considered by the commission and handled administratively by reference to the proper convention committee.

Resolution No. 717 from the Department of California, to "Approve memorial song by Velma Raboin for memorial services," was referred to the standing Committee on Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials.

Resolution No. 272, Department of Michigan. This was a resolution adopted by the 1956 Michigan Department convention, proposing an amendment to Article II, Section 2 of the National Constitution so as to permit a Legion official accepting an elective public office paying no more than \$750 compensation annually. The Internal Affairs Commission approved the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee that this amendment be disapproved.

The Commission felt that the Article dealt with a principle and policy of The American Legion to attempt to be a nonpolitical organization, and that no measure should be adopted which would weaken the purpose of Article II, Section 2.

Resolution No. 119, 1956 Minnesota Department convention, recommends an amendment to change the date of eligibility for The American Legion to include veterans who served in the armed forces between the close of World War II (September 2, 1945) and the start of the Korean conflict (June 25, 1950). The commission approved the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee that this amendment be disapproved.

Resolution No. 173 from the 1956 California Department convention, relating to admission by the Forty and Eight of other than white members was requested deferred by Mr. Max Brents of California until consideration of other similar resolutions by the commission.

Resolution No. 100 from the 1956 Massachusetts Department convention proposed an amendment to Article VI, Section 1 of the National Constitution, to create a new elective office of national senior vice commander, and would eliminate the present provision barring national vice commanders from re-election. It was felt that the present system of five national vice commanders was working well and that the proposed amendment would create confusion, since it is the practice of the vice commanders to represent the national commander in their respective areas. The commission approved the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee that the proposed amendment be disapproved.

Resolution No. 45 from the 1956 California Department convention, proposed an amendment to

Article X, Section 4 of the National Constitution relating to when dues become due and payable, and a similar **Resolution No. 271** from the 1956 Michigan Department convention relating to when dues become due and payable, were considered. The commission felt that no reason existed for changing the present Constitutional provisions providing for dues on a calendar year basis, payable October 20 for the succeeding year, and further saw no reason for interfering with present departmental policies regarding their fiscal years, many of which end on different dates.

Resolution No. 94 of the May 2-3-4, 1956 National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis, was considered. This is the resolution which charges the Forty and Eight with failing to retract false statements and charges concerning The American Legion national organization which the Executive Committee of the Forty and Eight adopted at its meeting June 4 and 4, 1955; and further sets forth that The American Legion NEC at its November 1955 meeting authorized the National Commander, upon forthright retraction of such statements and charges, to appoint a committee of three members of The American Legion to meet jointly with three members of the Forty and Eight, to consider and resolve any differences and recites that no such retraction has been made. The resolution also recommends an amendment striking out Sections 1 and 2 of Article XIV of the Constitution. These are the provisions recognizing the Forty and Eight, and the elimination of them would become effective at the 1956 fall meeting of the NEC unless prior to that date the Forty and Eight, by action of its 1956 Promenade Nationale, withdraws the said charge, in which event the amendment would be deemed automatically rescinded and of no force and effect.

Readoption of this resolution is recommended, with the elimination of the wording "to the satisfaction of the National Executive Committee."

Resolution No. 52 of the 1956 Colorado Department convention was considered. It requested no action in so far as a change in the Constitution and Bylaws was concerned, and the commission was of the opinion that it required no action.

Resolution No. 244 from the 1956 New York Department convention. This resolution charges the Forty and Eight with discrimination by reason of the "white" provision in its Constitution, and proposes that the Forty and Eight without further delay remove the word "white" from its Constitution and Bylaws so as to conform to Section 2, Article XIV of the National Convention, and that a failure to do so on or before January 1, 1957 would result in withdrawal of the Forty and Eight organization by the elimination of Article XIV of The American Legion Constitution, and that thereafter further use of The American Legion emblem shall be denied to the Forty and Eight.

After considerable deliberation by the commission, and the failure of a motion to receive and file this portion of the report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and a failure of a motion to table the motion to accept this recommendation of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, a motion to approve this recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee was passed.

The following members of the commission requested that they be recorded as voting against the motion. These four members were Sam Waggoner of Mississippi; Ben Holmes of Alabama;

J. J. Lyons of Illinois, and William Kellam of Virginia. The vote on this motion was 7 to 4.

Resolution No. 223 from the Department of Alaska and **Resolution No. 173** from the Department of California were considered. On motion of Max Brents of California these two resolutions were recommended rejected, for the reason that the New York resolution (No. 244) had accomplished their purpose.

Resolution No. 95 of the May 1956 NEC is recommended for approval. This proposed amendment would repeal Article V, Section 6 of the National Constitution and substitute a new provision which would authorize the NEC to authorize a Uniform Code of Procedure for the orderly organization and operation of National Conventions with continuing power of revision. Such Uniform Code of Procedure when adopted by the NEC would be applicable to all National Conventions, but any National Convention would have the right to amend, suspend or repeal the Code of Procedure.

Your commission feels that this proposed amendment should be modified so that amendment, suspension or repeal of the Code of Procedure could be accomplished by a majority vote rather than a two-thirds vote, and recommends the adoption of the resolution as amended.

Resolution No. 96 of the 1956 California Department convention: This resolution requested a Bylaws amendment for the creation of a National Boys State Commission separated financially and removed from the present Boys State sponsorship under the Americanism Commission. The resolution does not properly contain a proposed Bylaw amendment, and the Commission did not see sufficient reason for recommending the amendment.

Resolution No. 245 from the 1956 New York Department convention requested a Bylaw amendment to create a separate Youth Commission which would include all youth activities, such as American Legion Junior Baseball, Boys State, Boys Nation, Boy Scouts, Oratorical Contest, Boys Clubs, American Legion School Awards, etc. This amendment was not properly before the commission.

Resolution No. 289 from the Department of Connecticut seeking a Bylaw amendment to create a National Junior Baseball Commission; **Resolution No. 360** from the Department of the District of Columbia seeking to abolish the Foreign Relations Commission, and **Resolution No. 492** from the Department of Maryland, seeking a Bylaw amendment to create an Education Commission, were received at National Headquarters too late to permit circulation in accordance with Section 1, Article VIII of the National Bylaws, and therefore were not properly before the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws nor the Internal Affairs Commission.

The entire report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee is attached herewith and made a part hereof, as Exhibit "A".

Other committees and staff members were not requested to report, since their reports will be found in the printed volume of reports.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Consideration has been given to the proposed amendments to the National Constitution and Bylaws set forth in the Memorandum to Department Commanders, Department Adjutants and National

Executive Committee members, from E. A. Blackmore, national adjutant, dated August 14, 1956. Our recommendations in connection therewith are as follows:

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of Michigan (**Resolution No. 272**)

The proposed amendment would include in Article II, Section 2 of the National Constitution a provision excepting elective public offices "paying more than \$750". The resolution explains that it seeks to help out a small political township officer where the salary is under \$750 yearly. Such an amendment should be disapproved in that the amount of salary is not the objective of the restriction against politics. The Article deals with the nature of The Legion as a nonpolitical organization, and no measure should be adopted which would weaken its purpose. Incidentally, if this amendment were approved we would also have to change Section 8, Article I of the Bylaws to be consistent.

It is recommended that the proposed amendment be disapproved.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of Minnesota (**Resolution No. 119**)

This resolution would petition Congress to again amend the Act which incorporated The American Legion so as to make eligible veterans who served in the armed forces during the period between the close of World War II (September 2, 1945) and the start of the Korean conflict (June 25, 1950), and to amend Article IV, Section 1 of the National Constitution accordingly.

A similar resolution from this Department was rejected last year. No additional reason exists for the approval of this resolution. The exclusion of the veterans in question is without the slightest reflection on their loyalty, which the resolution stresses. The period of service sought to be included by the aforesaid resolution covers peace times and not a period of actual hostilities. The present eligibility provision is based on periods of service in the armed forces during which actual hostilities occurred. The American Legion consists of wartime veterans exclusively. The effect of the proposed resolution would be to change the nature of our organization so that its membership would consist of wartime and peacetime veterans. Numerous prior attempts to bring in veterans whose only service was immediately before or after actual hostilities have failed.

Section 5 of the Act incorporating The American Legion has been amended four times, all at the request of The American Legion by convention action. In 1942 the Act was amended to fix the eligibility requirement period for World War II veterans as between December 7, 1941 and the date of cessation of hostilities as fixed by the United States government; in 1946 the Act was amended to fix the eligibility requirement period for World War II veterans to between December 7, 1941 and September 2, 1945; in 1950 the Act was amended to fix the eligibility requirement period for Korean veterans as between June 25, 1950 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States government; in 1955 the Act was amended to fix the eligibility requirement period for Korean veterans to between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953.

The above recital shows that The American Legion is historically a group consisting of wartime veterans exclusively.

Therefore, for the reason set forth herein it is recommended that the resolution and proposed amendment be disapproved.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of California (**Resolution No. 173**)

This proposed amendment would add a new Section to Article IV of the National Constitution, which would provide that an affiliate of The American Legion could not exclude or deny membership therein because of race, creed or color. Although the name is not used, it is apparently addressed to the Forty and Eight, whose Constitution specifically provides that only white male members of The American Legion are eligible.

Article IV deals with the eligibility requirements and membership in The American Legion, and not to membership to affiliates. The difficulty with the provision is that it seeks to prevent an unlawful act and is therefore unnecessary.

The American Legion received its Charter by an Act of Congress. Our eligibility provision, Article IV, Section 1 of the National Constitution, is based upon the eligibility provision, Section 5 of the Act, as amended to date. The National Constitution, Article XIV, deals with the Forty and Eight. Section 1 recognizes the Forty and Eight as a subsidiary organization. Section 2 limits members in the Forty and Eight to members of The American Legion in good standing. By such recognition the Forty and Eight has obtained the use of The American Legion emblem and name.

The 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution provides against discrimination by reason of race, color or creed. There is no question but that if the eligibility provision of The American Legion provided that only white male persons would be eligible for membership in The American Legion, that it would be a clear violation of Section 5 of the Act of Congress creating The American Legion.

Section 2, Article XIV specifically provides that the Forty and Eight shall be limited to members of The American Legion in good standing. The Forty and Eight therefore must adhere to this provision. In limiting itself to white members by its Constitution, it violates Article XIV, Section 2 of The American Legion Constitution and the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. Such a violation under Legion auspices should not be tolerated.

It is not necessary to legislate against the doing of an unlawful act. Therefore, we disapprove the proposed amendment. However, we endorse the principle set forth therein and condemn the Forty and Eight for the discrimination it practices. There are several other proposed amendments dealing with the Forty and Eight which will be considered, that propose to compel the Forty and Eight to desist from such discrimination.

We therefore recommend disapproval of this proposed amendment.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of Massachusetts (**Resolution No. 100**)

The proposed amendment to Article VI, Section 1 of the National Constitution would create a new elective office, a National Senior Vice Commander, and it would eliminate the present provision barring National Vice Commanders from re-election, although it does not change the same provision concerning the office of National Commander, nor does it change the prohibition of Past National Commanders or Past National Vice Commanders from being elected by the National Exec-

utive Committee to fill vacancies. (See Section 4, Article VI.)

The reason offered in support is that the amendment would follow post, district and department policies of promoting their officers to a higher office after their term is completed. Few departments, if any, have a department senior vice commander. There is no complaint that the five National Vice Commanders need additional help through the creation of a Senior Vice Commander office. If anything, it would create confusion, since it is the practice of the Vice Commanders to represent the National Commander in their respective communities. All Vice Commanders may now strive for higher office on an equal basis. This is as it should be.

It is recommended that the proposed amendment be disapproved.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of California (**Resolution No. 45**)

This resolution is not in proper form to be considered by this committee. The intent of this resolution would require a change in Article X, Section 4 of the National Constitution. Such a change would lead to utter confusion, as each state would have a different date on which dues would become due and payable.

For the reasons above stated, and for the reasons set forth in connection with the Michigan resolution immediately following, it is recommended that the resolution be disapproved.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of Michigan—(**Resolution No. 271**)

This proposed amendment would amend Article X, Section 4 of the National Constitution to provide that annual dues shall expire annually on September 30. The present Section provides that annual dues shall be payable October 20 of each year for the succeeding calendar year.

If adopted, the amendment would eliminate the present provision requiring payment in advance commencing with October 20 of the preceding year of annual dues for the succeeding calendar year. No supporting reason is submitted in the resolution. Enactment of this amendment would cost the National organization probably \$800,000, in that members would have to be credited for the 1956 dues they have already paid, for the period from September 30, 1956 to December 31, 1956. No reason exists why the calendar year dues payment should be changed. In many departments the Legion year expires at different periods, conventions being held from May to September.

We therefore would not properly create a Legion year by the date of September 30. Such a change would also require a corresponding change in Section 4, Article IV of the National Bylaws, which sets forth when a member is delinquent, suspended or had his membership forfeited.

It should also be pointed out that if such an amendment were adopted and the National Conventions were held, say, in October, the delegate strength would be based on payment of current year's dues, that is, dues due and payable for the fiscal year September 30 to September 30. Therefore, Section 3 of Article V of the National Constitution would require a change.

It is recommended that the proposed amendment be disapproved.

Resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee on May 2-3-4, 1956, at Indianapolis, Indiana (**Resolution No. 94**)

This resolution accuses the Forty and Eight of failing to retract false statements and charges

concerning The American Legion National organization which the Executive Committee of the Forty and Eight adopted at its meeting in Indianapolis, June 4 and 5, 1955; that the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, at its meeting on November 17-18-19, 1955, authorized the National Commander, upon the forthright retraction of such false statements and charges, to appoint a committee of three members of The American Legion to meet jointly with three members of the Forty and Eight, to consider and resolve any differences, and that no such retraction had been made; therefore, it proposes an amendment striking out Sections 1 and 2 of Article XIV of the Constitution which contain recognition of the Forty and Eight, to become effective at the close of the 1956 fall meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at Indianapolis, unless prior to such date the Forty and Eight, by action of its 1956 Promenade Nationale, shall have withdrawn all of the said charges, in which event the amendment is to be deemed automatically rescinded and of no force and effect.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of Alaska (**Resolution No. 223**)

This resolution states that the Forty and Eight Constitution restricts its membership to members of the white race; that it uses the insignia of The American Legion and is recognized as an affiliate of The American Legion; that the Forty and Eight has consistently refused to amend the racial restriction provision despite many pleas that the continuation of this resolution is damaging to the welfare of The American Legion and contrary to its principles, and it asks for an amendment to the National Constitution of The American Legion by repealing the recognition article, Article XIV.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of Colorado (**Resolution No. 52**)

No Constitutional amendment is proposed in this resolution. It summarizes the facts contained in the National Executive Committee resolution; states that the Grand Voiture of Colorado, at its Grand Promenade in June 1956, adopted a resolution urging that there be expunged from the records of Voiture Nationale of the Forty and Eight the charges in question; it expresses full confidence in the aims of the National American Legion leaders; it deploras any action which might destroy the Forty and Eight; it feels that the proposed Constitutional amendment proposed by the National Executive Committee should only be a last resort in the event reconciliation fails, and it asks the national leaders of The American Legion and Forty and Eight to reconcile their differences and that the convention vote to use its influence to bring this about.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of New York (**Resolution No. 244**)

This resolution refers to the Forty and Eight as a subsidiary of The American Legion; it charges the Forty and Eight with discrimination by reason of the "white" provision in its Constitution, and proposes that the Forty and Eight without further delay remove the word "white" from its Constitution and Bylaws and conform to Section 2, Article XIV of the National Constitution, and failure to do so on or before January 1, 1957 shall result in withdrawal of Forty and Eight recognition by the elimination of Article

XIV and that thereafter the further use of The American Legion emblem shall be denied to the Forty and Eight.

The above four resolutions deal with the dispute that has ensued for years between The American Legion and its subsidiary, the Forty and Eight. The dispute may be resolved into two factors: one, the retention of the "white" provision in the National Constitution of the Forty and Eight; second, the false charges and statements leveled at The American Legion national organization by the Forty and Eight Executive Committee in June 1955, which have not been retracted.

It had been hoped that the Forty and Eight would have satisfactorily disposed of both matters prior to this convention. Failure to do so, therefore, requires Legion action. We indicated in our comments to **Resolution No. 173**, submitted by the Department of California, that the Forty and Eight discriminatory provision is contrary to law. It violates the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution which grants equal citizenship with equal protection of the law. As a part of The American Legion, which was created by an Act of Congress, the Forty and Eight by its continuous violation of the law is holding The American Legion up to disrepute. Such conduct can no longer be tolerated.

The Forty and Eight Executive Committee, in its June 5, 1955 report, in addition to the false charges and statements leveled at The American Legion national organization, renounced its association with The American Legion and declared it dissolved, and elected to go its separate way as a free and independent veterans' organization. At the annual convention of the Forty and Eight in Miami, Florida the recommendation to disassociate the Forty and Eight from The American Legion was deferred. Up to date this declaration has never been withdrawn or renounced.

The National Executive Committee of The American Legion resolution requests a retraction of the charges, and the New York resolution requests the Forty and Eight to eliminate the "white" provision in its Constitution. Both resolutions contain grace periods within which the Forty and Eight may comply.

Under Roberts' Rules of Order (page 271), an amendment to the Constitution goes into effect immediately upon its adoption unless the motion specifies a time for its going into effect. The Constitution is only a Bylaw under an appropriate name, and in no sense is the charter of our organization. We therefore would be within our rights to attach any conditions we deem proper concerning the effectiveness of the amendments, such as withdrawal or retraction by given dates.

We believe the issue should be handled without equivocation or reservations. As stated before, the disputes cover a period of years, and no need exists for further extension. Time, instead of ameliorating the situation, has intensified the Forty and Eight feeling of defiance. As recently as July 30, 1956 the Chef de Chemin de Fer, in a written communication addressed to National Commander Wagner, reiterated the false charges and statements referred to in the National Executive Committee resolution.

We would be justified in recommending the adoption of the Alaska amendment which seeks immediate repeal of Article XIV. However, the Forty and Eight Promenade Nationale is to be held September 28-29-30, 1956. We therefore believe an opportunity should be extended to the Forty and Eight to meet the conditions set forth in the National Executive Committee resolution and the New York resolution.

We therefore recommend that the Alaska proposed amendment (**Resolution No. 223**) be disapproved; that the New York proposed amendment (**Resolution No. 244**) be approved; and that the National Executive Committee proposed amendment (**Resolution No. 94**), with the deletion of the following words in the "Resolved" clause, "to the satisfaction of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion", be approved.

Resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 3, 1956 (**Resolution No. 95**)

This proposed amendment would repeal Article V, Section 6 of the National Constitution and substitute a new provision which authorizes the National Executive Committee to provide a Uniform Code of Procedure for the orderly organization and operation of National Conventions, with continuing power of revision. Such Uniform Code of Procedure, when adopted by the National Executive Committee, shall be applicable to all National Conventions, but any National Convention shall have the right to amend, suspend or repeal the Code of Procedure by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation at a National Convention.

The reason for such proposed amendment is set forth in the report of the Reorganization Subcommittee submitted to the National Executive Committee on May 4-5-6, 1955, extract of which is attached hereto.

Your committee feels that the right to amend, suspend or repeal the Code of Procedure should require only a majority vote and not a two-thirds vote. Such an amendment to this proposed amendment is permissible under Article XVI, Section 1 of the National Constitution, since it does not increase the modification proposed by the amendment, provided it receives the approval of the Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

It is therefore recommended that this proposed amendment, with the above change, be approved.

Extract—Dig. Min. NEC Mtg
May 4-5-6, 1955

Report Reorganization Subcommittee

With the increase in all activities of our organization, our National Convention business has grown proportionately. As is necessary, the great volume of this business must necessarily be processed through committees of the convention charged with the analysis, codification and development of resolutions expressing the determination of The American Legion in matters of policy and other declarative statements.

Prior to World War II it was not a burdensome task on any convention committee to discharge its duties within the prescribed period of the convention itself. Since the growth of our organization to some three million members, organized into well over 17,000 posts, and the ever-widening range of interest The American Legion has been taking in not only the affairs of our own country, but even concern for the international obligations which our country now assumes as a world leader, the volume of business loaded onto our convention committees now requires that we revise our convention practices so that more time may be given to the consideration of these important matters.

In addition to the volume of business which each national convention undertakes, it seems also necessary to adjust our whole convention procedures in order to expedite the discharge of business and to satisfy the intensity of interest which draws to our convention more than 3,000

delegates and their alternates from all over the world. It does seem somewhat paradoxical that we endeavor to handle such an increased load of business with somewhat antiquated methods. For example, for thirty-six years we have waited until four o'clock of the first day of the convention before we set up the machinery for transaction of business.

Certainly by now we have established from experience a form of convention organization which needs not be processed through the cumbersome and formalized method of a temporary organization when we have at our disposal the National Executive Committee and our several standing commissions which are thoroughly capable of designing all preliminary organization necessary for the convening of the actual business convention.

We should use the tools we have at hand. Therefore, we propose by appropriate amendment to the Constitution to place the necessary authority upon the National Executive Committee and through the National Executive Committee upon all of the other agencies of The American Legion, to proceed to organize our national convention sufficiently in advance of its meeting so that when the delegates arrive in the convention city we are ready to do business.

This we propose to do through a Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions, which will spell out for everyone concerned the complete preliminary organization and the operation of national conventions.

This Uniform Code of Procedure is substantially a codification of the procedures which have been followed in unvaried form for thirty-six years, with only such minor adjustment as is necessary to adapt it to the new experience.

The principal new ideas are:

1. The processing of resolutions from departments and other authorized sources intended for convention action shall be cleared through the national adjutant's office, for assignment to appropriate committees.

2. We set up and define the principal standing committees of convention.

3. We have taken substantially the rules that have been utilized in all our past thirty-six conventions and established them as the standing rules for conventions.

4. And we have defined other details of process, substantially in the form we have been following over these years, and made them applicable to national conventions.

5. Perhaps the most important new idea covered by the code is the authority given to the national commander and the National Executive Committee to call into the convention city all standing committees one or two days prior to the opening of the convention so that they may organize and establish themselves properly to immediately undertake their prescribed assignments.

The establishment of a uniform code of procedure has other advantages, in the fact that for the first time in our organizational experience we bring together under one binder a complete manual that spells out in detail all the necessary things that must be done by the National Headquarters, its staff, various national commissions, and the departments, to organize and operate a national convention.

Furthermore, such a uniform code should be a most helpful guide for the younger men of our organization who are fast developing leadership and who are not familiar with our procedures.

We would like to point out, however, that the proposed uniform code does not invade the territory of departments, nor in any way alter or deprive them of any prerogatives they now enjoy. Delegates will be selected for national conventions by all present methods. The selection and appointment of delegates or alternate delegates to any of the standing convention committees will be still on the authority of the departments.

The only change with respect to departments is the necessity of departments to make their committee appointments well in advance so that proper and due notice may be given to those who are expected to serve on the various standing committees.

It is interesting to note that in our development of the uniform code we have had favorable responses from fifty-four departments, and only three departments have indicated a dissent. We feel, however, that in those latter cases it is possible that these departments did not thoroughly understand our proposals, and we do not anticipate that they will further dissent.

BYLAWS

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of California (**Resolution No. 96**)

The resolution refers to the forty-nine department organizations of Boys State in the national department, and claims that the annual Boys State is financed by each department; it asks for the creation of a National Boys State Commission, separated financially and removed from the present Boys State sponsorship under the Americanism Commission.

Of course, Boys State is a great movement. Each department considers this activity of great importance. National has its Boys Nation too, which National finances with part contributed by departments. But the claim is not made, nor can it be, that the work is impeded or in any way hindered by its present sponsorship. Following years of study, national committees were created under national commissions as enumerated in Section 6, Article I of the National Bylaws. There is no need to create an additional commission for the Boys State activity. Furthermore, the resolution does not properly contain a proposed Bylaw amendment.

It is recommended that the proposed amendment be disapproved.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of New York (**Resolution No. 245**)

This resolution claims that the National Americanism Commission is overburdened with work, which includes many important committees and subcommittees, and it asks for the creation of a Youth Commission which would include all youth activities such as American Legion Junior Baseball; Boys State; Boys Nation; Boy Scouts; Oratorical Contests; Boys Clubs; American Legion School Awards; Sons of The American Legion; Essay Contests; High School Driving Programs; School Safety Patrols; Juvenile Delinquency; Boys and Girls Work; Liaison Contact with Other Youth Groups, and other youth activities not including Child Welfare.

No amendment to the Bylaws is proposed, although it would require an amendment to Section 6, Article I of the National Bylaws. The National Americanism Commission is not heard to complain of overwork. No claim is made that the work of the various committees referred to is in any way impeded by reason of its present form of opera-

tion. Here, too, the creation of a new commission would repeat the very thing that occurred before reorganization, when committees were placed under National Commission sponsorship. No proper amendment is submitted.

It is recommended that the proposed amendment be disapproved.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of Connecticut (**Resolution No. 289**)

Its purpose being to create a new commission called the "National Junior Baseball Commission", and requesting that Section 6, Article I of the National Bylaws be amended accordingly.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of the District of Columbia (**Resolution No. 360**)

Its purpose being to abolish the Foreign Relations Commission, said resolution not being in proper constitutional form.

Resolution adopted by the 1956 convention of the Department of Maryland (**Resolution No. 492**)

Its purpose being to create a new commission to be called the Education Commission, said resolution not being in proper constitutional form.

The three above resolutions were received at National Headquarters too late to permit circularization in accordance with Section 1, Article VIII of the National Bylaws, and were therefore not considered by your committee.

s/Halsey W. Stickel, N. J., Chairman
Samuel M. Birnbaum, N. Y.
Veno Sacre, Michigan
Alfonse F. Wells, Illinois

REV. WILLIAM H. MOSS (Tennessee)
Would I be in order to make a motion concerning the Forty and Eight?

NATIONAL COMMANDER WAGNER:
That is in order.

REVEREND MOSS: Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee:

I wish to make a motion that this meeting of the National Executive Committee postpone submission to the Thirty-eighth national convention of recommendation No. 47 relating to the Forty and Eight.

If I can secure a second to this, I would like to state my reasons.

MR. E. J. GOPPERT (Wyoming): Second the motion.

REVEREND MOSS: As you gentlemen know, since the May meeting of the National Executive Committee the special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux of the Forty and Eight met on June 30, and one of their recommendations was to expunge the paragraph of their June 1955 report. We rather look with confidence to the Promenade Nationale, that at that meeting the paragraph will be expunged.

Another point I wish to make is that the severance of relations between these two organizations, if it should ever come to that, would, it seems to me, be more effective at the 39th national convention than at the October meeting of the National Executive Committee.

Another reason is that in allowing the Forty and Eight to rescind this paragraph without an ultimatum from the national convention, it seems to me it will promote good relations between the two organizations.

Lastly, the postponement of this **Resolution No. 47** in no way weakens the previous position of the National Executive Committee nor the standing of our national commander, since this matter will still be before the National Executive Committee at the October meeting in the event the Promenade Nationale does not expunge the paragraph.

I feel that this motion has real merit. It seems to me it will produce a world of good-will between the two organizations, and I move its adoption.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WAGNER: You have heard the motion for the adoption of the motion to defer action on the resolution that you adopted last May, and it is supported by Committeeman Goppert of Wyoming.

Prior to recognizing anybody, if I may have your permission, I would like to bring you up-to-date, as I have done in the previous two meetings this year.

Under date of July 13, 1956 I received a letter from Chef de Chemin de Fer William A. Schlupp of Illinois, as follows: addressed to me as national commander:

"Dear Ad:

"Complying with instructions from the Executive Committee of our Cheminots Nationaux, I am enclosing you herewith a copy of the action taken by the above body at its meeting held in Chicago, Illinois on June 30, 1956, which I will thank you to refer to the next meeting of the National Executive Committee to be held in Los Angeles."

The enclosed report was printed in the July issue of the Forty and Eight under the heading, "Report and Recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux." It reads as follows:

"A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux was held on Saturday, June 30, 1956 at Chicago, Illinois, to consider the relations between The American Legion and the Forty and Eight. This report will serve to bring to the attention of the Voyageurs the pertinent facts which ought to be the basis of their collective judgment. This report and the recommendations hereinafter set forth represent the conclusions of this committee, and these are respectfully referred to the Cheminots Nationaux as provided in Section 10 of Article VIII of our National Constitution.

"In June 1955 the then members of this Executive Committee met and prepared a report with respect to the relations between the two organizations, and this report was published in the Forty and Eight. It was the recommendation of that Committee that the Forty and Eight disassociate itself from the Legion. At the October 1955 Promenade Nationale, held in Miami Beach, the Cheminots Nationaux approved the report but voted to postpone for one year a decision on disassociation. The Promenade Nationale then met, and it neither approved nor disapproved the report; but, taking note of the seriousness of the situation, directed the Chef de Chemin de Fer to appoint a committee of three and requested the national commander to appoint a committee of three, the two committees to meet separately and together, and bring in a report or reports of what should be done to restore peace and harmony.

"The Chef de Chemin de Fer immediately appointed the committee on his part. The national commander has declined to appoint the committee on his part, depending in this regard on the action of the Legion's National Executive Committee taken at its November 1955 meeting. In the digest of the minutes of that meeting are

statements to the effect that unless there be a retraction of the 'false charges made against The American Legion' the commander will not appoint the committee, and demand was made that the Chef de Chamin de Fer make a retraction.

"To this demand the Chef replied that he had no power to make an authoritative retraction—and, of course, he did not possess such power. There the matter rested until it came to the attention of the Chef that the Legion commission in charge of the Los Angeles convention had refused to permit the Forty and Eight's representative to have a part in its deliberations, although for more than thirty years such participation has always been permitted and encouraged. The Chef promptly wrote the chairman of that commission, and on February 8, 1956 the chairman replied, stating that 'In view of the circumstances surrounding the Forty and Eight and The American Legion . . . we have no basis for considering participation of the Forty and Eight in our national convention at Los Angeles'.

"Confronted by this situation, the Chef called a special meeting of the Cheminots Nationaux to consider where the Promenade Nationale might be held. That body voted to hold the Promenade in Indianapolis on September 28-30, 1956. Thus, for the first time in over thirty years, and without any desire on the part of the Forty and Eight to hold a separate session, the Forty and Eight will be unable to hold its Promenade in the convention city of the Legion.

"In May 1956 the Legion's National Executive Committee met, and on its floor it was again stated that 'false charges against The American Legion' made it impossible for the commander to appoint his committee. No action approving or disapproving the action of the Convention Commission was taken. Instead, the National Executive Committee adopted a resolution proposing an amendment repealing that part of the Legion's Constitution 'recognizing' the Forty and Eight unless our '1956 Promenade Nationale shall withdraw the charges to the satisfaction of the National Executive Committee.' The part of the report of June 1955 to which the resolution takes exception is quoted therein, and we set it forth here for ready reference. It reads:

" 'It is common knowledge that the national organization of The American Legion is, and for more than the past seven years has been, under the domination and control of a small group of men. It is common knowledge that these men have made use of the funds, assets and prestige of The American Legion to gain and maintain their domination and control. And it is common knowledge that this has been done by the use of committee appointments, the giving of jobs in the Legion organization, and the use of the prestige and influence of the Legion in procuring jobs and other public emoluments for those who will do the bidding of the men who have seized the power to which we have referred.'

"The National Executive Committee has issued an ultimatum, an ultimatum to withdraw the statement just quoted, 'to the satisfaction of the committee', before adjournment of its fall 1956 meeting, failing which 'recognition' of the Forty and Eight is withdrawn. The significance of this is discussed below.

"These pertinent facts have been analyzed and we have drawn conclusions from them, which we state as follows:

"1. During the past year an attempt has been made to cause the members of The American Legion to believe that 'false charges have been made against The American Legion'. As we read

the statement in the report of June 1955, above quoted, it is concerned with individuals and cannot properly be construed as a charge against The American Legion.

"2. The demand for a retraction by the Chef de Chemin de Fer presented to him an impossibility. He could not retract the action taken by the administration preceding his any more than the present national commander can retract an action taken during the year of his predecessor.

"3. We believe that the members of The American Legion, Forty and Eighters alike, want an end of this controversy, and want a restoration of the conditions which formerly made it possible for the two organizations to work hand-in-hand for the good of the Legion and the country.

"4. We believe the issues are capable of solution, and we believe the sensible American democratic method of meeting and negotiating is the only proper approach. We believe, as did the recently adjourned convention of a western department of the Legion, that the time has come, regardless of technicalities and personalities, for the committees of the two organizations to sit down and work the problems out.

"5. We believe the National Executive Committee of The American Legion ought to withdraw its proposed constitutional amendment. This approach can only serve to intensify the difficulties, and inevitably will result in the creation of bitterness and differences which a generation cannot heal.

"6. The significant clause of the proposed constitutional amendment is this, that 'Unless the Promenade Nationale of the Forty and Eight shall have withdrawn TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, all of the aforesaid charges,' continued recognition of the Forty and Eight is withdrawn. This is a plain attempt to give the National Executive Committee a life-and-death hold on the Forty and Eight. It makes the National Executive Committee the prosecutor, judge and jury. It takes from the 3,000 delegates to the American Legion convention at Los Angeles the power to determine whether the Forty and Eight shall continue to be recognized, and gives that power to the National Executive Committee, a body of only fifty-eight men. We submit that the major policy decisions of The American Legion ought to be made by the Legionnaires at their national convention.

"7. If the statement above quoted is a stumbling block to the restoration of harmonious relations, we believe the statement should be expunged. We say this because we believe that the quoted statement was no happier in conception than is the ultimatum of the National Executive Committee. Neither the existence of the statement on the record nor the ultimatum will work in the slightest to accomplish what the members of both organizations want. The continued existence of the statement or the accomplishment of the ultimatum, either one or both, will serve only to intensify the quarrel and to confuse and divide us further. What is the good of that end, and who can profit from it?

"8. We have endeavored in this report to be reasonable. We hope that all who may be involved will likewise endeavor to be reasonable. We submit the reasonable course, the course which has always been adopted in Legion matters when disputes arise, is the appointment of committees to talk it over. That is what our Miami Beach Promenade Nationale asked, and all that it asked, and it censured no one. How can a solution ever

be reached without negotiations? How else can the members of both organizations ever know what the troubles are and what the answers are?

"The foregoing considered, we make these recommendations:

"A. We urge the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, at its meeting to be held prior to the Los Angeles convention, to withdraw its proposed constitutional amendment.

"B. If the proposed amendment be not withdrawn, we urge upon all Legionnaires that they work to defeat it.

"C. We urge the Cheminots Nationaux, at their meeting to be held prior to the Promenade Nationale, to expunge from the June 1955 report of our predecessor committee the statement above quoted.

"Dated this 30th day of June, 1956.

"s/William A. Schlupp

John S. Cusack

A. H. (Art) Kollros

Hugh L. Torbert

Members of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux"

To that report and letter I replied as follows—and I regret taking up your time, gentlemen, but I think you should have this information before voting on the motion that is now before you, and not with any intention of in any way influencing your vote, but only so that you can vote with enlightenment because of things that have happened since this matter was last before you.

On June 19 I replied to William A. Schlupp, Chef de Chemin de Fer as follows:

"Dear Chef Bill:

"I appreciate receiving your letter of July 13 in which you enclose a copy of the action taken by the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux at its meeting held in Chicago, Illinois on June 30, 1956, and which you asked me to refer to the next meeting of the National Executive Committee to be held in Los Angeles. I shall be happy to submit the report in full to them at that meeting.

"It is regrettable that you and the other national leaders of the Forty and Eight have not seen fit, since the meeting of the National Executive Committee in November of last year, to permit a decision on the subject of retraction at any meetings of the Cheminots Nationaux or of its Executive Committee which have been held since that time. The obstacle to the restoration of harmonious relations between our two organizations is the failure of the Forty and Eight to retract the false charges which are contained at the top of page 3 in the report which you submitted to me.

"The National Executive Committee has made clear by its action that it has been the sincere hope of the Committee that the false charges would have been retracted long before now. Had they been so, I assure you that the joint committee could have met long ago.

"I am confident, and I certainly express my own viewpoint, that there is no intention on the part of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion to obtain a life and death hold on the Forty and Eight.

"The report of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux would have evidenced much more sincerity if the present committee, as successor to the one which originally made the false charges (which the report refers to as being unhappy in conception) had retracted those charges

instead of stating their belief that they should be expunged. I do not understand why the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux does not have the power to retract the false charges or to expunge them from the record, if you prefer to use that term, when its predecessor committee had the power to make such charges.

"I hope that you will see fit to present the matter of retraction of the false charges to the entire Cheminots Nationaux in whatever manner you may prefer, in order that we may have an immediate and frank expression by that committee on the subject of retraction prior to the meeting of our National Executive Committee in Los Angeles. Should that be done, I would be happy to submit the report of such action to the National Executive Committee in addition to the report of June 30.

"Should you wish to do so, you have my permission to print this letter in full in the forthcoming issue of the Forty and Eight so that all Voyageurs may be informed of its contents.

"I wish you to know that it is my sincere desire to be able to appoint a committee to meet with a like committee of the Forty and Eight during my term as National Commander. I will do so immediately upon receipt of advice from you that the false charges have been retracted.

"With every good wish, I am

"Sincerely yours,

s/J. Addington Wagner
National Commander"

To which I received this reply from Chef de Chemin de Fer, dated July 30, 1956:

"Upon my return from an extended trip to the West Coast I find your recent letter in which you advise me that you will submit the report of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux of June 30, 1956 to the meeting of the National Executive Committee to be held prior to the convening of the national convention, for which I thank you.

"I most respectfully disagree with the conclusions which you have expressed in that letter. A review of what has transpired is convincing that you are in error. Other matters must have escaped your notice in the very busy schedule which you are required to follow. So that you will have the information at first hand, permit me to review briefly what has happened since the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux in June 1955.

"While the report of that body was approved by the Cheminots Nationaux, action on the recommendation to disassociate the Forty and Eight from The American Legion was deferred, and the Promenade Nationale, with the complete approval of the officers, leaders and membership of the Forty and Eight, expressed their meekness and humility in the resolution which that body adopted.

"Immediately upon my election I made the announcement that I would devote my entire year to a re-establishment of the friendly and cordial relations between The American Legion and the Forty and Eight. Everyone who has followed my activities throughout this year, I am sure, will agree that I have done just that.

"You will recall that the next morning after my election I went to you at your suite at the McAllister Hotel in Miami, extended to you my congratulations on your election which was a certainty for that afternoon, and pledged to you personally my cooperation and my willingness to

eliminate the friction between the two organizations, and gave you a copy of the resolution passed by the Promenade Nationale. I immediately appointed the committee of the Forty and Eight to accomplish that purpose.

"I have never made an appearance in my official capacity without strongly urging my listeners to remain loyal to the great principles of The American Legion. I attempted to select men on the committee of the Forty and Eight who had served as Chiefs de Chemin de Fer and who stood to gain or lose nothing by their service on that committee. They have held several meetings. Reports of their meetings have been published in the February 1956 and the July 1956 issues of the Forty and Eight magazine."

Permit me to digress from the letter at this point to say this: The Chef de Chemin de Fer was extended an invitation to attend my Homecoming at Battle Creek last November. He accepted, and a place was arranged for him at the speaker's table. He did not arrive at the site of the banquet until after it had gotten underway. I understand that he was at a cocktail party at the time.

Not being able to find him, the chairman of that Homecoming, Rus Snow, filled the place so there would not be a vacancy among the others. As soon as we were advised that the Chef de Chemin de Fer was there, he was introduced by the chairman of the affair, Rus Snow, and Rus Snow explained by letter what had happened and that there had been a place for him.

Continuing with the letter:

"You invited me to your Homecoming party at Battle Creek. I was happy to accept. The treatment which was accorded me by not even giving me recognition at the speaker's table, although representatives of other organizations not nearly as closely aligned with The American Legion as the Forty and Eight, were accorded honor and distinction. I considered that as an oversight or, at most, a reflection directed to the Forty and Eight rather than to me personally.

"When you invited me to bring greetings to the Commanders' and Adjutants' meeting in Indianapolis, your demand for a retraction rather than an acceptance of greetings could hardly be designated as the action of a hospitable host. I am sure that you have not forgotten the ultimatum which you likewise delivered to me, resulting in your making it impossible for me to appear before the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, and you have refused to appoint a committee of The American Legion to meet with the committee of the Forty and Eight, and you have done so by hiding behind the cloak of a demand for a retraction of what you choose to call 'false charges'. I think this states a comparison of attitudes in regard to the controversy. The Forty and Eight has done everything in its power, including the recent report of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux, while you and the National Executive Committee have failed to make one single conciliatory move.

"It is indeed regrettable that you and the other national leaders of The American Legion have not seen fit to permit a decision on the subject of the difficulties between The American Legion and the Forty and Eight.

"The obstacle, and the only obstacle, to the restoration of harmonious relations between the two great organizations is your failure, supported by the action of the National Executive Committee, to appoint a committee to meet and discuss the problems with us.

"You state that the National Executive Committee has made clear by its action that it has been the sincere hope of that committee that the 'false charges' would have been retracted long before now, and, if they had been, the joint committees would have met long ago. I am at a loss to understand such a statement on your part, when you have not even appointed a committee. I do not believe that your statement finds support in the actions taken by the National Executive Committee. Rather, I believe that not only has the National Executive Committee not given any evidence of a desire to cooperate, but we fail to see any indications that that body desires to do anything to assist in the restoration of harmonious relations.

"You also state that you express your own viewpoint, and you are confident that the National Executive Committee has no intention to obtain a life and death hold on the Forty and Eight. We only wish that you could express the viewpoint of the National Executive Committee and that such an expression were borne out by the actions of that body.

"You even question the sincerity of myself and the other members of the present Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux, even after you have read its report. I personally, and I am sure the other members of the committee, have a right to be offended at your questioning our sincerity, particularly in the light of the report itself.

"In the page and a half letter, you have repeatedly used the phrase, 'false charges'. The fact that you have done so five times in a page and a half indicates to me an avowed purpose on your part to either bolster a position which you yourself consider weak, or it is an effort to impress someone who might perchance read your letter and be unacquainted with the facts. The mere repetition of the statement does not give it credence. Actually now, it is not a new technique. I am sure that with a little reflection you would have realized that most anyone of ordinary intelligence would have recognized it as a time-worn approach employed extensively by a European power prior to the outbreak of World War II, 'If you say it often enough someone will believe it.'

"We do not consider the statements contained in the report of the Executive Committee of the Cheminots Nationaux as 'false charges.' I am advised that the statements contained therein are true and that they can be substantiated by documentary proof, most of which is taken from the files of The American Legion itself. In the hard-fisted fashion you and the National Executive Committee have decreed that the statements contained in the report are 'false charges.' You have refused, and continue to refuse, to meet with our committee to discuss either the truth, falsity or propriety of those statements; but by your action you have made it a prerequisite to consider of our well-founded grievances that we brand that group of Forty and Eighters who made the report as falsifiers, even without a hearing. That we are unwilling to do, and we will not do, because we believe the statements to be true and to be worthy of discussion.

"Frankly, you have adopted from the beginning an uncompromising position and you have consistently maintained it. As an able parliamentarian, you must know that the present Executive Committee has no power to legislate. Its only power is to recommend. It has made its recommendations to our next meeting of the Chemin-

ots Nationaux, a copy of which we have supplied you. We believe that it evidences both sincerity and humility and a desire to accomplish that purpose for which I have dedicated this entire year of service.

"It has been my fondest hope that your attitude would become conciliatory in at least some small degree, and that you would be big enough to appoint the committee to meet with our committee with the assurance of unqualified success.

"In conclusion may I add that you have my permission to print this letter in The American Legion Magazine, or give it the same widespread circulation such as you have given my letters of the past in order that our comrades of the Legion may be advised accordingly.

"Sincerely,

"s/William A. Schlupp
Chef de Chemin de Fer, 1956"

Gentlemen, that brings you up-to-date. The Chair now recognizes Tom Miller of Nevada.

MR. THOMAS MILLER (Nevada): Mr. Commander, in the light of this correspondence, I want to withdraw the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WAGNER: The Chair now recognizes Committeeman Moss for the purpose of determining whether his second also will permit the withdrawal of the motion.

MR. ROSS: Does my second yield? He says he will. I feel that this July 30 letter is vindictive, it is uncalled for, and in light of that letter I would appreciate being allowed to withdraw the motion. (Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER WAGNER: The motion has been withdrawn. Thank you very much, Bill.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Upon motion, duly seconded and approved, the following report, presented by Rogers Kelley, Texas, Chairman of the National Foreign Relations Commission, was accepted:

Mr. Commander, and gentlemen of the Executive Committee:

The executive section of your Foreign Relations Commission met in Los Angeles on August 31 and September 1, with the following members present:

Rogers Kelley, Texas, chairman; Leon Happell, California; Emilio S. Iglesias, Vermont; M. A. (Fred) Rennie, Oklahoma; Harry Wright Mexico, vice chairman; John J. Bernhardt, North Carolina; Rev. Detrich B. Cordes, Ohio; Joseph D. Fitzstephens, Wyoming; Harry E. Jackson, New Hampshire; Sherman Mason, Pennsylvania, and Martin B. McKneally, New York, members, and Lewis K. Gough, California, chairman, National Executive Committee Liaison Committee.

The commission took up for consideration four resolutions which were submitted to it by National Headquarters since its last meeting in Washington, D. C., January 18-21, 1956:

We recommend the rejection of three of these resolutions, as follows:

Register No. 712, entitled "Support 'Buy Berlin Tradelift'", submitted by National Executive Committeeman from Mexico and referred to commission by NEC Resolutions Subcommittee, May 1956, for the reason that the subject matter is not of proper concern to The American Legion.

Register No. 714, entitled "Protest 'Diplomatic Immunity' to Families of Foreign Diplomats", submitted by Department Executive Committee, Department of New York, and referred to commission by national adjutant, for the reason that such proposal is contrary to the long established custom of all nations with whom we have diplomatic relations.

Register No. 692, entitled, "Investigate Forced Repatriation of Millions to Soviet Control in 1945-47", submitted by department, for the reason that the matters complained of are too remote for consideration at this time.

We recommend that the following resolution be referred to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations for appropriate consideration and action:

Register No. 716, entitled, "Oppose Recognition of Red China or its Admission to U.N.", submitted by Department Executive Committee of Department of California and referred to commission by national adjutant, for the reason that several resolutions on this subject are now pending before the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations and that committee will undoubtedly recommend a report on this subject.

The question whether a policy statement on the subject involved in the captioned resolution immediately hereinabove, as well as the question of whether a full policy statement on the subject of Foreign Relations should be presented at this time to this National Executive Committee, was considered and thoroughly discussed. The Legion is definitely on record in opposition to the recognition of Red China by the U.S. for any purpose, and against its admission to the United Nations. This subject has been presented by various departments, through channels, to National Headquarters, and will be pending business before the national convention.

It was the unanimous opinion of the commission that it would be inappropriate for us to assume the responsibility of recommending the adoption of any foreign policy statement at this time, in view of the fact that we are on the eve of the convening of our national convention, which is the supreme legislative body of The American Legion and which will have before it this subject, together with a number of other topics relating to a foreign policy program of The American Legion.

We point out further that no emergency matters have been presented to our commission for action or consideration.

REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Upon motion duly seconded and approved, the following report, presented by Robert M. McCurdy, California, chairman of the National Rehabilitation Commission, was accepted:

I realize fully the time limitation and the great press of business of this committee. I have a written report which I would like to place on file, and in just a few short remarks I would like to help with the time element on this program.

I believe all that stuff in there, about who met and when, is unnecessary. We have had two meetings of the Executive Session with rather full attendance of everyone who was in Los Angeles. We had some very constructive actions. Probably one of the far-reaching and important actions that we took was the origin of a resolution that will be before the convention, that reiterated the rehabilitation policy.

Going back and reviewing the program of 1921 and 1934—and I know that when you re-read those declarations of policy you will have a great admiration and deep respect for those men who prepared those declarations, because they have certainly stood the test of time, and we today stand for those same basic principles that we stood for then—nevertheless we have added a few points in a new declaration that includes adequate compensation for our service-connected disabled, widows, orphans and dependent parents, that includes provision for adequate pension for our nonservice-connected veterans under reasonable conditions, and that reiterates our determined stand for adequate medical and hospital care for our disabled.

This resolution, which was adopted by the ninety-six members of the Convention Committee unanimously, will be before the convention.

We discussed the Liaison Committee with the American Medical Association, and we commended very highly Commander Seaborn Collins and Commander Wagner for the great and fine effort and understanding effort that they had made to resolve those differences. The differences are not wholly resolved, and there still are some areas of misunderstanding, and perhaps some areas that further contact would be helpful in.

We passed a resolution, and inasmuch as these liaison committees were the creation of the National Executive Committee, we thought that our resolution and full report should be made to the National Executive Committee. And for the purpose of injecting time, which may be highly beneficial in this particular field, I was instructed by the entire commission to withhold this report until the October meeting. I discussed it also with the national commander, and it met with his approval; so we have withheld that resolution, and it will be before the meeting in October.

We had two or three other minor matters that will be brought up in October and that we won't occupy your minds with here. Our Convention Committee today had 157 resolutions, and we have them reasonably well composed, we believe. There may be one minority report on the treatment of veterans by chiropractors. As you know, we have had it before, and we have notice that we will have it again.

The committee was almost unanimous, with a couple of exceptions, in their rejection of the resolution, but it may be on the convention floor.

In closing these few remarks, may I just say that I want you all to brace yourselves, take a deep breath, and get ready for what is ahead. We are going to have legislation on the implementation of certain phases of the Hoover Report that we must resist. We are going to have legislation introduced on some of the seventy recommendations contained in the Bradley Commission report, and they must be resisted. We will have prepared within the next couple of weeks a complete analysis of all the seventy-one recommendations, together with our comments on those recommendations, and you will all receive copies in the very near future.

Again we must introduce and must be positive that we increase the compensation rates for our service-connected disabled. Many of you have read and have seen the phony publicity, that we try to make the people believe that The American Legion had forgotten the service-connected disabled. You and I and everyone in this room know that is phony, that we never have done that, and that we have always stood 1,000 per cent for those things that are so justi-

fied. And so that bill will be justified and will need support.

Our committee had eleven resolutions on pensions. We wrote a resolution which substantially adopts as the policy the bill that was passed by the House of Representatives, 364251, and we expect to press hard and early and see that that is enacted, because it is a firm and just and fair and square resolution that warrants the support of every citizen of our country.

We may have some resolutions from the American Medical Association that we must resist, and of course we will meet those head-on, too, as we have in the past, when, as and if they are introduced.

I just mention these to show you the problems that we are going to have this year. It is going to be a rather crucial and critical year. If we are to be successful in our program it will take the best efforts of every one of you. I know that every one of you will stand back of your national commander and your Legislative Committee and your Rehabilitation Commission in accomplishing these things to which we are dedicated.

I believe that is all I have to report.

REPORT OF NATIONAL REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Eighteen members of the Rehabilitation Executive Committee met in Wilson Hall of Patriotic Hall, 1816 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles at 1:30 p.m. Friday, August 31, and again at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 1, 1956. James E. Powers, chairman, and Joseph G. Leonard and E. Roy Stone of the NEC Liaison Committee with Rehabilitation attended the first meeting.

There were also present several department service officers, the director and members of the Field Service. At the Saturday meeting the Veterans Administration Central Office in Washington was represented by Dr. William S. Middleton, chief medical director; Dr. I. J. Cohen, director of hospitals and clinics; Ralph H. Stone, chief benefits director; William J. Driver, director of Compensation and Pension Service; G. H. Birdsall, general counsel, and R. L. Jarnagin, chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals. Mr. Ernest Tallman, area director, and Mr. Frank Mason, manager of the Los Angeles office of the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance, also attended the second day's session.

The first order of business was discussion of the advisability of reiterating the stand of The American Legion as to compensation and pension for veterans and their dependents. The result of these deliberations was the preparation of a resolution for presentation to the national convention by the Convention Rehabilitation Committee.

Another subject that elicited extended comments was continuance of the Liaison Committee arrangement with the American Medical Association. The group adopted a motion that The American Legion's Liaison Committee be commended for its efforts and that it be discharged; further, that The American Legion always stand ready and willing to discuss mutual problems with the American Medical Association or any other organization; further, that when, as and if these problems come up and are to be discussed, it is the responsibility of the National Rehabilitation Commission, its staff and advisory committees to go into them.

The committee approved a declaration that The American Legion approaches to Congress and the executive branch of the government should be confined to subjects and functions pertinent to veterans' affairs, and should not act as an agent or representative of another organization in obtaining recognition by the federal government.

There will be presented to the fall Finance Commission and National Executive Committee meetings a proposition that funds be provided for publishing advertisements in the "Editor and Publisher," a trade magazine for news papers, concerning the purpose and principle of the National Rehabilitation program.

The Veterans Administration officials discussed problems of interest in the medical field, particularly as to care of the chronically long-term patients, and the role of the deans' committees and the residency training program in VA hospitals. Representatives of the Department of Veterans Benefits gave a brief outline of progress in getting out information as to procedures under the newly elected Survivor Benefits Act. There also was presentation by the representatives of the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance on their plans for implementing the provisions of this new law.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

Upon motion, duly seconded and approved the following report, presented by Will F. Nicholson, Colorado, chairman of the National Security Commission, was accepted:

Mr. National Commander, and members of the National Executive Committee: May I ask your permission to report only on emergency matters and resolutions. We have none of either one of them. We have a formal report which I will file with the national adjutant in regard to the meetings we have been holding here on Friday and Saturday.

We had approximately seventy members in attendance. We met all day Friday and Saturday, and our convention committees are meeting today. We followed the practice of asking the convention committee members to meet with us on Friday and Saturday, and I am sure the briefing that they got in those meetings will be helpful to them in their deliberations before their reports to the conventions.

I want to pay particular tribute to Jimmy Wilson, our director, and his assistant, Jack Culpepper, in setting up the meetings we have had. I also want to thank Hugh Overton, the national committeeman from Alabama, for the great assistance he has been to us as liaison officer member between your committee and ours.

I might make a few personal observations in regard to the meetings we have been having. We have not had the opportunity to get together and discuss as yet some of the things that were covered in our meetings in the last two days. I am having a meeting tomorrow morning with the chairmen of the standing committees and the chairmen of the convention committees, but I can say from my own personal observation that, from what we have learned during our last two days of briefing, I think that among the main things we will be discussing for a report to the convention is the divergent point of view in regard to civil defense in this country, probably one side, the extreme on one side with

Congressman Hollofield versus the report of the Civil Defense Administrator, Val Peterson, on the other hand.

I might add from my own personal observation of civil defense in my own community that I think some changes will have to be made in it because of the apathy that we have among the public throughout the United States in regard to this subject, and of course a very controversial part of it is whether we have evacuation of our cities or not.

The Air Force and the Navy have reiterated time and again to us in the last two days that the problem they are having in regard to keeping trained technical personnel that they need so badly these days because of the technical nature of their equipment, plus all of the atomic problems that they have, is so important. They say they cannot compete with industry, and they are spending a great deal of extra money because of the loss that they are having among this personnel.

I know we will have a considerable discussion in regard to the field of psychological warfare. We have also had some discussion already of the possible cuts that have been suggested in all services because of our new type of warfare, our new implements of warfare, our new atomic weapons; and we have had discussions in our meeting as to whether or not the Department of Defense should tell the American people whether we have both small firecrackers as well as big firecrackers. I think that is one of the things we will be discussing.

Another very controversial matter that has come to us through the Department of the Army is the question of the manner in which the National Security Training program is progressing. I was surprised yesterday to hear that so far they have gotten only 60,000 young men into that program. I, for one, think that is a very disappointing situation, and I think most of the Legion will agree with me.

My own personal opinion, which I want to reiterate, is that the success of that program, and the fact that only one service is really working on it, again points up the subject that maybe we had better go back to our original program and talk about UMT again, because that is the only way that that problem, in my mind, is ever going to be successfully solved.

Mr. Commander, I now hand the national adjutant our formal report on our two-day meeting.

REPORT OF NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

During the past two and one-half days—in fact, even at this moment—members of our standing National Security Commission and committees are receiving top-level briefings from members of the Department of Defense, the Federal Civil Defense Administration and private agencies having responsibility for the military security of these United States. I would like to mention the fact that our experiment last year in providing opportunity for the convention committees to also participate in these briefings was again followed through this year. Members of our commission, based on last year's experience, feel that these arrangements are of definite benefit to the delegates in acting intelligently on resolutions which are before them for action.

This year approximately seventy members of the National Security Commission and committees met on August 31 and made on-the-spot inspection of a modern aircraft corporation, a Navy shipyard and many ships of the line, including a guided missile cruiser with very latest design. Finally, our commission was given an intensive indoctrination at an Army Nike site guarding Los Angeles. The expressed opinion of the majority of our members was that they felt this change would be of great benefit to the commission.

Having acted on all resolutions referred to it from previous meetings, there are no resolutions which the National Security Commission wishes to place before this body today. As in previous years, it is gratifying to note that a large percentage of the members of our standing commission and committees are also delegates to the several convention security committees as well. Thus, the briefings are of particular benefit to them.

It is apparent from the expressed reactions of our many members, based primarily upon the information presented by these top security people, that continued military strength is absolutely indispensable to the future well-being of these United States.

Your National Security Commission and its component committees on Aeronautics, Civil Defense, Merchant Marine, Military Affairs and Naval Affairs, are grateful for the cooperation that this body has given to them. You can be assured that we will continue to be vigilant in keeping The American Legion's position in national defense as current as possible.

PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION

Upon motion, duly seconded and approved, the following report, presented by Past National Commander John Stelle, Illinois, chairman of the Publications Commission, was accepted:

Mr. National Commander and members of the committee: The Publications Committee has been in continuous session during the past two days and has been divided into five subcommittees. They met with the staff and looked at all phases of the magazine, together with the budget.

May I say this: This is one organization of The American Legion that is operated a little differently from report I heard on finances a while ago. We have operated for a net gain of \$22,685.45 in the past six months. I want to say too, that we increased our wages approximately in line with the wages of the country, from 8 to 10 per cent in the past year.

In a nutshell, despite the increases of \$28,000 in paper, and \$4,000 in printing costs, upward payroll adjustments, and subscription losses, the publication division produced a greater profit to the national organization for the six months ending June 30 than for the same period in 1955. The result can be attributed to an increase in advertising revenue.

That is one thing that every individual here can help us on. We are continuously fighting for an increased revenue, which means increased revenue for you, because all the increases go to the national organization. The result can be attrib-

uted to increasing additional revenue and other economies of operation.

We will give credit for this, as we did yesterday, to the Fawcett-Dearing people, who have put in the most modern operation in the country, practically, because it is an automation in printing that would reveal a lot of things to anyone who wanted to go to their plant in Louisville and look at them.

We had a budget underrun of approximately \$88,000 for the six months, and a total operating expense of nearly \$14,000 less than the first six months of 1955. Actually, we have absorbed more than \$50,000 in added expense. I say that any organization that sees that they are running in the red has got to take stock of itself.

You are the guardians of the treasury of The American Legion. We are going to ask for 25 cents more from the boys back home. I happen to be back in a post operating at the post level at the present time, a little post, and that extra 25 cents is going to mean a lot to those boys. So, I think we all ought to take stock of our operations.

I know we have had to increase almost every part of our American Legion because of higher standards of living and other economies of this country. Thank the Lord, with the help of a great publisher, Jimmy O'Neil, who has done a great job, we have been able to stay within the budget.

DIGEST OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION Los Angeles, California

August 31st—September 1st, 1956

The Publications Commission convened in pre-National Convention sessions on Friday, August 31st, and Saturday, September 1st, at Arnold Hall in Patriotic Hall, 1916 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California, with Past National Commander John Stelle, Illinois, chairman, presiding.

In attendance as members of the commission were Vice-Chairmen Dan Emmett, California, and Rev. Milton B. Faust, North Carolina; and Lang Armstrong, Washington State; Charles E. Booth, West Virginia; John Cicero, Pennsylvania; Clovis Copeland, Arkansas; Roland Coceham, Louisiana; Paul B. Dague, Pennsylvania; John Drinkard, Alabama; Raymond Fields, Oklahoma; Dave Fleischer, Missouri; Samuel J. Gorman, Connecticut; Earl C. Hitchcock, New York; George D. Levy, South Carolina; Dr. Charles R. Logan, Iowa; Judge Earl L. Meyer, Nebraska; D. L. Sears, Ohio and Harold Shindler, Indiana.

Regrets over their inability to be present were read from Herschiel L. Hunt of Texas and Emmet Safay of Florida. The resignation of William P. Roan of Pennsylvania and his replacement in the person of John Cicero was noted. E. Meade Wilson of Florida, chairman, Eli A. Marcoux of New Hampshire and Past National Commander Edward N. Schelberling, New York, representing the Liaison Committee of the National Executive Committee, and William K. Kreitz, Sr., of California of the Advisory Committee, also participated in the deliberations.

Others present included Arthur P. Kane of Illinois, Director of the Mid-West Advertising Offices; Joseph A. Eaton, president, Lee Wilson and Robert Simpson of the Fawcett-Dearing Printing Company of Louisville, Kentucky, where The American Legion Magazine is printed.

Following preliminary remarks by Chairman Stelle, in which he reviewed the accomplishments of the past year and outlined the problems confronting the Publications Division, detailed reports were submitted by Editor Joseph C. Keeley, Managing Editor Robert B. Pitkin, Associate Editor Irving Herschbein, Art Director Al Marshall and Irving Larson, Manager of the Indianapolis office, covering the specifics of producing and distributing The American Legion Magazine.

Meetings of the sub-committees of the commission occupied the attention of the members and the staff personnel for the remainder of the day and evening of the first day, with the reports of these sessions being submitted as part of the deliberations on the second day, which was concluded with a dinner and the Fawcett-Dearing representatives acted as hosts for the occasion.

Reporting as chairman of the Advertising Sub-Committee, comprising Messrs. Levy and Drinkard, in addition to himself, Judge Meyer stated that the advertising revenue for 1956 was keeping pace with the 1955 volume, in the face of losses generally, and that the prospects were that The American Legion Magazine would end the year with a slight increase. He said that steps had been taken to provide for closer liaison between his committee and the offices of the publisher and advertising director, which could occasion additional meetings of the group in New York and the Mid-West. Changes in personnel were touched upon, and his remarks were supplemented by reports on the general over-all situation by Publisher James F. O'Neil, and the Mid-West picture by Mr. Kane. The latter said that despite a poor showing in the first quarter, the business for the Mid-West for 1956 would show an increase compared to 1955. Acceptance of the report was without dissent.

The Editorial Sub-Committee, comprised of Raymond Fields, chairman, and Earl C. Hitchcock, offered the following report, which was approved unanimously with a vote of confidence in the editorial staff relative to its handling of the Thomas resolution:

"The editorial staff of The American Legion Magazine has continued to emphasize news of particular interest to the membership. This Legionizing of the magazine is shown by a breakdown of columns devoted each month to material bearing on American Legion policies and activities.

"Statistics for the month of June, July, August and September show that such American Legion material measured 292 columns of the 538 columns of editorial material. Only 214 columns was non-Legion material. (Breakdown for each of the four months is attached.)

"These figures do not include such reading material as 'Sound Off' and the Editor's Corner, which comprise an additional 32 columns in the four issues which could be classified as of prime interest to American Legionnaires.

"Much of this material is strictly Legion news concerning post, department and national activities.

"In the past three years the magazine has increased the number of items of strictly Legion news by three fold.

"Legion material, other than strictly Legion news, includes explanation of the Legion's position on such controversial issues as UNESCO, Fund for The Republic, Veterans' Pensions, etc.

"The American Legion Magazine strongly and consistently supports the programs and policies outlined by convention and executive committee action.

"It is recognized that a balance of editorial material, attractive to readers and advertisers, must be maintained. This balance has been achieved through years of continuous study and survey.

"Your sub-committee recognizes its serious responsibility to present a magazine of attractive reader and editorial interest, and desires to call the attention of the Publications Commission to the constant improvement in the editorial content of the magazine; to the attractive changes made in format; to the sparkle of its art presentation, and to the fact that the magazine is thoughtfully constructed by plan, not by chance.

"Evidence of improvement and reader interest is directly shown by the increasing volume of letters of comment, by favorable verbal mention and by the rapidly growing number of requests for reprints."

Addendum To Report Of Editorial Sub-Committee

Breakdown of Material in Issues of the June, July, August and September Issues, American Legion Magazine.

June: 64 pages, 192 columns, exclusive of covers.

Advertising	55 columns
Legion material	77½ columns
Non-Legion	53½ columns
Both	6 columns

July: 64 pages, 192 columns, exclusive of covers.

Advertising	49 columns
Legion material	85 columns
Non-Legion	50 columns
Both	8 columns

August: 56 pages, 168 columns, exclusive of covers.

Advertising	44½ columns
Legion material	70 columns
Non-Legion	43½ columns
Both	10 columns

September: 64 pages, 192 columns, exclusive of covers.

Advertising	57 columns
Legion material	59½ columns
Non-Legion	67½ columns
Both	8 columns

The Manufacturing Sub-Committee, Harold A. Shindler, chairman, and Dave Fleischer, vice chairman, included as a part of their report a copy of Mr. Eaton's remarks at the meeting of the commission.

Following up the agreements made in the New York January meeting with reference to the purchase of the Legion's automatic stitching equipment, in connection with the extension of the printing contract with the Fawcett-Dearing Printing Company, it can be reported that our printers have fulfilled their agreement. The first machine has been installed and is now in operation, and the second machine has been delivered—this will be installed during September, and in operation in October.

Cooperation of this nature on the part of our printer contributes to the benefits we are enjoying in our continued contract with the Fawcett-Dearing Company, and makes possible the low cost of our printing operation in a rising market for labor and materials. It illustrates why, that in spite of these rising costs, the cost of the first six issues of our 1956 book was \$22.08 per thousand copies as compared to a cost of \$25.66 per thousand copies for the first six issues of 1954.

Mr. Eaton stated that all paper now being furnished The American Legion by our suppliers was performing satisfactorily. A car of International Super was tested in the printing of the June issue

and performed efficiently. The first monthly shipment of this paper was delivered in July. The West Virginia Marva English Finish contract has been discontinued. The difference results in a saving because the tonnage used monthly will be less by 14 tons. Insertion cards for promoting membership renewals in certain issues was discussed. We were advised by Mr. Eaton that the manufacturing cost for such an operation would not be increased, providing the insertion material would be furnished the printer along with the names, on separate rolls, to which the inserted copies would be mailed. The Manufacturing Committee had no recommendations to make on this matter, feeling that any proposals should come from the Circulation and Promotion Sub-Committee.

A review of the report on investigation of costs in connection with the printing of the magazine for the February, 1956, through July, 1956, issues, by our Auditor L. M. Henderson, was made. It was noted that our printer was complying with all features of our cost plus contract, and that the printing costs of the 56-page March and May issues were higher than the 64 page issues during the first six month period of 1956. This was due to the fact that less press and bindery efficiency is possible in the smaller book. However, the saving in paper costs on the smaller book more than offset the higher printing costs of these issues. The overall saving was approximately \$6,000.00 per issue.

Mr. Eaton said in part:

"The year 1956 has been a sad year for Fawcett-Dearing as we have lost by death our fine President, W. G. Simpson. Bill had been ill for some time, but had been able to be in his office on a part-time basis. Toward the end of April his condition became rapidly worse, ending in death on May 31st. He was a great leader—kind, generous, thoughtful. All of his associates in the plant, and his customers, spread all over the country, held him in high esteem. He was a great friend of The American Legion—took great pride in rendering service to the magazine. We shall all miss him.

"Our contract states that we must officially notify the Commission of any change in management. In June of this year, I was made president and a member of the Board of Directors of the Fawcett-Dearing Company. Therefore, it looks like you are stuck with me for the future. I shall endeavor to carry on as Bill Simpson would have and, at the same time, add my own efforts to make Dearing a pleasant home for The American Legion Magazine.

"I have been fortunate in being able to get Fawcett Publications to release to the printing company Mr. Lloyd L. Wilson—who is well known all through the printing, paper and publishing industry as Lee Wilson. He has been elected vice president and general manager of the Fawcett-Dearing Printing Company, and has been working with us for the past two months. (Mr. Wilson was introduced.)

"The years 1955 and 1956 have not been good years in the printing business, mostly because they have not been good years for publishers; advertising in magazines has been off from 10 to 15 percent, and circulation about the same amount. Also, the cost situation has been bad for publishers—so that almost everybody's attention has been focused on cost, almost to the exclusion of other important services.

"Fawcett-Dearing has tried to respond to this need. We froze certain rates, as has been noted

in Larry Henderson's report. In other words, we voluntarily reduced billing below the figure we were entitled to bill under contract. This cost us \$535,000 in 1955, seriously reducing our company profit. The figures for 1956 are not yet available, but it will still be serious. We must also be aware that a loss of volume affects a printing plant cost-wise, so that our contribution was made when conditions were not the best for us. In 1955 we were forced to grant a ten percent wage increase and, in 1956, an increase of between two and three percent. Next April we will have to negotiate again. While printers have not had the best of conditions—nevertheless, because other industries have granted large wage increases, the fewer hits printing employees. They want the same benefits that other industries grant. The recent steel negotiation will be the springboard for three more years of inflation.

"This not only affects the attitude of our employees—but it means that all the many supplies which we must buy each month are continually rising in price. The cost of a rotary press such as we use, in 1941 was \$200,000; in 1946 it was \$500,000; in 1952, \$750,000; and today the same press would cost \$1,000,000. This illustrates what has happened to printers. Please remember that our depreciation rates will not replace our presses because of the present inflation.

"You will note that the average cost per thousand copies of The American Legion Magazine was \$21.01 in 1948; that our original estimate in 1947 was \$22.79 per thousand—and that this cost per thousand went to \$16.75 in the first six months of 1953; then went down to \$22.21 per thousand for the first six months of 1956. It is still below the 1947 estimate and almost equal to our 1949 average. This result comes from adding new and more efficient equipment whenever it is available — and from our freezing of certain costs.

"And we must not overlook the flexibility in thinking of your staff. They at all times have adjusted their operation to fit new conditions, and have been responsible for our being able to make numerous savings. I feel that the commission should make a note of this effort and the ability of your staff. They measure up to the best in the industry. I should also mention the smoothness with which your mailing operation functions. This could not be possible if Mr. Larson's operation did not maintain its high standard in furnishing us their material. They do the best job of any of our customers.

"I have tried to demonstrate the efforts made by all segments of your organization to produce an excellent book with the most economical cost.

"Fawcett-Dearing will continue to do its part and I hope we can continue to hold the fort. I do expect, however, that there may be a small increase in cost during 1957.

"I have asked our board of directors to be prepared for an expenditure for building and equipment in the next two years of a possible \$3,000,000. These moneys would be used to improve our plant efficiency for the future. You may depend on us for the best possible effort."

In adopting the report unanimously, the Publications Commission took official notice of the change in management at Fawcett-Dearing, and in concluding its deliberations adjourned in respect to the memory of William G. Simpson, after adopting a resolution for presentation to his widow, Stella Simpson, and her family. The resolution read as follows:

"Whereas, The Publications Commission is now meeting in full session at the Thirty-eighth National Convention of The American Legion, and

"Whereas, This is the first meeting of this commission since the death of William G. Simpson and consequently the first time the commission as a body can express its regret over this event, it is hereby;

"Resolved, That each and every member of this commission expresses deep sorrow at the loss of such a distinguished associate. For ten years Mr. Simpson had been a great friend, a wise counsellor and a kind host. As president of the Fawcett-Dearing Printing Company, he had demonstrated great capacity as an executive. He had rendered service over and above the usual requirements. The commission will remember him with affection and respect, and it is hereby further

"Resolved, That we extend our full sympathy to his widow, Stella Simpson, and to his two sons, William Simpson, Jr., and David Simpson. We hope that they will feel a measure of comfort from the knowledge of our appreciation and respect of his great qualities."

The Sub-Committee on Circulation and Promotion, Clovis Copeland, chairman, Sam Gorman, vice-chairman, and John Cicero, respectfully submitted the following suggestions for consideration:

"1. We believe additional study should be given to the possibility of combining The American Legion Auxiliary News with The American Legion Magazine. This will be mentioned in another section of this report.

"2. Use of tags or inserts to notify Legionnaires of the expiration date of Magazine subscriptions should be considered. It was suggested that one notice be inserted or attached on the 11th month; a second and different color on the 12th month, and if the new subscription is not received, a 13th and final issue be mailed with a third appeal. We realize this will present some big problems and extra work on the circulation office, but we believe the benefits may be great enough to compensate for them.

"3. Gift invitation inserts may offer possibilities for increased circulation. Many other magazines, with much higher subscription rates, receive five percent returns from this system. Legionnaires could send gift subscriptions to non-Legionnaires, resulting not only in increased interest and circulation, but eventually additional memberships.

"4. In previous reports, this sub-committee has recommended that a special committee take up a series of promotions with various other divisions of the National Headquarters. These include, besides the Auxiliary magazine, such items as special gift subscriptions for hospitals, libraries and schools, paid for by Legion Posts and special mention in membership promotional materials of the magazine, as a member getter.

"5. News releases for Legion publications, regular newspapers and various periodicals, might be beneficial on stories to appear in future issues; also stories on results obtained from items in the magazine, such as money recovered by G.I.'s whose addresses have been lost by the Armed Forces.

"6. It was suggested that the expired subscription list might be exploited by special letters, signed by the department commander, and another by the national commander, noting that the membership was not current and urging that it be renewed."

This report was referred to the January meeting of the Publications Commission for action.

The special committee considering automation equipment for fulfillment operations in the circulation department recommended that study of the situation be continued and action be deferred until such time as a more comprehensive picture is possible. Chairman Fleischer explained that Mr. Larson and his assistant, Dean Nelson, as well as he and Mr. Booth of the commission had inspected several installations and had come to the conclusion that all of the divisions of The American Legion would have to be included in working out an equitable cost factor, if any savings to The American Legion were to be realized. It was their consensus that conversion merely to serve the interests of the magazine would not be sound. The subject matter was re-directed to the committee for continued study and conference with the Finance Commission at the time of the October meetings in Indianapolis.

A proposed budget for 1957 totaling \$3,354,-925.00, as presented by the Sub-Committee on Finance, Doctor Logan, chairman, and Messrs. Booth and Dague, was approved for submission to the Finance Commission. This is approximately \$25,000 higher than the 1955 appropriation and is represented by the increased cost estimates for paper, which run \$55,000 more than the sum allocated for 1956.

The publisher gave a run-down on the 1957 Souvenir Convention Program, which was again produced by the Publications Division. Under the arrangement, the sum of \$25,000 was turned over to the Convention Commission, resulting in a loss of approximately \$5,000 to the Publications Division, but more than offset in convention advertising accruing directly to the magazine.

Authorization was given to the publisher to negotiate for paper contracts, renewals or otherwise, in consideration of such agreements as might expire in 1957 and the contract extension, subject to the approbation of the National Executive Committee, for the transcribing of The American Legion Magazine into Braille, was ratified.

The Personnel and Management Committee, Mr. Cocreham, chairman, and Mr. Sears, vice-chairman, and Mr. Armstrong, recommended that the sum of \$2,250.00 be set aside from capital expenditures for the purchase of new furniture for the New York office.

Upon recommendation of Chairman Stelle, unanimous endorsement was given to a plan for developing a special "Get Out the Vote" brochure, using as a basis a reprint of Eugene Lyons' upcoming article, "The New Red Decade," in The American Legion Magazine. The chairman was authorized to transmit the proposal to the incoming national commander.

CONFIRMATION OF CANCELLATION OF POST CHARTERS

Upon recommendation of the departments concerned, cancellation of the charters of the following American Legion posts was confirmed.

Department Name of Post No. Location

Department	Name of Post	No.	Location
California			
	San Joaquin	257	San Joaquin
	Pacific Electric Railway	321	Los Angeles
	Bernard Harris, Jr.	460	Los Angeles
	Gen. Geo. S. Patton, Jr.	642	Los Angeles

Department	Name of Post No.	Location
California (continued)		
	San Diego Post Office	
	Employees	648 San Diego
	Stanislaus Women's	691 Modesto
	Olympic	725 Van Nuys
	South Sacramento	801 Sacramento
Georgia		
	Virgil Bell	258 Woodstock
	Kelly Miller	570 Lumber City
	Arlie Agent	147 Philidelphia, Arlington
Mississippi		
	Ira Cain	226 Brookhaven
	Milton Lawhorn	230 Fulton
	Colored American Legion	233 Forest
Montana		
	Cascade	133 Cascade
	Hungry Horse	134 Hungry Horse
New Jersey		
	Warren E. Cameron	
	Memorial	392 Bellmawr Park
	Sullivan and McCrone	417 Jersey City
	Lindsey Street	322 Summit
New Mexico		
	Belen	19 Belen
	Jemez Valley	61 Jemez Springs
	Wagon Mound	75 Wagon Mound
	Laguna Pueblo	80 Laguna
Ohio		
	Harrison Memorial	610 Youngstown
	Aurora-Geauga Lake	714 Aurora
	Winton-Terrace	728 Cincinnati
	Earl H. Biddle	582 Cincinnati
Oregon		
	Watts-Patze-Griffin	13 Bly
	Donald Lane	167 Umatilla
	Marshall F. Sargent	171 Kinzua
Pennsylvania		
	Stanley-Pino	762 Philadelphia
	Kater Memorial	974 Philadelphia
South Carolina		
	Policemen's and Firemen's	110 Columbia
	Clifton Page	208 Mullins
	Hill	227 Loris
Vermont		
	Berry-Hathaway	34 Hinesburg
	Shelburne-Charlotte	40 Shelburne
	Perry-Hones	54 Pawlet
	O. V. Hefflon	68 Jamaica
Virginia		
	Nottoway County	169 Blackstone
	George Stephen	308 Wytheville
	Washington	
	Hylton-Taylor-Williams	311 Pembroke
	Red House	343 Red House
West Virginia		
	Grant Town	157 Grant Town
Wyoming		
	Eden Valley	67 Eden

Respectfully Yours,
E. A. BLACKMORE
National Adjutant

CONFIRMATION OF CANCELLATION OF SQUADRON CHARTER

Upon recommendation of the detachments concerned, cancellation of the following squadron charter was confirmed:

Department	Name of Sqdrn.No.	Location
West Virginia		
	John Brawley	20 Charleston
	(charter dated 8-24-33)	

REINSTATEMENT OF CHARTER OF HENRY A. CROSS POST NO. 435 OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Upon the motion of Committeeman Mathieson of Michigan, duly seconded and without debate, the National Executive Committee voted unanimously to reinstate the previously revoked Charter of Henry A. Cross Post No. 435 of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

REINSTATEMENT OF CHARTER OF JOE MARTINEZ POST NO. 204 OF WESTMINSTER, COLORADO

Upon the motion of Committeeman Wilson of Florida, chairman of the Resolutions Subcommittee, duly seconded, and without debate, the National Executive Committee voted unanimously to reinstate the previously revoked Charter of Joe Martinez Post No. 204 of Westminster, Colorado.

AWARDING OF EMBLEM CONTRACTS

Resolution emanating from the National Emblem Committee was presented by Chairman E. Meade Wilson of the Resolutions Subcommittee. The motion to adopt was duly seconded and carried without debate. Following is the resolution:

Whereas, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee, at its regular meeting, May 2-4, 1956, at Indianapolis, Indiana, as shown by Page 197 et seq. of Digest of Minutes of that meeting, requests for bids for supplying official merchandise for the period of one year, January 1, 1957 to and including December 31, 1957, were transmitted to manufacturers, and

Whereas, specifications as listed in said resolution, covering merchandise bearing thereon the emblems of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion, were sent with requests for bids to all available known interested bidders, and

Whereas, all sealed bids received as of 12:00 noon, August 15, 1956, were opened by the National Emblem Committee, at a pre-convention meeting held in Los Angeles, California, on August 30, 1956, and upon careful consideration, that committee determined that the following concerns were the lowest and most responsible bidders, and recommended that contracts be awarded as listed below:

Specification No. 1 — American Legion caps:

S. Abrahams and Co., Inc.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Specification No. 2 — American Legion colors (All Sections):

Annin and Company,
New York, New York

Specification No. 3 — American Legion Auxiliary colors (All Sections):

Annin and Company,
New York, New York

- Specification No. 4 — Sons of The American Legion colors:
Annin and Company,
New York, New York
- Specification No. 5 — American Legion embroidered emblems:
Joel & Aronoff,
New York, New York
- Specification No. 6 — American Legion Auxiliary embroidered emblems:
Joel & Aronoff,
New York, New York
- Specification No. 7 — Sons of The American Legion embroidered emblems:
Joel & Aronoff,
New York, New York
- Specification No. 8 — American Legion gavel bells:
Bronze Craft Corp.,
Nashua, New Hampshire
- Specification No. 9 — American Legion Auxiliary gavel bells:
Bronze Craft Corp.,
Nashua, New Hampshire
- Specification No. 10 — American Legion bronze grave markers:
Bronze Craft Corp.,
Nashua, New Hampshire
- Specification No. 11 — American Legion Auxiliary bronze grave markers:
Bronze Craft Corp.,
Nashua, New Hampshire
- Specification No. 12 — American Legion buttons, pins, badges, rings and miscellaneous insignia:
Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 — L. G. Balfour Co.
Attleboro, Massachusetts
Sections 6, 7 — Leavens Manufacturing Co.,
Attleboro, Massachusetts
- Specification No. 13 — American Legion Auxiliary pins, badges, rings and miscellaneous items:
Sections 1, 3, 4, 5 — Leavens Manufacturing Co.,
Attleboro, Massachusetts
Section 2 — L. G. Balfour Company,
Attleboro, Massachusetts
- Specification No. 16 — American Legion shirts:
B. Lippman, Inc.,
New York, New York
- Specification No. 18 — American Legion school award medals and plaques:
Medallic Art Company,
New York, New York; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, at a pre-convention meeting at Los Angeles, California, on September 2, 1956, That contracts be awarded to the above listed concerns, provided each successful bidder submits satisfactory samples as requested in the specifications before the execution of their contract, for a one year period, January 1, 1957 to and including December 31, 1957, and that such contracts, after being approved as to form by the national judge advocate, be executed by the national commander and national adjutant; and, be it further

Resolved, That if any bidder hereinbefore named to whom such contract is to be awarded fails to submit satisfactory samples prior to the execution of the formal contract, as provided by the specifications, such bid shall be rejected and the contract shall be awarded to the next lowest, responsible bidder complying with the specifications as aforesaid, as shown by the record of such bids opened and considered by the National Emblem Committee at its meeting held on August 30-September 1, 1956 at Los Angeles, California, and in the event there is no next lowest responsible bidder or in the event there should be a cancellation of any existing contract, then in any or either of such cases the National Emblem Sales, and the Emblem Committee, within their determination, are hereby authorized to transmit the specifications covering merchandise covered by such rejected bid or cancelled contract to such concerns which manufacture, fabricate, process or produce any of such merchandise, for the submission of proposals and bids to the National Emblem Committee for the supplying of merchandise for the period of one year from January 1, 1957, through December 31, 1957, or any part of such period, such bids to be received at a time and place to be determined by the National Emblem Committee and to be opened by the said National Emblem Committee at a meeting fixed by the national commander, at which time and place said bids are to be opened by said National Emblem Committee, and said Emblem Committee shall do any and all other things, not hereby set forth, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution No. 15, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its meeting held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 2-4, 1956 (Page 197 et seq. Dig. of Min.).

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS AS CONSULTANTS TO MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The following motion was offered by Committeeman Burke of California, acting on behalf of Past National Commander Harry Colmery:

That the national commander be authorized to appoint a committee of past national commanders to act as consultants to the Membership and Post Activities Committee, to appraise and evaluate our membership program.

The motion was duly seconded and adopted unanimously without debate.

The national commander announced that appointment of the committee would be deferred for action by the incoming national commander.

National Commander Wagner expressed his appreciation for the support and assistance provided him throughout the year by the National Executive Committee. The national commander declared the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, SEPTEMBER 6, 1956

The post-convention meeting of the new Executive Committee of The American Legion convened in the Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles, California, immediately upon final adjournment of the 1956 Annual Convention, National Commander Daniel, Virginia, presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call by the secretary showed the following present:

Past National Commanders

Alvin M. Owsley
Henry L. Stevens Jr.
Louis Johnson
Frank N. Belgrano, Jr.
Ray Murphy
Lynn U. Stambaugh
Roane Waring
Warren H. Atherton
Edward N. Scheiberling
John Stelle
Paul H. Griffith
James F. O'Neil
Perry Brown
Erle Cocke, Jr.
Arthur J. Connell
Seaborn P. Collins
J. Addington Wagner

Department Committeemen

Alabama—Hugh W. Overton
Arizona—Calvin R. Sanders
Arkansas—Dr. G. D. Murphy, Jr.
California—Malcolm M. Champlin
Canada—J. B. Finucane
Colorado—William R. Egan
Connecticut—Joseph G. Leonard
District of Columbia—James D. Hill
France—Sedley Peck
Georgia—James E. Powers
Hawaii—Dr. P. M. Corboy
Idaho—Harry R. Harn
Illinois—S. William Ash
Indiana—Lawrence H. Hinds
Iowa—Ward M. Loftus
Italy—H. Armand de Masi
Kansas—Ora D. McClellan
Louisiana—Dr. A. R. Choppin
Maine—Ralph M. Mellow
Maryland—David L. Brigham
Massachusetts—Charles N. Collatos
Mexico—Andres du Bouchet
Michigan—Robert G. Mathieson
Minnesota—Carl L. Lundgren
Mississippi—Ralph M. Godwin
Missouri—Elmer W. Kuhlmann
Montana—Grover C. Schmidt
Nebraska—John E. Curtiss
Nevada—Thomas W. Miller
New Hampshire—Eli A. Marcoux
New Jersey—William G. McKinley
New Mexico—Reed Mulkey
North Carolina—William A. Gresham
North Dakota—William Stern
Ohio—James M. Wagonseller
Oklahoma—Preston J. Moore
Oregon—Hollis Hull
Pennsylvania—Walter E. Alessandrini
Puerto Rico—Ramon R. Guas
Rhode Island—John A. Ryer
South Carolina—E. Roy Stone, Jr.
South Dakota—Claude A. Hamilton

Tennessee—John J. Duncan
Texas—Albert D. Brown, Jr.
Utah—William Sutteer
Vermont—Clarence S. Campbell
Virginia—Lemuel W. Houston
Washington—Loris A. Winn
West Virginia—Dr. P. E. Kercheval
Wisconsin—G. E. Sipple
Wyoming—F. W. Bartling
National Chaplain—Father Gerdon

REMARKS OF NATIONAL COMMANDER DANIEL

Gentlemen, first of all let me say that I am sincerely and humbly grateful for the support that you have given me in the past years, and for the support you have given The American Legion.

I believe we are going to have a good year in 1956-1957, not necessarily because of anything that the commander may do but because I have witnessed here some inspired actions by dedicated Legionnaires.

I earnestly and humbly solicit the advice and counsel of all of you men who have given so untriflingly and unstintingly of your time and devotion to the programs of this, the greatest organization of its kind in the world.

I consider it a real honor and a pleasure to be able to work with such a fine group of gentlemen.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A "GET OUT THE VOTE" CAMPAIGN

Past National Commander John Stelle, Illinois, offered a motion that the national commander appoint a committee to carry on a nation-wide campaign to get out the vote for the approaching presidential election. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously without debate.

CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Newly elected National Vice Commander George T. Lewis Jr., Tennessee, offered his resignation as chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission. National Commander Daniel accepted it and nominated Addison P. Drummond, Florida to the interim chairmanship of the Internal Affairs Commission.

The nomination was unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

National Commander Daniel announced that he had reluctantly accepted the resignation of George Kelly as director of the National Public Relations Commission. The commander then announced the appointment of James V. Day, Maine, as the director, National Public Relations Commission.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO
THE NATIONAL COMMANDER**

National Commander Daniel announced the appointment of Hollis C. Hull, Oregon, as his aide and executive assistant.

**VICE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERSHIP AND
POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

National Commander Daniel proposed the interim appointment of Churchill Williams, Iowa, as vice-chairman, Membership and Post Activities Committee. The appointment was unanimously approved.

DATES FOR FALL MEETINGS

National Commander Daniel suggested the dates of October 14, 15, and 16 for the annual conference of department commanders and adjutants, and the dates of October 17, 18, and 19 for the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee. These dates were unanimously approved.

**CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM
EUROPEAN TOUR**

The National Executive Committee authorized the national commander to accept the invitation of the Crusade for Freedom to tour some of the European countries between the dates of October 18 to 28. The tour involves no expense to The American Legion. The national commander announced that he did not propose to join the tour until after the close of the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee.

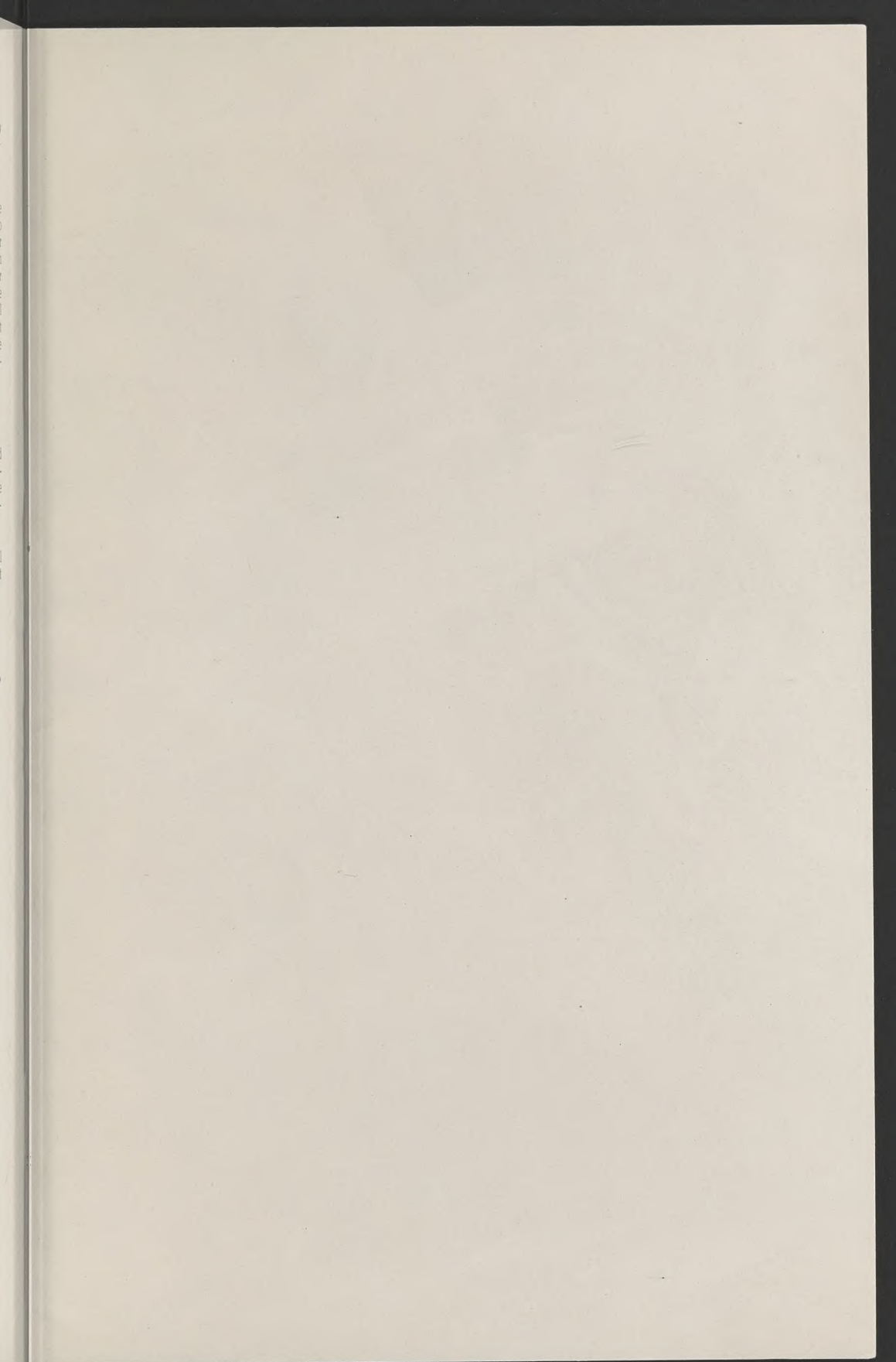
**APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL
ADJUTANT**

National Commander Daniel submitted the name of Emil A. Blackmore, Wyoming, to be national adjutant during the ensuing year. The nomination was approved.

Following benediction by the national chaplain the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

E. A. Blackmore

E. A. BLACKMORE,
National Adjutant



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