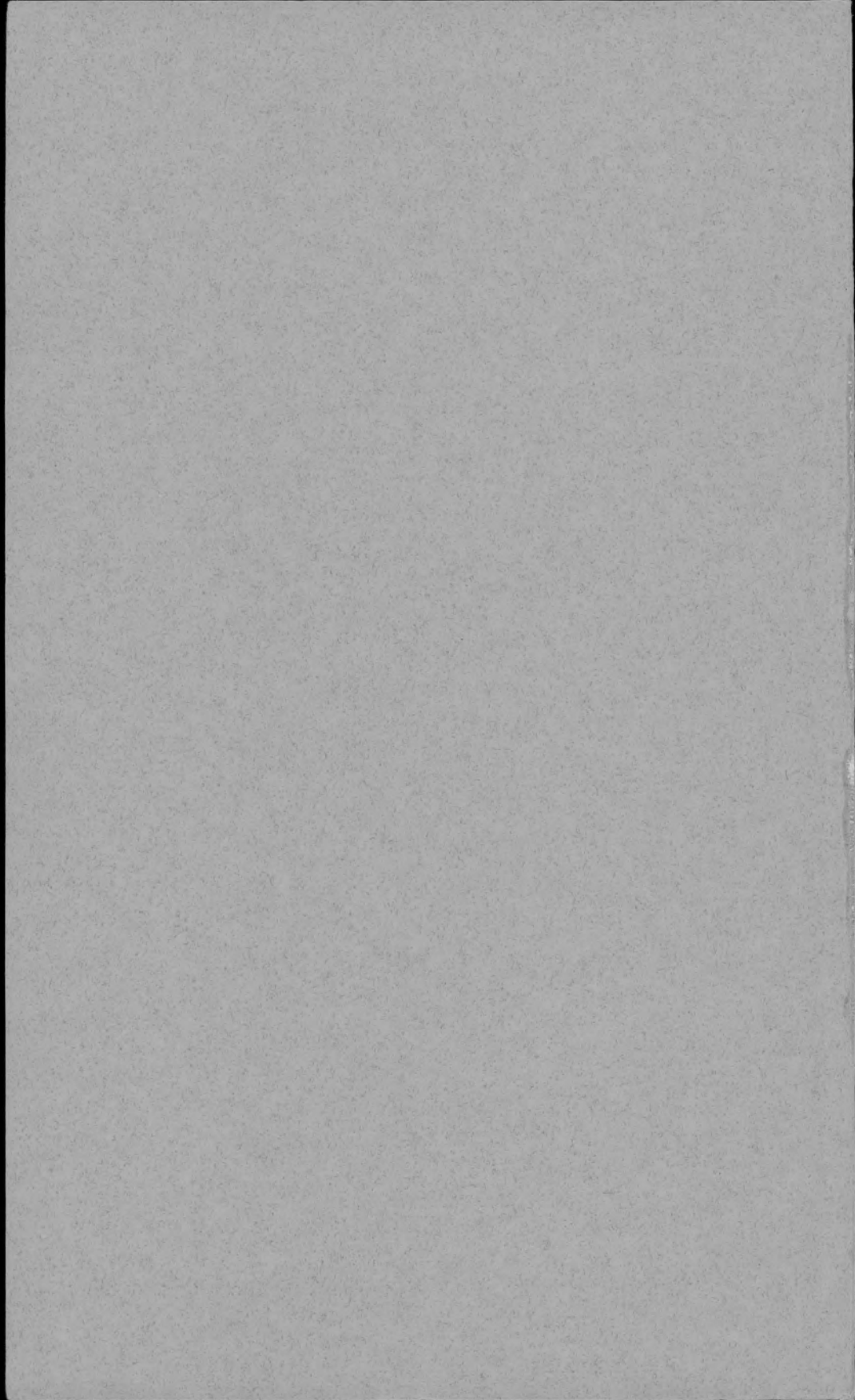


PROCEEDINGS OF
65th NATIONAL
CONVENTION *of The*
AMERICAN
LEGION



Seattle, Washington

August 23-25, 1983



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65th NATIONAL
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Seattle, Washington

August 23-25, 1983

JANUARY 23, 1984.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed, with illustrations.

PUBLIC LAW NO. 105, EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first section of the Act of March 2, 1931, as amended (44 U.S.C. 275b), is amended to read as follows:

“That hereafter the proceedings of the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I of the United States of America, Incorporated, and the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, respectively, shall be printed annually, with accompanying illustrations, as separate House documents of the session of the Congress to which they may be submitted.”

SEC. 2. The last sentence of section 16 of Public Law 85-530 (36 U.S.C. 776), is repealed.

Approved August 27, 1963.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

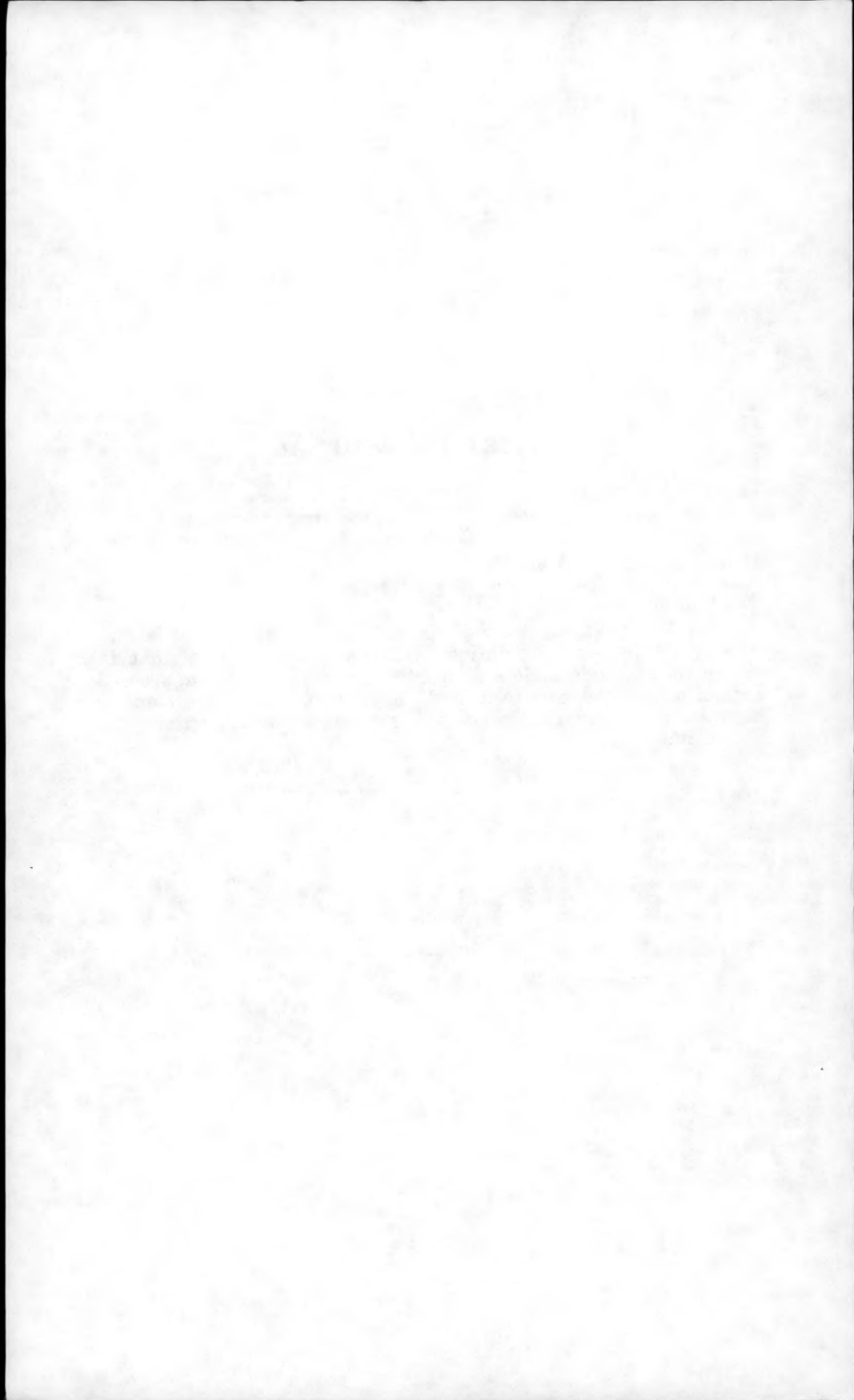
THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, D.C., December 22, 1983.

Hon. THOMAS P. O'NEILL, JR.
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In compliance with current public law we herewith transmit for printing as a House document a financial statement and independent audit of The American Legion, proceedings of our 65th annual National Convention, and a report on our organization's activities for the year preceding the Convention.

Sincerely,

E. PHILIP RIGGIN,
Director, National Legislative Commission.



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PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN
LEGION

* * * * *

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State, and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

* * * * *

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, 1919 TO 1983

NOTE.—In the following list it should be noted that the terms of each group of officers expire with that particular convention under which they are listed

HONORARY COMMANDERS

*General John J. Pershing

*Marshall Ferdinand Foch

PARIS CAUCUS

Paris, France, March 15 to 17, 1919

Temporary Chairman: *Eric Fisher Wood, Pennsylvania. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1955 National Convention.)

Permanent Chairman: *Bennett C. Clark, Missouri. (Voted title of Past National Commander at 1926 National Convention.)

Chairman Pro Tempore: *Thomas W. Miller, Delaware. (Voted title of Past National Commander at 1968 National Convention.)

Secretary: *Eric Fisher Wood, Pennsylvania. At the Paris Caucus an Executive Committee was elected to complete arrangements, the chairman and secretary of which were:

Chairman: *Milton J. Foreman, Illinois. (Voted title of Past National Commander at 1921 National Convention.)

Secretary: *George A. White, Oregon.

ST. LOUIS CAUCUS

St. Louis, Mo., May 8 to 10, 1919

Temporary Chairman: *Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., New York. (Voted title of Past National Commander at 31st Annual National Convention.)

Permanent Chairman: *Henry D. Lindsley, Texas.

Vice Chairman: *John J. Sullivan, Washington; Fred Humphrey, New Mexico; *P. C. Calhoun, Connecticut. (Voted titles of Past National Vice Commanders at 1933 National Convention.)

Secretary: *Eric Fisher Wood, Pennsylvania.

Chaplain: *Thomas H. Wiles, Colorado. (Voted title of Past National Chaplain at 1921 National Convention.)

FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minn., November 10 to 12, 1919

Chairman: *Henry D. Lindsley, Texas. (Voted title of Past National Commander 1919 National Convention.)

Vice Chairman: *Bennett C. Clark, Missouri.

Secretary: *Eric Fisher Wood, Pennsylvania.

Treasurer: *Gasper G. Bacon, Massachusetts.

Chaplain: *Thomas H. Wiles, Colorado.

*Deceased.

SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, September 27 to 29, 1920

Commander: *Franklin D'Olier, Pennsylvania.
 Vice Commanders: *James O'Brien, California; *Allen Tukey, Nebraska; *Joyce S. Lewis, Minnesota; Alden B. Chambers, Massachusetts; *William Follett, Oregon.
 Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
 Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
 Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Francis A. Kelly, New York.

THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Mo., October 31 to November 2, 1921

Commander: *Frederick W. Galbraith, Jr., Ohio (killed June 9), succeeded by *John G. Emery, Michigan.
 Vice Commanders: John G. Emery, Michigan; *Thomas Goldingay, New Jersey; Claudius G. Pendill, Wisconsin; *James G. Schrugham, Nevada; E. Jackson Winslett, Alabama.
 Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
 Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
 Chaplain: *Rev. John W. Inzer, Tennessee.
 Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
 Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, La., October 16 to 20, 1922

Commander: *Hanford MacNider, Iowa.
 Vice Commanders: *H. Nelson Jackson, Vermont; *George L. Berry, Tennessee; *Raymond O. Brackett, Massachusetts; Charles H. Kindrick, California; *John A. McCormick, Colorado.
 Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
 Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Earl A. Blackman, Kansas.
 Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
 Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, Calif., October 16 to 19, 1923

Commander: *Alvin Owsley, Texas.
 Vice Commanders: *Edward J. Barrett, Wisconsin; *Watson B. Miller, District of Columbia; E. Erle Cocke, Sr., Georgia; *Robert O. Blood, New Hampshire; Chiles P. Plummer, Wyoming.
 Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
 Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Wm. F. O'Connor, Ohio.
 Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
 Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Paul, Minn., September 15 to 19, 1924

Commander: John R. Quinn, California.
 Vice Commanders: *Lester Albert, Idaho; Celora M. Stoddard, Arizona; *William B. Healey, Pennsylvania; F. Ryan Duff, Wisconsin; *Dr. I. Thurman Mann, North Carolina.
 Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
 Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
 Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Ezra Clemens, Minnesota.
 Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Nebr., October 5 to 9, 1925

Commander: James A. Drain, Washington.
 Vice Commanders: *Frank H. McFarland, Kansas; *Eugene P. Armstrong, Connecticut; A. L. Perry, Panama; Peyton H. Hoge, Jr., Kentucky; *William Stern, North Dakota.
 Adjutant: *Russell G. Creviston, Indiana (resigned), succeeded by *James F. Barton, Iowa.
 Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
 Chaplain: Rev. Joseph M. Lonergan, Illinois.
 Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
 Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pa., October 11 to 15, 1926

Commander: John R. McQuizz, Ohio.
 Vice Commanders: Joseph Y. Cheney, Florida; *Hughes B. Davis, Oklahoma; *Vincent A. Carroll, Pennsylvania; *Raymond B. Littlefield, Rhode Island; *James A. Howell, Utah.
 Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
 Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Wm. E. Patrick, California.
 Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
 Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

New York City, N.Y., October 18, 1927

Paris, France, September 19 to 22, 1927

Commander: Howard P. Savage, Illinois.
 Montana; Stafford King, Minnesota; John Montana; Stafford King, Minnesota; John G. Sims, Tennessee; *John E. Curtiss, Nebraska; *John G. Towne, Maine.
 Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
 Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Joseph L. N. Wolfe, Pennsylvania.
 Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
 Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

10TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Tex., October 8 to 11, 1928

Commander: *Edward E. Spafford, New York.
 Vice Commanders: John T. Rafts, Washington; *Ralph T. O'Neil, Kansas; *Paul R. Younts, North Carolina; Dan Spurlock, Louisiana; *John M. Henry, Minnesota.
 Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
 Chaplain: Rev. Gill Robb Wilson, New Jersey.
 Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
 Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Scott W. Lucas, Illinois.

11TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Ky., September 30 to October 2, 1929

Commander: *Paul V. McNutt, Indiana.
 Vice Commanders: Lawrence E. McGann, Jr., Illinois; *George W. Malone, Nevada; *Edward L. White, Connecticut; Miller C. Foster, South Carolina; *Walton D. Hood, Texas.
 Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
 Chaplain: Rabbi Lee J. Levinger, Ohio.
 Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.
 Historian: *Eben Putman, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: *Scott W. Lucas, Illinois.

12TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Mass., October 6 to 9, 1930

Commander: *O. L. Bodenhammer, Arkansas.

Vice Commanders: *Milt D. Campbell, Ohio; John J. Dugan, Delaware; *Morton M. David, Colorado; *Frank Schoble, Jr., Pennsylvania; Willis M. Brewer, Michigan.

Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.

Chaplain: *Rev. George K. Kettell, D.D., New York.

Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.

Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: *Scott W. Lucas, Illinois.

13TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Detroit, Mich., September 21 to 24, 1931

Commander: *Ralph T. O'Neil, Kansas.

Vice Commanders: *Bert S. Hyland, Vermont; *Roland B. Howell, Louisiana;

*Harry B. Henderson, Jr., Wyoming; *Dr. James A. Duff, West Virginia; *Dr. Neal D. Williams, Missouri.

Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.

Chaplain: Rev. Jos. N. Barnett, Wisconsin.

Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.

Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: *Scott W. Lucas, Illinois.

14TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oreg., September 12 to 15, 1932

Commander: *Henry L. Stevens, Jr., North Carolina.

Vice Commanders: *Richard F. Paul, Massachusetts; *Forest G. Cooper, Mississippi; Roy L. Cook, New Mexico; *Frank N. Brooks, Washington; *Harold L. Plummer Wisconsin.

Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.

Chaplain: *Rev. H. A. Darche, Illinois.

Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.

Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham, Indiana.

15TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., October 2 to 5, 1933

Commander: *Louis Johnson, West Virginia.

Vice Commanders: Russel Meadows, Arizona; Robert D. Flory, Nebraska; *Wm. East-erwood, Texas; *John J. Maloney, Maine; *Chas. A. Mills, Florida.

Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Irving Q. Wood, Idaho.

Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana

Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts (died January 22, 1933), succeeded by *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.

Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham, Indiana.

16TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Fla., October 22 to 25, 1934

Commander: *Edward A. Hayes, Illinois.

Vice Commanders: *Charles R. Mabey, Utah; Robert L. Gordon, Arkansas; Miguel Munoz, Puerto Rico; *Ed W. Carruth, Kansas; Charles L. Woolley, Rhode Island.

Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Robert J. White, Massachusetts.

Historian: *Thomas M. Owens, Jr., Alabama.

Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: *Remster A. Bingham, Indiana.

17TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Mo., September 23 to 26, 1935

Commander: *Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., California.
 Vice Commanders: Daniel J. Doherty, Massachusetts; Harold J. Warner, Oregon;
 *John K. Kennelly, North Dakota; Milo J. Warner, Ohio; Quimby Melton, Georgia.
 Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Park W. Huntington, Delaware.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *James A. Drain, Washington.
 Judge Advocate: *James A. Drain, Washington.

18TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, September 21 to 24, 1936

Commander: *Ray Murphy, Iowa.
 Vice Commanders: *Raymond F. Gates, Connecticut; *Dr. W. E. Whitlock, Florida;
 Oscar W. Worthwine, Idaho; Dr. F. Whitney Godwin, Virginia; *Louis R. Probst,
 Wyoming.
 Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Thos. D. Kennedy, Missouri.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

19TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, N.Y., September 20 to 23, 1937

Commander: Harry W. Colmery, Kansas.
 Vice Commanders: *Salvatore Capodice, California; *Leo A. Temmey, South Dakota;
 *Leonard Sisk, Tennessee; *J. Fred Johnson, Jr., Alabama; *Jack Crowley, Vermont.
 Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Bryan H. Keathley, Texas.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

20TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, Calif., September 19 to 22, 1938

Commander: *Daniel J. Doherty, Massachusetts.
 Vice Commanders: Drury M. Phillips, Texas; Phil Conley, West Virginia; *Harry M.
 Johnson, Montana; *James F. Daniel, Jr., South Carolina; *James R. Mahaffey,
 Hawaii.
 Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Frank J. Lawler, Illinois.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

21ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., September 25 to 28, 1939

Commander: *Stephen F. Chadwick, Washington.
 Vice Commanders: *Edward J. Quinn, Maine; Charles W. Crush, Virginia; *Earl T.
 Ross, Nevada; *James T. Crawley, Mississippi; Henry C. Oakey, Wisconsin.
 Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Jerome L. Fritsche, Nebraska.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

22D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Mass., September 23 to 26, 1940

Commander: Raymond J. Kelly, Michigan. Vice commanders: *Leo E. Ray, New Hampshire; *Charles Q. Kelly, Arkansas; *Matthew J. Murphy, Illinois; *James B. Fitzgerald, Maryland; H. Elwyn Davis, Colorado.
 Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Patrick N. McDermott, Iowa.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

23D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Milwaukee, Wis., September 15 to 18, 1941

Commander: Milo J. Warner, Ohio. Vice Commanders: Erwin A. Froyd, Wyoming; James L. McCrory, Nebraska; *Harold P. Redden, Massachusetts; *Edward R. Stirling, Pennsylvania; *Alice S. Legendre, Louisiana.
 Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
 Chaplain: Brigadier William G. Gilks, Texas.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

24TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Mo., September 19 to 21, 1942

Commander: *Lynn U. Stambaugh, North Dakota.
 Vice Commanders: W. C. Sawyer, Arizona; *DeLacy Allen, Georgia; Charles E. Booth, West Virginia; *V. M. Armstrong, Indiana; *John F. Sullivan, Vermont.
 Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Frederick J. Halloran, New Jersey.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owens, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

25TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Nebr., September 21 to 23, 1943

Commander: *Roane Waring, Tennessee.
 Vice Commanders: John T. Batten, Alabama; *Arthur J. Connell, Connecticut; *Fred G. Fraser, District of Columbia; *Herman H. Lark, Missouri; *Jefferson Davis Atwood, New Mexico.
 Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas (died July 25), succeeded by *Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan, Acting Adjutant.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Paul De Forrest Mortimore, Idaho.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

26TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., September 18 to 20, 1944

Commander: Warren H. Atherton, California.
 Vice Commanders: *Martin V. Coffey, Ohio; *M. E. Littlefield, Utah; *Robert (LeRoy) McMillian, North Carolina; Edward A. Mulrooney, Delaware; *Hector G. Staples, Maine.
 Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Paul F. McManus, Kansas.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

27TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., November 18 to 21, 1945

Commander: *Edward N. Scheiberling, New York.
 Vice Commanders: Bascom F. Jones, Tennessee; Frank E. McCuffrey, Rhode Island;
 *Dan M. McDade, Oregon; *Ray S. Plerson, Kansas, *William P. Shadoan, Kentucky.
 Adjutant: *Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan.
 Chaplain: *Rev. DeWitt C. Mallory, Florida.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

28TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, Calif., September 30 to October 4, 1946

Commander: *John Stelle, Illinois.
 Vice Commanders: *R. Graham Huntington, New Jersey; Fred LaBoon, Oklahoma;
 *Sam L. Latimer, Jr., South Carolina; *H. Dudley Swim, Idaho; *Jeremiah Twomey, Massachusetts.
 Adjutant: *Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan.
 Chaplain: *Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith, Iowa.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

29TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, N.Y., August 28 to 31, 1947

Commander: *Paul H. Griffith, Pennsylvania.
 Vice Commanders: Joseph W. Brown, New Hampshire; Martin B. Buckner, Michigan; Richard C. Cadwallader, Louisiana; Earnest H. Derishian, Virginia; Edward J. Sharkey, California.
 Adjutant: *Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Arthur L. Rustad, Minnesota.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

30TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Fla., October 18 to 20, 1948

Commander: James F. O'Neill, New Hampshire.
 Vice Commanders: L. W. Barns, South Dakota; *Albert A. Cree, Vermont; Richard B. Ott, Washington; Myron R. Renick, West Virginia; Joe W. White, Georgia.
 Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
 Chaplain: Rev. Father Frank L. Harrington, Montana.
 Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
 Treasurer: *Neil Grider, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

31ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pa., August 29 to September 1, 1949

Commander: Perry Brown, Texas.
 Vice Commanders: James Lane, Alabama; Leonard W. Moody, Arkansas; James Annin; *Walter E. Alessandroni, Pennsylvania.
 Adjutant: *Harry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
 Chaplain: Rev. Thomas Grice, California.
 Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
 Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

32D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, Calif., October 9 to 12, 1950

Commander: George N. Craig, Indiana.
 Vice Commanders: Milton G. Boock, Minnesota; *David H. Fleisher, Missouri; Frank E. Lowe, Maine; J. E. Martie, Nevada; *Dr. D. R. Perry, North Carolina.
 Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
 Chaplain: Rev. Edward J. Carney, O.S.A., Massachusetts.
 Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
 Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

33D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Fla., October 15 to 18, 1951

Commander: Erle Cocke, Jr., Georgia.
 Vice Commanders: *Joe Adams, Florida; *Herbert J. Jacobi, District of Columbia; Felix Pogliano, Colorado; *Lewis K. Gough, California; Fred C. Bramlage, Kansas.
 Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
 Chaplain: Rabbi David Lefkowitz, Louisiana.
 Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
 Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

34TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, N.Y., August 25 to 28, 1952

Commander: Donald B. Wilson, West Virginia.
 Vice Commanders: Adolph F. Bremer, Minnesota; Frank R. Kelley, Massachusetts; *Thomas E. Paradine, New York; *Oscar B. Rohiff, Wyoming; *Audrey H. Ward, South Carolina.
 Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
 Chaplain: Rev. Olaf G. Birkeland, Wisconsin.
 Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
 Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

35TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Mo., August 31 to September 3, 1953

Commander: *Lewis K. Gough, California.
 Vice Commanders: *William R. Bourdon, Arizona; Lyon W. Brandon, Mississippi; Wilbur C. Daniel, Virginia; Harry V. Groome, New Jersey; J. Addington Wagner, Michigan.
 Adjutant: *Harry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
 Chaplain: *Rev. Father John E. Duff, Ohio.
 Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
 Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

36TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, D.C., August 30 to September 2, 1954

Commander: *Athur J. Connell, Connecticut.
 Vice Commanders: *John A. High, New Hampshire; Dr. Deward H. Reed, New Mexico; Truman C. Wold, North Dakota; *Thomas W. Bird, North Carolina.
 Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
 Chaplain: Dr. Tom B. Clark, Oklahoma.
 Historian: *Robert T. Fairey, South Carolina.
 Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

37TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Fla., October 10 to 13, 1955

Commander: Seaborn P. Collins, New Mexico.

Vice Commanders: *Leonard L. Jackson, Louisiana; Patrick H. Mangan, Jr., Vermont; Howard C. Kingdom, Ohio; Dr. Carl J. Rees, Delaware; Robert L. Shelby, Utah.

Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.

Chaplain: Rev. Albert J. Hoffmann, Iowa.

Historian: *Robert T. Fairey, South Carolina.

Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

38TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, Calif., September 3 to 6, 1956

Commander: J. Addington Wagner, Michigan.

Vice Commanders: Guy Stone, Georgia; John G. Van Horn, Alaska; L. Everett Page, Texas; *Gilman H. Stordock, Wisconsin; James V. Day, Maine (resigned Jan. 1, 1956), succeeded by William J. Holliman, District of Columbia.

Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska (resigned), succeeded by *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.

Chaplain: *Rev. Joseph MacCarroll, New Jersey.

Historian: *Robert T. Fairey, South Carolina.

Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

39TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlantic City, N.J., September 16 to 19, 1957

Commander: W. C. "Dan" Daniel, Virginia.

Vice Commanders: *Gaylor M. Brown, Iowa; George T. Lewis, Jr., Tennessee; *Carl R. Moser, Oregon; John P. Stay, Pennsylvania; J. Edward Walter, Maryland.

Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rev. Bernard W. Gerdon, Indiana.

Historian: *Robert T. Fairey, South Carolina.

Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

40TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., September 1 to 4, 1958

Commander: John S. Gleason, Jr., Illinois.

Vice Commanders: *William A. Cottrell, Territory of Hawaii; Ramon R. Guas, Puerto Rico; Harry W. Miller, West Virginia; Lee A. Lemos, Rhode Island, *Isador Levin, Indiana.

Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rev. Feltham S. James, South Carolina.

Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert, New Jersey.

Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

41ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minn., August 24 to 27, 1959

Commander: Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma.

Vice Commanders: C. D. DeLoach, District of Columbia; John W. Collins, Pennsylvania; James B. Kerrigan, Missouri; Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana; James C. Bangs, Idaho.

Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Twiss, Massachusetts.

Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert, New Jersey.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

42D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Fla., October 18 to 20, 1960

Commander: Martin B. McKneally, New York.

Vice Commanders: William A. Brennan, Jr., Indiana; A. Layman Harman, South Carolina; *Nate V. Keller, Minnesota; †Irven Frank Gianotti, Minnesota; Willard W. Brandt, North Dakota; *Charles C McGonegal, California; ††Corydon T. Hill, California.

Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rabbi Robert I. Kahn, D.H.L., Texas.

Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert, New Jersey.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

43D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colo., September 9 to 14, 1961

Commander: William R. Burke, California.

Vice Commanders: George K. Walker, Massachusetts; James M. Wagoner, Ohio; Vincent J. Maxheim, Iowa; Dr. Harry H. Kretzler, Washington; R. C. Godwin, North Carolina.

Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.

Chaplain: The Reverend Wm. H. Moss, Tennessee.

Historian: Glenn B. Hoover, Iowa.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

44TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Las Vegas, Nev., October 5 to 11, 1962

Commander: Charles L. Bacon, Missouri.

Vice Commanders: *Walter W. Barnard, Montana; Edward T. Hoak, Pennsylvania; Wilson H. Morrison, Michigan; J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma; Edward Wysocki, New Jersey.

Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rev. Father Robert G. Keating, Connecticut.

Historian: *Earl Davis Young, Colorado.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

45TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Fla., September 6 to 12, 1963

Commander: James E. Powers, Georgia.

Vice Commanders: Harold D. Beaton, District of Columbia; *James D. Doon, New Hampshire; Claude D. Hamilton, South Dakota; Paschal C. Reese, Florida; *Victor F. Whittlesea, Nevada.

Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rabbi Albert M. Shulman, Indiana.

Historian: H. Armand de Masi.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

46TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dallas, Tex., September 22 to 24, 1964

Commander: Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota.

†Appointed Sept 14, 1960, to fill the vacancy created on July 25 by the death of National Vice Commander Nate V. Keller.

††Appointed May 4, 1960, to fill the vacancy created on Jan. 27, by the death of National Vice Commander Charles C. McGonegal.

Vice Commanders: Earl D. Franklin, Jr., Colorado; Emilio S. Iglesias, Vermont;
 *Garland D. Murphy, Jr., M.D., Arkansas; George Emory Sipple, Wisconsin;
 Harry Wright, Mexico.
 Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
 Chaplain: Rev. John J. Howard, Virginia.
 Historian: H. Armand de Masi, Italy.
 Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

47TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oreg., August 24 to 26, 1965

Commander: Donald E. Johnson, Iowa.
 Vice Commanders: *David Aronberg, Kentucky; *Herbert D. Black, South Carolina;
 Ward W. Husted, Wyoming; Edward H. Lynch, Jr., Connecticut; *Joseph Paul,
 Michigan.
 Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
 Chaplain: Rev. Father Morris N. Dummet, Louisiana.
 Historian: *Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.
 Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

48TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, D.C., August 30-31 and September 1, 1966

Commander: L. Eldon James, Virginia.
 Vice Commanders: *Dr. A. R. Choppin, Louisiana; William E. Galbraith, Nebraska;
 Robert O. Phillips, Philippines; William J. Rogers, Maine; Soleng Tom, Arizona.
 Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
 Chaplain: The Rev. Alfred C. Thompson, New York.
 Historian: *Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.
 Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

49th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Mass., August 29 to 31, 1967

Commander: John E. Davis, North Dakota.
 Vice Commanders: Robert M. Fritz, Indiana; Lewis W. Emerich Texas; Harry V.
 Klein, Jr., Pennsylvania; Frank L. Orfanello, Massachusetts; *James A. Tadlock,
 New Mexico.
 Adjutant: Earnest N. Schmit, North Dakota.
 Chaplain: *The Rev. Fr. Anthony J. O'Driscoll, New York.
 Historian: *Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.
 Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

50th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, La., September 6 to 12, 1968

Commander: William E. Galbraith, Nebraska.
 Vice Commanders: Coleman Nolen, Oklahoma; Louis R. J. Malo, Rhode Island;
 Roscoe D. Curtiss, Tennessee; Dr. Edwin L. Petersen, Utah; Marvin W. Roth Wis-
 consin.
 Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
 Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Edward P. Nolan, Pennsylvania.
 Historian: *Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.
 Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
 Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

51ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, Ga., August 22-28, 1969

Commander: William C. Doyle, New Jersey.

Vice Commanders: C. Russell Huber, Arkansas; *John A. Jones, West Virginia; Howard E. Lohman, Minnesota; Lewis E. McCray, Alabama; *Maurice R. Parisien, Maine.

Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. C. J. Olander, Mississippi.

Historian: *Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

52D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oreg., August 28—September 3, 1970

Commander: J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma.

Vice Commanders: Kent T. Lundgren, Michigan; Roland D. Marble, Mississippi; Raymond F. Mudge, New Hampshire; Earl R. Norgard, Oregon; Gilberto M. Font, Puerto Rico.

Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.

Chaplain: Father William D. Curtis, Minnesota.

Historian: *John A. May, South Carolina.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

53D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Tex., August 27—September 2, 1971

Commander: Alfred P. Chamie, California.

Vice Commanders: Claude Carpenter, Arkansas; May Hanson, Idaho; Robert E. L. Eaton, Maryland; Gabriel T. Olga, Massachusetts; John E. Gilbert, Pennsylvania.

Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Milton B. Faust, North Carolina.

Historian: Howard M. Swinney, Kentucky.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

54TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., August 22-24, 1972

Commander: John H. Geiger, Illinois.

Vice Commanders: Harold W. Fann, Kentucky; Arthur M. MacCarthy, Florida; Roy Sweet, Vermont; Harry G. Wiles, Kansas; Wallace C. S. Young, Hawaii.

Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Paul J. Schwaab, Nebraska.

Historian: G. Greer McCallister, Ohio.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

55TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, August 21 to 23, 1973

Commander: Joe L. Matthews, Texas.

Vice Commanders: Tim T. Craig, North Carolina; *Sam Gray, California; Donald L. Gruenbaum, Ohio; Albert J. Moeller, New Jersey; Raymond J. Novak, South Dakota.

Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. L. P. Fitzpatrick, Iowa.

Historian: Mrs. Loretta O. Phillips, California.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

56TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Fla., August 20 to 22, 1974

Commander: Robert E. L. Eaton, Maryland.

Vice Commanders: John N. Roberto, Connecticut; Frank C. Brooks, Washington; Gilbert E. Sheeks, Indiana; Merrick W. Swords, Louisiana; N. E. Brown, South Carolina.

Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Jerome D. Fortenberry, Missouri.

Historian: R. Robert Filter, Wisconsin.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

57TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minn., August 19 to 21, 1975

Commander: James M. Wagoner, Ohio.

Vice Commanders: Boyd H. Clemens, North Dakota; Jack W. Flynt, Texas; Jay E. Harville, Tennessee; Donald H. Jeffrey, Pennsylvania; William A. Lindsay, Montana.

Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Harvey T. Goodling, Oregon.

Historian: Nolie C. Deas, Sr., Florida.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

58TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Wash., August 24 to 26, 1976

Commander: Harry G. Wiles, Kansas.

Vice Commanders: John W. Adams, Jr., Kentucky; Fred W. Anderson, Jr., Nevada; Leo F. Malloy, Massachusetts; Thomas W. Miller, Arkansas; James F. Walker, Minnesota.

Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Claude E. Smithmier, Georgia.

Historian: Mrs. Dorothy Crimes, Colorado.

Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

59TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colo., August 23-25, 1977

Commander: William J. Rogers, Maine.

Vice Commanders: Lloyd J. Berken, Wisconsin; Thomas B. Coll, District of Columbia; Robert B. Grauberger, Colorado; Frank A. Kelly, Georgia; Wilbur Walker, Virginia.

Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.

Chaplain: Fr. James C. Tuxbury, North Dakota.

Historian: Alton H. Carpenter, New York.

Treasurer: W. Francis Polen, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

60TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, La., August 22-24, 1978

Commander: Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana.

Vice Commanders: Eugene V. Lindquist, Minnesota; Roger A. Munson, Ohio; John J. O'Connell, Rhode Island; Chester Phillips, West Virginia; Irving B. Selmer, Wyoming.

Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.

Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Walter D. Power, Maryland.

Historian: Arnold J. Stockstad, North Dakota.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

61ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Tex., August 21-23, 1979

Commander: Jack M. Carey, Michigan.

Vice Commanders: L. Max Connoly, Arizona, Alvin F. Grauerholz, Kansas; Joseph F. Ward, New Jersey; John H. Weinand, Jr., Alabama; Nathan M. Wolfe, South Carolina.

Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.

Chaplain: R. Drew Wolcott, Mexico.

Historian: Harry H. Kretzler, M.D., Washington.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

62D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Mass., August 19-21, 1980

Commander: Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana.

Vice Commanders: G. Y. Falls, New Mexico; Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin; Bob Legan, Arkansas; Max E. Robinson, North Carolina; Laurence R. Spaulding, New Hampshire.

Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.

Chaplain: Rev. Karl E. Kniseley, California.

Historian: Phillip Haddad, Oklahoma.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

63D NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, September 1-3, 1981

Commander: Michael J. Kogutek, New York.

Vice Commanders: Ralph M. Godwin, Mississippi; Keith H. Gwilliam, Utah; Matthew W. Jamieson, Michigan; Robert W. Lowry, Nebraska; Dr. Almo J. Sebastianelli, Pennsylvania.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

Chaplain: Rev. George S. Macres, Minnesota.

Historian: Neal S. Sundeen, Arizona.

Sergeant-at-Arms: R. M. "Sonny" Singleton, Jr., South Carolina.

64TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., August 24-26, 1982

Commander: Jack W. Flynt, Texas.

Vice Commanders: Frank T. Markovich, Missouri; Dan C. McDonough, Alaska; Percy C. Miller, Tennessee; Melvin "Doc" Simon, Vermont; David A. Wade, Maryland.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. George R. M. Rummey, Virginia.

Historian: Bernard J. Chisholm, Minnesota.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Herbert W. Odell, Texas.

65TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Wash., August 23-25, 1983

Commander: Al Keller, Jr., Illinois.

Vice Commanders: Robert C. Gabrielson, South Dakota; Margaret M. Malone, New Jersey; H. Melvin Napier, Indiana; Jack C. Plato, Oregon; Lee O. Walker, Oklahoma.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. John D. Kempf, Ohio.

Historian: James W. Conway, Massachusetts.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary L. Walling, Illinois.

PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY SESSION—AUGUST 23, 1983

At 9:00 A.M., August 23, 1983, the 65th Annual National Convention was called to order by National Commander Al Keller, Jr.

The Delegates were entertained by the Olympia American Legion Band, American Legion Post No. 3, Olympia, Washington prior to the opening of the Convention. P. T. Ole and his Magic Organ also entertained the Delegates.

NATIONAL COMMANDER AL KELLER: Ladies and gentlemen, before that band gets away, would you please join me in offering a fine round of applause for our Host Department Olympia American Legion Band from American Legion Post No. 3, Olympia, Washington.

The 65th Annual Convention of The American Legion will come to order.

The Delegates will stand for the positioning of the Colors.
... The Colors were advanced by the Department of Washington Color Squad.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Colors being in place, we will now have the Star Spangled Banner led by Walter Venema, Seattle Post No. 112 of Seattle, Washington. Please remain standing after the National Anthem for the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation.

... Walter Venema, Seattle Post No. 112, Seattle, Washington, led the Delegates in the singing of the National Anthem.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Ladies and gentlemen, please uncover and join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

... At this time the Delegates recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: For the Invocation, I would like to call on our National Chaplain, Reverend John D. Kempf of Ohio, Father.

INVOCATION

Rev. Father John D. Kempf, Ohio
National Chaplain

Let us pray. God our Father, we thank You for this stillness and this time to pray.

At this moment, we open our hearts to receive Your blessings. Almighty Father, we thank You for all the blessings of this day, for all those who have made this possible, and for all the blessings You have so graciously bestowed upon us in our lifetimes.

May we also be grateful for what others are doing for us. Remember all those who, for any reason cannot be with us today, those on sickbeds, in nursing homes, and Veterans Hospitals.

Grant that we may ever be mindful of their service to our Country and of our comradeship with them in the ranks of The American Legion.

All powerful Father, today we rededicate ourselves to You and to Your service and to the works of justice and freedom for all. Bless our Convention. May it be fruitful in its accomplishments and permanent in the good it affects. Be with us in our deliberations and inspire us with Your wisdom.

Direct us in our thinking, for what has been accomplished, we give You thanks. For the work still to be done, we ask Your

blessings and help. Guide us as we work for You and our Organization and our Country, Amen.

... At this time the Delegates stood and recited the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion as follows:

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Please be seated.

This morning we will participate in a Memorial Service for our comrades who have joined the Post Everlasting. This service will be conducted by the Degree Team of the Robert H. Hoake Post No. 272, Linglestown, Pennsylvania, George Wagener, Commander.

National Chaplain Kempf will deliver the Memorial Prayer, and light the Candle of Peace.

POST EVERLASTING CEREMONY

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: May we have your attention, please, for the Degree Team from the Robert H. Hoake Post No. 272 of Linglestown, Pennsylvania.

DEGREE TEAM COMMANDER EDWARD HERWIG: It is my sad duty to report that seven comrades have been called from our midst. They have gone to report to the Commander of all.

... The Degree Team of Robert H. Hoake Post No. 272 of Linglestown, Pennsylvania, Edward Herwig, Commander, presented the Memorial Service assisted by Degree Team Chaplain Andrew Doyle, who sang the Lord's Prayer.

DEGREE TEAM COMMANDER HERWIG: Our Heavenly Father in His infinite wisdom has transferred these comrades to the Jurisdiction of the Post Everlasting of The American Legion. May their souls rest in peace. Sergeant-at-Arms, the names of the comrades who have transferred to the Post Everlasting shall be entered into the record book for The American Legion. The Chaplain will light a candle in remembrance of each of the comrades who have gone to the Post Everlasting.
Albert V. LaBiche, Louisiana, member of the National Finance Commission.

Robert S. Murphy, Massachusetts, member of the Legislative Commission.

C. Russell Hubert, Alaska, Past National Vice Commander.
Robert J. deSanctis, New York, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Harry H. Kretzer, Washington, Past National Historian.
Joseph G. Leonard, Connecticut, member of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Rev. Milton D. Faust, North Carolina, Past National Chaplain, and all other deceased comrades.

The Chaplain will light the banner.

... Michael Eaker sang "My Buddy," a cappella.

Taps were then played in memory of the comrades who had joined the Post Everlasting of The American Legion.

DEGREE TEAM COMMANDER HERWIG: Comrades, ladies and gentlemen, we hope this ceremony has brought you closer to and given you more respect for those who have offered their lives in the service of their Country. May their memories live in our hearts and souls forever.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Father Kempf.

Memorial Prayer and Lighting of Peace Candle

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN KEMPF: Let us pray. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, with reverence and love we pause to pay tribute to our honored and valiant departed comrades. Grant that we may ever be mindful of their service to our Country, to our Organization, and of our comradeship in The American Legion. Hallow their graves. Give courage and comfort to those having suffered the loss of a loved one.

Watch over the graves of our comrades. Grant eternal rest and peace and happiness to their souls, and then on the hour of final revelation on that day when they are called before the Divine Commander may all those men be present and accounted for.

May their souls and the souls of all the departed veterans rest in peace. Amen.

... At this time the Sergeant-at-Arms Gary L. Walling, Illinois, lit the Peace Candle.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I know that you join me in sincere appreciation to the Post Everlasting Degree Team for setting such an appropriate stage for this 65th National Convention.

* * *

CONVENTION CALL

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROBERT W. SPANOGLE: Read the Call.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you very much, Mr. Adjutant.

Now declare the 65th Annual National Convention of The American Legion to be regularly convened.

* * *

INTRODUCTIONS

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: It is always a pleasure to introduce the hosts of a National Convention.

Ladies and gentlemen, join with me in welcoming a Navy veteran of World War II, a fellow Legionnaire from Lake Washington Post No. 124, the Governor of the State of Washington, the Honorable John Spellman.

THE HONORABLE JOHN SPELLMAN
Governor, State of Washington

My fellow Legionnaires, welcome to America's "other Washington," the State of Washington.

I am sure that you have already felt the genuinely warm welcome of the people of this area, and we are happy to share our mild climate with you.

We are enjoying the opportunity of showing America as represented by The Legion, the best that the Nation has to offer: From the purple mountain's majesty of Western Washington

To the amber waves of grain on the East side.

The Nation's most lovable city which is Seattle, to one of the Nation's greatest recreational paradises.

We have it all here, and we are very happy to share it with you.

But what is really best here, and what is really best about America is not the scenery, but the people. We know that you have already felt the warmth of greeting our people.

Here in the far northwest corner of the United States, the American dream burns as strongly as ever and it burns in the hearts of our people. Here the pioneer spirit is very much alive and very vital.

Here the hope for a better tomorrow is not an empty dream, but a driving ambition.

We are here as participants and patriots in the true sense of the word. And it is a great pleasure to welcome an agency like yours, a patriotic organization which is The American Legion. We have here a very vital and vibrant democracy, with people participating in government frequently by direct petitions to the government that go to a vote of the people.

In brief, we not only preach democracy here, but we live it in the State of Washington. And that is why it is so deep a pleasure to welcome the organization that responsibly stands for the preservation and enhancement of democracy throughout the entire world.

We, who are eager to live democracy, welcome you, who have been willing to die for democracy.

As a Legionnaire, and as Governor, I know the pains both of living democracy and dying for democracy.

I lost a brother, a West Pointer in Korea, and having been at Panmunjon I know that that sacrifice was not in vain.

As one who has received his higher education through the GI Bill, I am very appreciative of the necessity of The American Legion preserving the rights and enhancing the rights of veterans and their survivors when the battles are over.

As Commander in Chief of the Washington National Guard, I know and you know that the Guard is an important element of the national defense of this Country.

It is our vital responsibility that the Guard all over the country be kept combat ready at all times.

The Guard, like all other elements of our defense system must be ready if we are to remain free, that readiness is the greatest single deterrent to aggression to those who threaten us in the world.

There is one more thing I would like to remind you about the people of the State of Washington.

We love peace, as you do. As a matter of fact, you lit the Peace Candle earlier at this opening ceremony. It is worth noting that on September 5, this year, our Nation will celebrate the 200th Anniversary, the bicentennial of the Treaty of Paris.

This, the oldest existing Treaty on earth was negotiated by Benjamin Franklin, John Jay and John Adams.

In the community of nations it established the sovereignty of the United States of America.

There is a lesson that we can learn from the Treaty of Paris, that it was necessary in the court of human events to establish our independence through force of arms, but that the sovereignty of the United States was established in peace, and today, America remains the greatest hope for the establishment of peace in the entire world.

I wish you well in your important task of keeping this Country ever vigilant in maintaining the rights of those who served in the past, and the opportunities for those who serve in the future.

I wish you good luck and God speed. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you very much, Governor.

Another individual has offered the hospitality of this fine city to us for the next few days, he worked as a journalist, studied government and public policy and currently is President of the National League of Cities. He was recently elected to a second term as Mayor of the Emerald City of Seattle, and we are certainly grateful for the warmth and graciousness with which we have been welcomed.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's give our own warm welcome to the Mayor of the City, the Honorable Charles Royer.

THE HONORABLE CHARLES ROYER

Mayor, Seattle, Washington

Thank you, Commander Keller, and I do hope that all of you are enjoying your stay in Seattle.

I would like to first publicly express the City's appreciation to the Host Committee which put this local effort together. You just don't invite 12,000 people to your town without some preparations, as all of you know.

We have some awfully good people in the City of Seattle, Dick Klings, and so many others who have put in literally weeks of effort, personal effort, to make your stay a productive one.

We hope sincerely it is an enjoyable one.

As the Governor stated so well, we are here in the Pacific Northwest. We believe that we sit probably most fortunately in the arms of the land, because of our wonderful environment, our mountains, our great waters. In fact, you can't go anywhere in Seattle without running into water. And we are proud of what we have, and we know, as the Governor stated, that we have to work hard through the democratic processes to hold onto what we have.

That is really the story of our Country. I suppose each and every one of you representing cities from around the country would say the same about your own city. You are working hard to hang onto it, and to invest in it with your own citizenship, to make it a place in which your people can prosper.

I spoke with the Auxiliary yesterday, and was very pleased to hear the theme of the Auxiliary President this year, that of Education; the best route to peace, the best route to good cities, the best and quickest route to good citizens is good public education. I assume that when the President of the United States and all of the candidates for President and all the candidates for office around the country are talking about education as they are today, all of them, that we are on the way to restructure that great front line of American democracy which is public education.

I hope that your stay here is productive in terms of charting new directions for The American Legion, continuing in the great work you have done and it is enjoyable.

Again, I would like to thank all of you for paying us the special honor of not just coming to Seattle, but coming to Seattle for the second time. That is a special honor you have given us. You must have liked it the first time or you wouldn't have come back.

So we appreciate that very much, that honor which you have given us. I do encourage you to get out and see the surrounding countries. See Canada. We are only 140 miles from a couple of Great Canadian cities, Victoria and Vancouver. Alaska is quite handy, and quite big. So we hope that you do get around while you are here.

If you manage to get in any trouble in Seattle, be sure to call the Mayor so I can come down and join you. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor.

Our next guest serves as the Executive of one of the largest counties in the United States. He has served as a Seattle City Councilman and was honored in 1978 by Time Magazine as one of Seattle's "News Makers of Tomorrow."

He is a distinguished military graduate from the Army Reserve Officer Training Program, and he has served three years in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

He has a somewhat nostalgic association with our Organization, because he was elected Vice President of our 1968 Ameri-

can Legion Boys' Nation. Along with our past two guests, his most recent affiliation has been as honorary Vice President of the 1983 National Convention Corporation.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join with me in greeting the King County Executive of the State of Washington, the Honorable Randy Revelle.

THE HONORABLE RANDY REVELLEKing County Executive
State of Washington

Thank you very much, Commander Keller, good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the residents of King County, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to the members of The American Legion and affiliated organizations, as well as your families and friends.

We are honored that once again you have chosen Seattle and King County as the site of your Annual National Convention this year, the 86th.

As King County Executive and a former Vice President of American Legion Boys' Nation, I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to King County.

The American Legion is known worldwide for your outstanding advocacy role you play on behalf of a very special group of people, members of the Armed Forces who served during periods of war.

Also significant have been the additional concerns and involvement of The American Legion in a host of issues and programs which touch the lives of each and every one of us.

As a beneficiary of one of your programs, I would like to thank you for one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

Back in the summer of 1968, I represented Seattle's Roosevelt High School at The American Legion Boys' State held in Washington State.

I was selected to represent Washington State at The American Legion Boys' Nation in Washington, D.C., where I was fortunate to be elected to one of the two National Offices, Vice President of the 1968 American Legion Boys' Nation.

I want to thank you and commend you for supporting such an outstanding program for young people. The American Legion Boys' and Girls' State and Nation have been effective programs for learning how our City, County and Federal Government function. My Boys' State and Boys' Nation experience helped me to learn the meaning of responsible citizenship and played a significant role in my decision to pursue a career in public service.

As King County Executive I understand the need for young people with vision, leadership and innovative spirit to meet the many challenges we face in the 1980's.

By sponsoring the State and Nation Programs, The American Legion is helping and show that a vital resource, the talents and energies of our youth, is being nurtured and used widely.

Thanks to you, we can look forward to many more American Legion Boys' and Girls' State and Nation alumni taking their places as leaders in both public and private sectors of our country.

It is a fabulous program, please continue to support it so well.

We hope you will enjoy your stay here in King County and our beautiful "Emerald City" Seattle.

While Charlie pointed out there is much to see and do in enjoying Seattle, please do not overlook the many interesting sights in the rest of King County. As your time permits, we en-

courage you to visit the outstanding winery near Woodinville, known as Chateau Ste. Michelle; to take the ferryboat to Vashon Islands and enjoy the spectacular Qulmie Falls and scenic Snoqualmie Pass; to tour the fascinating Carnation Research Farm, and to ride through the farmlands of the Sammamish Valley, the mountainous countryside of the Snoqualmie Valley and the horse country around Brumclaw.

We know the residents of Seattle and King County will do their best to insure that you enjoy your stay here.

We trust that you will have a productive and interesting experience, and that you will return to our great metropolitan area.

Welcome to King County. Have a wonderful 65th Annual Convention, and I very sincerely and personally thank you again for my enjoyable National experience. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you, Randy. When a Legionnaire is elected to a term as Department Commander, there are a variety of challenges to be faced. Most of them involve the internal operations of a Department. And occasionally, a Department Commander has a unique opportunity to serve in a larger capacity.

Please join me in a warm welcome for the Immediate Past Department Commander of Washington, E. R. "Andy" Adams.

E. R. "ANDY" ADAMS

Immediate Past Department Commander
State of Washington

National Commander Keller, distinguished guests, Delegates to this 65th Annual Convention, and ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Department of Washington, it is an honor and a privilege to welcome you to the great State of Washington and the City of Seattle.

We are pleased that you could visit us and while you are here, please visit the many scenic spots, some of our mountains, and the green valleys, and most certainly, the blue waters of Puget Sound.

I would encourage you, if you haven't already done so, to talk to the friendly people of our great State.

Ladies and gentlemen, there are many things to see as long as you have made the trip here into our great State. You are now sitting in part of the remains of the beautiful City Park, Seattle Center, which was the remains of the World's Fair in Seattle.

Please visit our city parks and I will assure you that they are surpassed by none.

There is one place a very short distance from here that no one has mentioned that I would encourage you to visit. It is a little town across the bridge over here into Ballard. And go down and visit the government locks at Ballard and see the transit of ships from salt water to fresh water, and vice versa.

A very short 45-minute or so ride on the ferry to Bremerton and visit the Battleship Missouri, and you would have the opportunity to stand in the space where the Peace Treaty was signed after World War II.

I know that most of you traveled here by air, and I would also tell you, and I would give you a plug, not that I work for them, but one of the best aircraft and the safest aircraft in the world is built here in the City of Seattle.

The entire delegation, the other people of the Department of Washington are here to serve you and to try to make your stay a pleasant and a happy one.

And as you depart and leave this Convention, most of you will be traveling by plane, and Bill and I hope the good Lord is traveling with you.

Commander Keller, it has been my privilege to serve you this year for God and Country, and The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you, Commander. Our next guest could be described as being at the helm of this National Convention.

His extensive service on The American Legion National Convention Commission, his attention to detail, his enthusiasm for his own State of Washington area all evident as we enjoy this 65th National Convention.

He has devoted a great deal of the last two years preparing for this, so would you please extend with me a special invitation and warm welcome to the President of the 1963 American Legion National Convention Corporation of Washington, Richard H. Klinge.

RICHARD H. KLINGE

1963 President, American Legion
National Convention Corporation of Washington

Commander Keller, distinguished guests, members of The American Legion, on behalf of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Washington it is my privilege to extend to you the most sincere welcome to the beautiful State of Washington, City of Seattle.

This week has been proclaimed Legion Week by our Governor and by our Mayor and by the State Legislature. In other words, the City belongs to The American Legion, and also the State.

Washington Legionnaires have worked long and hard in preparing for this great Convention. Everything is in readiness for you now.

I would like to pay special tribute to two people from the National Headquarters Staff who assisted us in preparing for this great Convention. I refer you to Bill Miller, The American Legion National Convention Director, and Mary O'Brien, Secretary to this Office. Both bounced off of the operating tables after serious surgery and rendered full assistance to us. We owe both of them great gratitude, and with best wishes for a speedy recovery.

There are so many activities on the outside of this building for you to see and enjoy. I hope that when you go to the left or the north or the right or the south, whichever way you turn and take a trip, you are going to find enjoyable facilities.

So best wishes for a great and successful Convention to you all. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Gentlemen, your kind words of welcome only reinforce what we have already experienced here in your City, and your magnificent State.

All of us, Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, associated organizations and families are truly grateful for the kindness, warmth and hospitality you have shown us.

The sort of atmosphere we have here is the kind of environment in which we can enthusiastically approach the many issues and decisions that face us and deal with them with vigor that has infected us all.

We look forward to a productive Convention while we are here in Seattle.

Our next guest has an interest in an area that has been of particular concern to The American Legion since the founding of our Organization 65 years ago.

Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan holds a key position in government, one that is of vital importance to veterans. I last saw him in the Nation's Capital last month at a meeting of the Committee on Veterans Employment, where he signed an order transferring veterans' employment representatives in

state employment offices across the nation into the jurisdiction of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment.

That small step accomplished a major American Legion goal of putting all Labor Department programs dealing with veterans directly under a single high-ranking official.

His background includes positions in the insurance industry, and the construction profession and labor-related activities.

Ladies and gentlemen, will you please welcome the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor, the Honorable Raymond J. Donovan.

THE HONORABLE RAYMOND J. DONOVAN
Secretary, United States Department of Labor

You know, Al Keller mentioned his visit to the office a month ago and his very able staff. Before I go further, let me publicly tell you the dedication and the commitment that Al Keller has had not only to your Organization, but to this Country.

I want to express my gratitude to him and his staff for the guidance and advice to me on veterans' concerns and veterans' affairs.

But I understand at this great Convention, you will elect a new Commander, and if I can tell you by way of a story which your new Commander will be going through as Al well knows, a tremendous learning curve.

When I was appointed Secretary of Labor and sworn in on February 4, 1981—I am sure you have all read about that—you know, immediately the Congress believes that any new Secretary is supposed to be fully informed, know his duties, and know what his plans are for the future of the Department and the various agencies. And the fact is, we don't.

I wasn't even accustomed to the initials OSHA and ESA and the rest, but immediately I was called up to the Congress to testify. It is really embarrassing, because they are asking you questions that are quite difficult.

So for your new Commander, I give you this experience. I was called up 11 times, finally I got a little bit tired of it and on the 12th time before the Federal Labor Committee, before my opening remarks, I said, "Gentlemen, can I tell you a story before I get into my own remarks?" And they said, "Sure."

They are sitting up on a large dais looking down on the people testifying.

This is the story I told, and it is a true one, and it expressed my feelings at the moment. In the election in Jersey City, New Jersey, for Mayor in 1949 Mayor Kinney was running for office and they said to Kinney, "If you get a fellow named O'Rourke who runs a bar in Ward D of the city, get him involved in politics and in your campaign you will be a sure winner." So, he went down to talk to O'Rourke in Ward D.

Kinney said, "If I win I will never forget you."

The election took place and Kinney won and he made O'Rourke the Commissioner of Weights and Measures, which was kind of a no-show job. The Senators are looking down on him as the point of this whole damn story is, so, O'Rourke was brought to the City Hall along with his family and in a blue serge suit was sworn in, and as he walked out of City Hall a reporter grabbed him and said, "Congratulations, Commissioner, can I ask you a question?"

And he said, "Sure, son." And the reporter said, "How many ounces are there in a pound?"

O'Rourke stared at him and said, "Hey, get off my back, I just got the job."

To Governor Spellman, and Mayor Royer, and the King County Executive Ravella and all honored guests on the dais and in the audience, when I began recollecting and pulling to-

gether thoughts for my message to you today I thought about what The American Legion is. To me as a child growing up there was a large Post in my town, it always has been a part of my family's life. Four of my brothers are veterans, one is disabled. I am not. I studied for the priesthood and my classification was 3-D. But, four brothers were, and I thought about The Legion and what it stands for and your motto.

I know other speakers through the history at Conventions have said this but it deserves saying again in my view. Your motto For God And For Country, and what that means. I quickly realized that the two and a half million members of your fine Organization stand for everything that America stands for. I realized, too, that that is not just symbolic and it is not just visionary. Literally you have stood for America and you have put your lives on the line to defend this Nation and all that we as Americans hold dear.

When we talk about sacrifices, as we have during this recession, I think about the sacrifices that your members have made, and the complaints fall on fallowed ground when you compare the sacrifices of the veterans of this Nation to what we have been through and the countless sacrifices that you have made cannot truly be measured, and America's debt to the veterans of this Nation can never be fully repaid.

We in public life can recognize that and do our best to help those who have given so much of themselves. While much is being done throughout the Administration, and my friend from the VA Harry Walters will be telling you about his duties and his responsibilities, but let me highlight, if you will, for a few moments what the Labor Department has been doing to recognize the debt that this Nation owes to you.

What we have done—and I am proud to say this—we have done more in this Labor Department than ever before in the history of the Department for Veterans.

As Al has mentioned, we have elevated the operation and the status of veterans policy programs with the appointment of the first Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Affairs, and he is a fine one, and, you know him well, Bill Plowden.

We have consolidated all policy program and budget authority into one agency, the Veterans Employment and Training Service.

In addition to the \$108 million already available for outreach and placement for veterans we have a half-million dollars in additional funds for stepped-up efforts in anticipation of the new Job Training and Partnership Act which goes into effect October 1st of this year.

We have undertaken cooperative arrangements with the Department of Defense, with the Office of Personnel and Management, with the VA and with other federal agencies, all with one goal in mind, to help veterans get jobs.

I have conveyed and chaired two meetings of the Secretary's Committee on Veterans Employment. As a result we have launched a campaign to increase veterans' employment within the Federal Government. If we can't do it there, then how can we ask private sector to follow our lead. I have asked all the heads of Departments and Agencies in this government to make use of their authority for hiring veterans. We will track the progress in this area of veterans' hiring within the government, and as for the private sector we have a brand new law, which I mentioned before, the new Job Training and Partnership Act which goes into effect the 1st of October. This law is very important to you and to your members. It provides an opportunity to address employment problems in a fresh and imaginative way. It is a job training program not an income replacement program. It is not a welfare program, it is a job training program, and it puts American taxpayers' money to

work in a constructive way, unlike the wasteful CETA programs of the past.

There are two major areas under this law that apply directly to veterans. One consists of grants to state or to designated areas within the states, and under this provision, grants will be made to address the special needs of three major categories of veterans. One, service-connected disabled veterans, two, Vietnam-era veterans, and, three, veterans recently separated from military service.

There is also authority under this law to address the needs of veterans who are economically disadvantaged and to address those needs such as the displaced worker and those veterans who face other types of labor market difficulties, and money is also available for demonstration projects, private programs, research and joint undertakings with the military.

We intend to channel these funds into two principal areas, programs for Vietnam veterans whose unemployment and underemployment problems are consistently higher than most other groups, and is a national tragedy, and the middle-aged displaced worker and the World War II or Korean War veterans who need our help.

Earlier this month President Reagan signed a significant bill that affects veterans, the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act of 1983. It provides \$300 million over the next two years to offset employers' cost of job training and education, specifically for veterans. This employer reversal program will provide approximately 50,000 training opportunities for unemployed veterans and will be conducted jointly by the Labor Department and the Veterans Administration. I know we all applaud this President's decision to sign this important piece of legislation.

VA Administrator Walters and I are both committed to making this program work, and our two Departments have already begun drawing up plans for translating it from a piece of paper into jobs and training realities for thousands of veterans.

So, all these programs, my friends, will clearly make more than just a dent in the employment situation for veterans. But, equally important is that veterans continue to benefit as the economy continues to improve, and there is no question that this economy is not only on the mend but is growing and growing more rapidly than economists even feared to predict.

In my opinion 1983 will be a good year and 1984 will be a banner year for veterans and every American in our economic system.

Ladies and gentlemen, what we have just gone through, this recession, is called Ronald Reagan's Recession, and to a great degree doesn't deserve that, but if it is then it is only fair to call this Ronald Reagan's Recovery.

America is strong and it is growing stronger. We have a lot to do but we have a lot to be proud of and a lot to protect. My friends, I have enjoyed this opportunity to be with you. It truly is an honor. It is the largest audience I have addressed in my life. I was a little nervous, particularly being the warm-up act, I think, for my boss, and I look forward to Harry Walters' comments and also to the President's; but, I want to pledge to you and to Al Keller and to his successor and to your staff that I will continue to work with you and your leaders in our common desire to make sure that every veteran who can and wants to work has the opportunity to get the training and the assistance he needs and she needs.

Once again for those who serve this Organization or those who served this Nation I speak for myself, the bottom line in whatever we do as an organization or a government, when everything else is stripped away, I think we do what we do for our children and for our children's children.

Speaking for this Secretary of Labor that is why I am serving, and I am certain that is why your leadership serves.

I want to hear again soon, if possible, that great phrase, "Only in America." We haven't heard it much in the past 20 years but we are beginning to hear it again.

Please support this President. He needs your prayers and so do I. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Mr. Secretary, your remarks have been inspiring as well as most informative. Every veteran in America has a vital interest in your programs, and your comments are testimony to your concern for your Country and dedication to the preservation of its ideals, and on behalf of The American Legion we thank you so much for being at our Convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S REPORT

Al Keller, Jr. (Illinois) National Commander

Fellow Legionnaires. Just about 12 months and many miles ago as your newly-elected National Commander I set out to carry your message to Legionnaires throughout the world. The duty you entrusted to me was a monumental one, one I accepted eagerly and with great pride and anticipation.

Then, as now, there were great challenges facing us, and I firmly believe we have faced them head on, with strength and courage. The pride I felt that day a year ago I carry in my heart today, because I have witnessed and participated in American Legion events that have been filled with action and involvement.

It has been a full year, a complete year, and a very good year. It has been one in which Legionnaires have truly expressed the finest ideals and goals set down by our founders 65 years ago. Your volunteer action and involvement took on countless forms. A crowning achievement witnessed by tens of thousands of spectators from all around the world took place just a little more than a month ago in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Your Departments raised thousands of dollars and contributed countless volunteer hours to make the summer International Special Olympics Games an outstanding success. We showed the Nation and the entire world just what this Organization is all about, and the rewards were gratifying. To see the appreciation and gratitude on the faces of the contestants was a deeply moving experience, and one I will remember for a long time to come.

My fellow Legionnaires, you have my heartfelt gratitude for being involved in such worthy programs. Your devotion and concern for your fellow men illustrates vividly the finest of American Legion ideals.

In keeping with our high ideals, our concern for our fellow veteran will take a huge step this year when, within the new Jobs Training Partnership Act, and American Legion mandate was satisfied.

For the first time in history there now is a separately funded veterans program at the federal level. It goes into effect, as you heard, October 1st of this year, and it is solely for veterans. Ladies and gentlemen, without The American Legion that program probably would not exist. It was conceived, written, and sent through Congress by The American Legion. We are completely responsible for this historic precedent for the veteran.

Another precedent was set this year when the Supreme Court voted unanimously to allow The American Legion and other veterans organizations their right to a tax-exempt status while retaining the right to lobby in Congress.

The Court decision stated specifically that veterans hold a special place in our society, and with that place, special rights, one of them being the right to speak directly to our elected

Representatives and Senators at the national level. With our ability to continue to insure that every right of every veteran gets straight to the veteran and his family, we will lead in the finest traditions of the founding precepts of The American Legion, service to our fellow veteran.

We will continue to speak with a united voice on all veterans' issues. An invaluable asset to this Organization which allows us to do that is a small band of dedicated workers, our National Staff in Washington and Indianapolis. Their tireless efforts with the day-to-day administration of The American Legion is one of the key functions that keeps our Organization moving.

It has been my personal privilege to work with them, to get to know them, and gain a greater appreciation of how vital they are to the Organization. It is through their work that your mandates are brought to successful realization.

They have heard me, they have listened to me. I command them for their tireless efforts on our behalf. Ladies and gentlemen, our Staff people are the finest staff that any organization can put together.

They helped pioneer the implementation of our Membership Action Plan, the program that helped bring thousands of former members back into The American Legion. The success of that plan was due in no small part to the activities of your five National Vice Commanders. They worked tirelessly on behalf of the plan with visits to Departments, with phone calls, with every resource available to them, to see the MAP goal achieved. They responded to a call for action and responded well. My deepest appreciation and thanks goes to each of them for a job well done.

Another critical element of the Membership Action Plan was the response by the Departments. They, too, enthusiastically responded to the call for action and worked diligently to achieve the MAP goals. Their cooperation with National Headquarters and with the National Vice Commanders was a major factor in the implementation of the Plan, and I express to all our Departments congratulations and thanks to you, as well, for a job well done.

Department activity during the year was one of intensity and vigor. On each of my visits to the Departments I was welcomed with warmth, hospitality, and courtesy. Being on the road for days and weeks at a time takes its toll, and I can say, without exception, no matter where in the world it was the manner in which I was treated was royal.

We were received by Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and others from organizations affiliated with The American Legion everywhere we went, and the reception was always the same.

The hospitality was the kind you would find when you visit family and friends, and, indeed, I consider you all my family and my friends. On behalf of my wife, Gen, and my children and their families, our deepest and sincerest heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity.

While I am at this point let me once again have you meet them, they are all here today.

Our visits took us to places far from our shores. I had numerous opportunities overseas to meet with our uniformed leaders and observe U.S. military might on the frontiers of freedom. Ladies and gentlemen, the threat to freedom and democracy is real. U.S. military presence abroad is a must to preserve the peace and security of this world.

I am extremely pleased to report to you today that we are ably represented by our young men and women in uniform. They are eager and confident in their ability to defend freedom wherever it is threatened. I have seen the new look of our Armed Forces, and I have returned convinced that we must

continue our efforts to see that these fine young Americans receive the best equipment this country has to offer.

They must receive incentives to remain in the service of this Country, and they must always be afforded the opportunity to train and use the finest weaponry we can provide.

Those men and women in uniform are taking their jobs seriously, and we, too, must undertake support on their behalf equally as seriously.

The service given to us by our Armed Forces, unfortunately, sometimes brings with it personal sacrifice of the highest order. This Country's most recent generation of veterans offered just and true service in Vietnam, and for years thereafter searched longingly for the tribute they so rightly deserve.

An event last November in Washington, D.C., was not only a highlight in my year as your National Commander, it was an historic achievement for The American Legion. The dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a lasting tribute that was so long overdue, once more rallied veterans of all generations to march along together again.

The Monument to Vietnam Veterans stands in mute testimony of our dedication to the proper recognition these gallant men and women deserve. Our ranks formed with singleness of purpose to see that end achieved. With love, with time, with resourcefulness we helped bring Vietnam veterans into their rightful place alongside America's other heroic war dead and missing.

Without question those five days in November when you and I saw the dream of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial become a reality are among the many memories of my year in office that will never fade.

It was a special day for The American Legion, it was a special day for Vietnam veterans, and it was a special day for all Americans, as well. I remember, as I always will, the reaction of those thousands of everyday citizens in the Mall when I described the Memorial as our opportunity to give the recognition and honor that we had so longed to do but didn't know how to express.

I remember, too, when the crowd responded to my heartfelt declaration, one that expresses how all of us as veterans feel about our service, that there is no shame in answering the Nation's call, no shame in serving with honor in difficult times, and no shame in honoring those who did so. I believed that then and I believe it even more strongly today, because of what I have seen in the months since that cold and blustery day in November, and today I want to take a moment to focus your attention on one who, perhaps long before many of us had seen the vision, knew the wisdom of honoring courageous Vietnam veterans. His wisdom, his special brand of leadership and his unflinching courage overcame one obstacle after another as he guided The American Legion into the forefront of the Memorial effort. We are indebted to him and the American people are indebted to him, but more important than that, his brothers of the Vietnam War have been made more complete through his efforts. The men, and women, of the Vietnam War, regardless of their place or time of service, have always stood with one another, caring for each other, comforting one another, and honoring each other.

Because of this man and his ability to encourage us all, the men and women of The American Legion today stand with them, too.

Ladies and gentlemen, my friend and your National Adjutant Bob Spanogle.

Mr. Adjutant, would you join me at the podium for just a moment.

**Special Presentation to
National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle**

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Bob, it is my deep personal privilege to present to you on behalf of your two and a half million fellow Legionnaires this plaque in appreciation of your efforts to bring to reality the national salute to Vietnam veterans in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

It is inscribed, "Certificate of Appreciation, presented to Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, The American Legion. In recognition of his outstanding leadership and determination in bringing to reality the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the national salute to Vietnam veterans. Presented on behalf of the 2.6 million men and women of The American Legion this 23rd day of August, 1983."

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGL: Commander, I only accept this plaque basically as a basic member of The American Legion, because without The American Legion and without their leadership, without their strength none of this would have ever happened. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Ladies and gentlemen, our next speaker is head of the largest independent agency in the Federal Government. He was fullback on the last undefeated Army football team, received honorable mention All American honors and was graduated from West Point With a Bachelor of Science degree.

He was commissioned an Infantry officer, attended airborne and ranger schools, and served with the 25th Infantry Division.

Prior to becoming Chief of the Veterans Administration he was Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Please join with me in a warm welcome for a fellow Legionnaire from the Department of Ohio, the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Harry N. Walters.

**THE HONORABLE HARRY N. WALTERS
Administrator of Veterans Affairs**

Thank you. Thank you very much for that warm welcome. Fellow Legionnaires, Commander Keller, honored guests, employees of the Veterans Administration wherever you are, ladies and gentlemen. The opportunity to talk with you today is an honor for me. Not only is it an honor just to speak to The American Legion in general but this Convention is the Hallmark of all the Veteran Service Organizations, and as Administrator of the Veterans Affairs this is my first time to be in front of you and I am indeed honored to be here.

I know you have heard some warm words about our Commander during the last year, but I would be remiss, I suspect, if I didn't tell you on behalf of the Veterans Administration that I am here to say to Commander Keller he did a fine, fine job for the veterans of America and The American Legion during his term as Commander. I only wish him well in the years to come and thank him for the hard work and determination he gave our veterans during the last year. Thank you, Commander.

Some of you may have heard that I had a love for Army football at West Point, and those are true words. While I was in New Orleans last week I was interviewed by a New Orleans Times Tribune Sports Editor who asked about the Army-Navy game and asked if I thought it was more than a life or death struggle. I said, "No, I think it is more important than that."

Now, the Army-Navy game this year is going to be played in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, let's hear it for California.

The reason I dwell on that subject is because the Army-Navy football game is something to American society that is more important than the game itself. Let me review history for you a bit, if you will. During World War II General Eisenhower our Commander in Europe and General MacArthur our Commander of our troops in the Far East determined together not to allow Red White who was the football coach for West Point to go into the combat zone but would be required to stay at West Point in New York and develop a football team that would be representative of the troops in the field, a true and absolute winner, and, indeed he did.

You might remember there were such members as Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis and Arnold Tucker, for those of you who are that old, I can barely remember myself. He developed that football team so that the country could recognize indeed our troops in the field were winners and the American society were winners, and indeed, today in my view we are winners.

I, having said that, predict Army will beat Navy in the Rose Bowl in 1983.

Well, I must say you are winners. You are winners because of the accomplishments over the years of the Legion and the unique and honored place that it does occupy in the American society today, for it was with the help of the Legion that you alerted our Country to the needs of its veterans after World War I. You were there again after World War II, and now, of course, after the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War you are there helping our Vietnam-era veterans to return to society.

The Legion has wasted no opportunity in its 64-year history to remind America that the business of war does not end when the shooting stops. The business of war ends only when our veterans have been assimilated back in our society.

I would like to review with you today a little bit about what our Veterans Administration has done over the years. I would like to brag about it a little bit if I might, and then I would like to tell you a little bit about where we are going to go from here. You may remember that after World War II a 100% disabled veteran received only \$115 a month. If hospitalized and single he received only \$20 a month and no additional allowance for dependents.

There were no special housing grants for paraplegics and no grants for automobiles. There was no clothing allowance for veterans whose prosthetic devices or wheelchairs tended to damage their clothing.

Pensions were low and they were hard to come by. A widow received very little for herself and her family, if she could qualify, which, you know, was often quite difficult.

Let's look at these same programs today. Compensation has been increased to the point where our disabled veterans can live in a degree of dignity and comfort, and additional increases are on the way for these programs.

There are special housing programs, a clothing allowance, and special automobile equipment for those who qualify. No longer a prisoner to injury, the disabled American veteran can return to a semblance of normality and get a job.

Just this year I presented a certificate to an Illinois couple who received the 11 millionth GI home loan. The GI loan has been a way of American life. For millions more it promises to be a way to secure dreams in the future, and we have guaranteed home loans of \$204 billion. I might add as a little bit of flavor that the interest rate just went down one-half a per cent today from 13% to 13.

Now, since the first GI Bill of Rights in 1944, fathered by our own Harry Colmery, which I have been quoted as saying, and it is true, too, that this was one of the most effective and com-

mendable pieces of legislation that the United States of America has ever passed. 19,000,000 veterans and active duty personnel have received educational benefits since then, and I recently announced that the unemployed and under-employed Vietnam-era veterans can be eligible for an extension of their educational benefits.

We are trying to give these veterans marketable skills so that they can reenter the work force of the United States of America.

Today the VA sends compensation and pension checks totaling \$12.5 billion a year to four and a half million recipients.

We administer a life insurance program with more than \$100 billion worth of policies, and such of this program can be attributed to the work of The American Legion.

You know that at the end of World War II we only had 97 hospitals, and 18 of these were TB hospitals, TB hospitals with about 18,000 patients. Today tuberculosis has been almost eliminated, and that is largely due to Veterans Administration research. How, we have no TB hospitals in our system.

Today the VA has 172 medical centers and 226 outpatient clinics. We have 136 outreach veteran centers, 93 nursing homes, and our facilities are affiliated with more than 100 of the Nation's best medical schools.

But more than anything else the Veterans Administration is people helping people. And just as our success depends on individual ability and willingness so too it must depend on teamwork because teamwork is the framework for success. Teamwork produces winners.

One of my predecessors, a fellow you might remember, General Omar Bradley, he said teamwork was one of the greatest lessons learned during World War II. He said, "Our military forces are one team . . . in the game to win . . . regardless of who carries the ball. This is no time for 'fancy Dads' who won't hit the line with all they have on every play unless they can call the signals. Each player on this team, whether he shines in the spotlight of the backfield or sits dirt in the line, must be an All-American." That is what General Bradley thought about our World War II veteran as he returned to America, and that is what I think of all veterans, you are All-Americans and you are winners.

So, I must tell you that I am supremely pleased that we are on the same team, that we have many of the same goals, and speaking of goals, when I first came to the Veterans Administration I discovered there were no formally agreed upon goals inside the VA with the White House, with the Congress, nor with the service organizations. Well, we have them now, and let me read an admission statement to you, which is, by the way, at every hospital and regional office facility throughout the country. Now, I urge you to read what the mission of the VA is, "To serve America's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and to be their principal advocate in insuring that they receive the care, the support, and the recognition they earned in service to this Nation."

Of course, your Veterans Administration must still be guided by good leadership, good management, and decent treatment of our veterans and our employees alike.

You know, too often the reputation of government service has suffered because an individual employee has been abrupt or discourteous in trying to help somebody asking for help. Well, I want to avoid this. I want each person that contacts us to be treated with courtesy and consideration by a helpful VA employee, and I think positive attitudes are the most important things we can offer to the veterans of America.

I pause here for a moment to tell the story that I have quite often heard Reverend Bob Schuller, the modern-day Norman

Vincent Peale, tell, who tells the story of a young boy on his way home carrying a ball and a bat, and as he was walking along he called out to himself, "I am the greatest hitter in the whole world," and took the ball and threw it up in the air and swung the bat at it and missed by three feet. Undaunted by failure and with great determination he reached down and picked the ball out and called out and said, "I am the greatest hitter in the whole world," and threw the ball into the air and took a swing and missed by four feet. Somewhat discouraged but still determined he reached down, he picked the ball up and once more called out, "I am the greatest hitter in the whole world," and threw the ball up and he took a giant swing at it and missed by five feet. Much discouraged and a very dismayed young boy looked down at the ball and subtly turned with a glow on his face and his eyes were lighted he reached down and picked the ball up and held it up to Heaven and said, "Wow, what a pitcher."

Well, that is the kind of attitude I bring to the VA, the kind of attitude I expect our employees to have, and, of course, our veterans already have it.

Shortly after taking this job, I might add that something popped up which was sort of interesting. I received a briefing on the aging veteran. The doctors came into my office and put up a chart that said, *The Problem: Veterans are getting older and living longer.* The second chart said, *The Problem: Our society is getting older and living longer.* And the third chart said, *The Problem: Budget constraints.*

I said to the doctors, leave us go back to the first chart, please. I cannot consider any problem the fact that we are getting older and living longer. I cannot consider that America getting older and living longer will ever be conceived as a problem by our Country. We will change all our wording, our attitudes to indicate this is the challenge of the future, and challenges are but opportunities in disguise.

Well, we don't have many problems in the VA but we sure have a lot of challenges. But, the challenges are what make our life interesting and exciting. As for old veterans, sure, we see the need for geriatric medical care skyrocketing. The number of veterans over 65 will jump from 3.3 million in 1980 to seven million in 1990, and then nine million in the year 2000 to 12 million in 2010.

Well, rather than stand around and ring our hands about whether or not we can handle this challenge we intend to change our approach to geriatric care from one which puts people in institutions to the kind that seeks to maintain them in their communities so that the older veteran can be cared for at home whenever that can be done.

Now I urge the total teamwork approach to geriatric medical care, because cooperative health-care teams are the service that older people need today.

We will be training geriatric medicine teams in our medical centers. We will be putting greater emphasis on our residential home-care program, on our hospital-based-home-care program, and on our adult day-care centers.

We will be developing a program for older veterans where they can receive diagnostic and therapeutic care during the day and return to their families at night.

I want to expand in all of these areas. I want more medical students trained in geriatrics. I want more specialists knowledgeable of the unique needs of the aged. And I want to emphasize preventative rehabilitation, even such seemingly minor things as teaching older people to get in and out of a bath, without risk of breaking a hip.

But most of all, I want to get more Americans on our VA team. For all America is "graying" the issue of an aging popula-

tion, and what that means exists, or must be created to deal with it, is an issue for all of society.

I believe the VA's correct role is to work with communities all over the Country in a variety of ways, to make certain that the VA delivers the best possible compensation and benefits, and the best possible medical care to the people who have kept us number one all these years.

So we intend to add more than 2,000 employees to the Department of Medicine and Surgery. We intend to undertake a major expansion and modernization of our hospital system, with the largest budget in the history of our office in construction of almost \$1 billion.

My boss will be with you later, but I want to tell you, I met with the President. I know him. Ronald Reagan's support of the veteran has not waned and it never will. Veterans will never have a better President in the White House, never a stronger advocate than this President.

Now I work for him and I must tell you I fully share the President's attitude of advocacy. And I share it because I believe in it myself. I intend to champion all this Nation's veterans during my tenure as Administrator, and the reason is simple:

I believe any man or woman who has served our Country honorably and well is deserving of my total support, this Agency's total support, our Nation's total support.

I believe the support is there. You know, there is a new spirit abroad in the land today, a spirit that is a far cry from the "me" decade of the '70s, when it was fashionable to berate veterans, and everything else American, including the veterans.

Well, let me tell you about an experience that I had in 1980 which illustrates that the decade of the '70s is now well behind us.

I was lucky enough to attend the USA/USSR hockey game at the winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York in February of 1980, and by the luck of the draw, I of course, had the game tickets for that particular game.

I am sure most of you recall that game. It was the most electrifying exciting athletic event I have ever been at. Everyone in the arena were waving American Flags, including the Canadians.

Halfway through the third period, sitting to my left was a young 30-year-old girl. She turned to me when it became apparent that our underdog hockey team was ready to win that hockey game and she said to me, "You know, I haven't seen this many American Flags in any one place since I was burning them during the Vietnam War."

30 years old, and in ten years, and I was amazed at the psychological change in this young woman about what she thought about America, what she thought about her Country. And she suddenly realized that we cannot, and must not be number two in anything.

You probably remember, I know you do, because you were part of it, and your Commander was there for the dedication ceremony of the Vietnam Memorial. It was as though the Nation gave a welcome-home party, and everyone came late, about seven years late, to be exact.

The truth is, however, the invitations were extended somewhat belatedly, to America's 2.7 million military members who served so ably in Southeast Asia from the late '60s to the mid-1970s during the Vietnam War. There were no decisive victories, and there were no heroes nor heroines, except perhaps for the POW's. We had much meditating to do, and we had a maturing to undergo.

But somehow, in some way, America in the intervening years came to grips with its conscience, the process defies explanation.

But Americans were finally able to comprehend and appreciate, at least in part, the sacrifices made on their own behalf by their fellow citizens.

Now we view ourselves differently, America's fighting men and women are home, and I think more and more are starting to look at themselves as members of a championship team. That's why I think our new bumper sticker is so popular, "America Is Number One, Thanks To Our Veterans."

Well, I have been questioned about our bumper sticker. What does it mean? America is number one, number one in what? Well, I can tell you, only what it means to me: Simply this, I know I live in the best Nation on the face of the earth today.

America is number one, it means that we are still first, we are first in liberty; it means that we have to offer the rest of the world a set of ideals, a way to live and work together, which grants dignity to each and every individual.

I believe in American patriots of all generations who have drawn upon our Flag for the will and the courage to fight and die for their Country, and the ideals for which their Country stands and has yet to attain.

Now because the United States has not fully delivered on all of its ideals, there are those who say we have no business proclaiming them. This is nonsense. An ideal, by definition, is a concept of perfection. We may never achieve it. There are benefits to having worthy goals and striving to deliver on them.

Oh, we may stumble and fall short. We may take wrong turns, and we may fall a little short, but we are still going to be number one. And most of all, thanks to you, our veterans.

Well, the VA is prepared to meet tomorrow's challenges, because most of the people who work in the VA are dedicated human beings with a real compassion for those they serve. So I have been building on our positive attitude. By boosting confidence, I intend to establish a winning team spirit, at the very highest of our levels, that will penetrate right down to the bottom.

I want the type of teamwork that will serve as a channel for a new advocacy for America's veterans, and this is what I am advocating.

A positive association with the Department of Defense, to the mutual advantage of our present and future veterans.

Excellence in medicine and research, to assure the highest quality of care.

The earliest possible resolution of the Agent Orange issue.

And more open communication with all the rest of the veterans organizations.

Well, I have outlined the job that needs to be done and I can assure you that the VA is going to do its part. My only concern is that compassionate individuals like you can do the job that The American Legion does so well, better than most. You and your spouses know the reward of giving needy veterans your hand and your heart in your Vietnam "Outreach Services" our benefit offices, our national cemeteries, and nearly every area of medical treatment and rehabilitation. So I want to tell you that somehow, the great ideas and ideals that all of us in the Veterans Administration have. We appreciate your administration and the voluntary work, and I might add the work of your outstanding Auxiliary.

I encourage your ideas, encourage your energy, because no government, however generous and willing can do your job.

I have enjoyed your hospitality today and last night.

In closing, I would like to leave you with a few thoughts. I want you to know for sure, and I want to remind you of the fact that I have made a personal commitment to submit and fight for budgets which will attempt to meet the future needs of our veterans of the United States.

You know, in these days of budget cuts, the VA has been holding its ground, and we must continue to hold its ground. And in the times ahead, we are going to concentrate on employment, medical construction and research in our budget submissions, but we must learn how to document our needs so that the budgeteers in the Congress and OMB, even they can begin to develop the confidence in what we do as a VA is something that we do not have to fight so diligently for the budget which we so dearly need.

Now I must tell you, we have a great team. The team is led by a man in the White House named Ronald Reagan whose position is strongly for us. The Congress of the United States has made commitments throughout time memorial to our veterans, and the VA and the service organizations I think are on the same frequency today. But we have got a new member on the team, one which delights me, because I believe it to be a winner, and the new member of the team is the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

This new member just voted nine to nothing in favor of a service organization for veterans being able to lobby the Congress on a tax-exempt status during the same week that they declined five other non-profit organizations the same opportunity, and in the opinion, it clearly said that the veterans of America are preferred citizens in our society.

Wow, what a picture. With your help, we can move the VA team forward to the winner's circle. But when we move it forward, I want to be ever mindful of our slogan at the VA, that America is number one, thanks to our veterans. God bless you, thank you for having me.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you, Mr. Administrator Walters, your words have a very special meaning for each of us in this hall. Each veteran in this Country can rest assured that your organization will remain dedicated to preserving the rights they have earned by service to America.

Now it is my duty and privilege on behalf of the entire National Organization, to extend our sincere appreciation to the City of Chicago for being the host to the National Convention that inaugurated my year as National Commander in 1982.

It is most appropriate then, for me to introduce to you the man who handed me the reigns of leadership, a man who had a landmark year as National Commander in 1981 and 1982, and who has remained close to the leadership of our Organization.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Immediate Past National Commander Jack W. Flynt of Texas.

**PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION
CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

By Jack W. Flynt (Texas)
Past National Commander
To: Nick S. Livas, President

1982 National Convention Corporation of Illinois

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JACK W. FLYNT, Texas: Distinguished guests and Delegates to the 65th Annual Convention of The American Legion, last week, on hearing the greetings, "Happy Birthday Chicago" for their 150th Anniversary brings to instant recall The American Legion's parade down Chicago's Michigan Avenue, the colorful fireworks display on the waterfront of Lake Michigan, seeing the famous and historic "Water Tower" and the tall, tall Sears Building and other historical and impressive sights, the many gala dinner parties around town, and above all the warm welcome and the great hospitality extended by all Chicagoans and the people of Illinois.

All are indeed warm memories of the 64th Annual Convention of The American Legion held in the great American "Hub City" Chicago.

In keeping with The American Legion tradition of presenting our official thanks and appreciation to the host city of the most recent National Convention, I am privileged to present to Nick S. Livas, President of The American Legion 1982 Convention Corporation of Illinois, and representing Mayor Washington and the citizens of Chicago, the Medallion of the 64th Annual Convention of The American Legion.

Nick, on behalf of all those that attended the Convention in Chicago last year, we are truly grateful to the officials of the City of Chicago, the citizens of Illinois, and the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of your great State for such an enjoyable visit and for the warm and gracious way in which we were all received and treated.

We want you to please extend our heartfelt thanks to all those concerned for their efforts in making our stay in Chicago so enjoyable and such a memorable occasion.

MR. NICK LIVAS: Commander Al, Past Commander Jack, June Stolte, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, distinguished guests, one and all, I bring you greetings from the Honorable Mayor of the great City of Chicago to express our thanks to the Convention Commission, the National Executive Committee, and the National Organization for giving the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago the privilege of hosting the 1982 National Convention.

We look forward in having the same opportunity extended at a future date. The press of business kept the Honorable Mayor Washington from attending this Convention, but I am deeply honored for the opportunity to represent the Mayor and to accept The American Legion Medallion in his behalf.

I wish to express his thanks and convey to The American Legion to have an open and standing invitation to return to Chicago for a future Convention.

God bless you all and enjoy a successful and productive Convention. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: One of the lasting relationships we have developed over the years has been with a company in California. A quarter of a century ago, The American Legion instituted for its members a Life Insurance Program and, since its inception, Trans America Occidental Life Insurance Company of California has been the underwriter for that program.

To commemorate the 25-year partnership, I would like to now call on Mr. Francis Sanfilippo, Account Executive for Trans America Occidental Life Insurance Company. Frank.

PRESENTATION

Francis Sanfilippo, Account Executive
Trans America Occidental Life Insurance Company

Commander Keller, and my fellow Legionnaires, it is my privilege representing the Trans America Occidental Life Insurance Company to present this small token of our appreciation for having the privilege of serving you Legionnaires for the past 25 years.

I just might point out that over the past 25 years, our program has paid over \$44 million in benefits to beneficiaries of the Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you so much, Frank, and on behalf of The American Legion, we accept this Medallion, and offer to you and your company congratulations for 25 years of service to The American Legion. They have been very rewarding ones, and I know that there are going to be many, many more.

At this time I would like to introduce to you one of the fine people who will be host to the 68th American Legion National Convention August 31st through September 6th, 1984, Michael

Fletcher, who is Chairman of the Salt Lake Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau.

MICHAEL FLETCHER
Chairman, Salt Lake Valley
Convention and Visitors Bureau

Thank you, Commander. I am here representing the entire State of Utah who officially invite all Legionnaires, Legion Auxiliary and guests to Salt Lake City and Utah for the 1984 American Legion Convention.

There are a couple of points I would like to leave with you regarding the 1984 Convention:

One, you cannot pick a better place from the beauty of the City and the State to the excellence of the meeting and the hotel facilities; the friendliness of all our people, all joining together to offer you and yours an unforgettable experience. Imagine with me if you will, a beautiful city nestled in the middle of the Rocky Mountains only miles from the majesty of the mountains, a city so clear you can hardly believe it.

You will find we have hotels and Convention Center all ready to meet your every need and want. Salt Lake City is easily accessible from all over the United States, served by nine major airlines with 250 flights daily to 80 non-stop cities. Amtrak Rail System serves from the east to the west, and Salt Lake City is the crossroads of the West for highways.

You will enjoy a wide variety of things to do. If your choice is historic beginning at Temple Square, to the world famous Tabernacle Choir, who incidentally, will do a special performance for the Legion.

Rocky Mountain resorts are within 30 minutes from the city limits. Over 50 golf courses await your coming. Fishing and hunting abound within minutes, and not the least, ladies, shopping. You will find plenty of that. We have two of the largest indoor malls in the world which are located in Charlie Square and you will enjoy shopping there.

Utah is a great place to tie your Convention and vacation in the same package. We have five national parks from the famous Zion to Bryce Canyon to the Red Hills of the Canyons and on to the famous city parks. And mix these, if you will with all type of facilities, clear lakes, and mountain rivers and streams for fishing, and Utah is truly the best for the West.

I would like to dispel some myths about Salt Lake City and Utah.

Gentlemen, you can get a drink in Utah.

Many major restaurants have liquor stores, all your hotels have liquor stores on premises, and we have over 160 private clubs requiring only a temporary membership to serve you. Our restaurants are among the finest in the United States, with a wide variety of cuisine.

Lastly, I would like to make you a solemn promise, your local American Legion Committees, along with the entities of private business, state and local government have combined to insure The American Legion 1984 will be a memorable and suitable and enjoyable Convention.

On behalf of the State of Utah, Salt Lake City and the people of our great State, it is truly an honor to host your 1984 National Convention, and we will see you in '84. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Our next guest has been a part of The American Legion ever since the first minutes of its birth in 1919. He is one of a handful of men who have not just lived history, but helped create it.

He is a man whose service to his fellow veteran not only as to the test of time, he has exemplified the ideals of the Organiza-

tion he helped found. His continued devotion should serve as an inspiration to each of us.

Ladies and gentlemen, will you please join me in a warm welcome for the National President of the Society of The American Legion Founders, Mr. Claude B. Payne.

CLAUDE B. PAYNE
National President
Society of The American Legion Founders

To those of you who aren't familiar with the Founders organization, a brief explanation: We are the surviving veterans of World War I who attended the Paris Caucus in March, 1919, and the St. Louis Caucus in May, 1919. At these two Caucuses, The American Legion was born, named and finalized.

There are approximately 1,000 servicemen from all branches of the American Expeditionary Forces who attended the Paris Caucus, and approximately 1,500 Delegate veterans from all states in the Union who attended the St. Louis Caucus. Today, there are barely 50 survivors from these two Caucuses.

Death and age have taken its toll over the 65 years. We share with pride in The American Legion and its present leadership and past leadership, its accomplishments during the past 65 years in the changing of times. Although our number is small, we do not have to wave the Flag. Our patriotism is locked within our hearts. If we could, we would serve our Country again just as we did in 1917 and 1918.

There was a spirit of making things happen, a blending in the souls of those founders at the Caucuses, Paris and St. Louis.

So, please, comrades, we ask you at this Convention to make things happen for the best interest and program of The American Legion and this Nation for God and Country, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: At this time, we have a special presentation, and I will call on President-elect William J. Meade to make this special presentation. President Meade.

PRESENTATION
President-elect William J. Meade
Society of The American Legion Founders

Commander Keller, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen of The American Legion, I am here representing the Society of The American Legion Founders, to present a Medallion to a Past National Commander of The American Legion. This Medallion signifies that he has been elected Honorary National President of the Society of the Founders of The American Legion.

Only seven men have been elected Honorary National Presidents of the Founder Society, General John J. Pershing, General Douglas MacArthur, President Harry S. Truman, General and President Dwight Eisenhower, President Lyndon B. Johnson, Captain Edward V. Rickenbacker, and S. Parry Brown, Past Commander of The American Legion.

In researching the man that I am making this presentation to, I was amazed at his record, and I made some notes of the highlights of his career, and I hope it is in order to recite them here. I will take just a few minutes.

His academic record, the man whose name we are adding to this list was born in Dawson, Georgia, May, 1921. He was educated in the public schools of Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1942 with a A.B. degree, majoring in History and Law. He received an honorary Doctor of Law from Mercer University, an honorary Doctor of Business Administration from Presbyterian College.

In 1947 he received a M.B.A. degree from Harvard School of Business Administration, which he attended while still recovering from wounds received in action during the war.

His military record, at the age of 13 he joined the ROTC and remained a member until he joined the military service in 1942. In the service he was graduated from Command and General Staff School, U.S. Army, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The Advanced Officers' course at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Basic Officers' course at Fort Benning, Georgia.

He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant March, 1942, the day he completed his studies at the University of Georgia, promoted to 1st Lieutenant December, 1942, and Captain, June, 1943, made Major November, 1945, discharged in 1946, and finally separated from active military service a Brig. General of the Georgia National Guard.

During his four years of combat service in the European Theater of Operations, he was captured twice and escaped. During his second escape he was responsible for the capture of 592 prisoners turned over to the French before his final capture.

After his third capture, his enraged German captors ordered his execution with other prisoners of war, by a firing squad of the beaten retreating German Army. His bullet-ridden body was stacked on top of the executed soldiers, where a German officer fired the coupe de grace, a bullet from his handgun into the back of the soldier.

Returning German civilians found him alive, and gave him emergency treatment and took him to newly-arrived allied troops. He spent the next 14 months in 27 different hospitals and underwent 17 operations. But he made an amazing recovery.

General Anthony C. McAuliffe, the man who electrified the world with his answer for a request to surrender with one word, "Nuts" recommended that this man receive the Distinguished Service Cross. He said, this man was the best individual soldier I ever saw in World War II.

He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with three clusters, the Purple Heart with three clusters, the French Croix de Guerre and medals, honors and decorations from 20 other nations.

His Legion record—this man joined the David Daniel Post No. 133 of The American Legion in Georgia in 1946. He served as Service Officer of his Post for five years. His activities in Legion programs led to his rapid advance in leadership in District and State levels. He was elected Department Commander of Georgia in 1948-49. His advocacy of national security and universal military training led to his appointment as National Security Chairman of The American Legion, a post he held for two years, traveling many thousands of miles in the nation addressing public and Legion meetings on the need for national security.

At the age of 29, in 1950, he was elected National Commander of The American Legion, the youngest man ever to serve as head of the largest and best veterans organization in the Nation.

While Commander, he visited every state in the Union and 32 foreign countries, calling for preparedness and universal military training, explaining that his basic military training spelled the difference between life and death in hand-to-hand fighting. He is still active and always ready to accept any assignment that will advance the cause of The American Legion.

His business and government accomplishments: In 1950-51, he was named the Most Outstanding Young Man of the Year by the Georgia Junior Chamber of Commerce, one of the 10 most outstanding young men of the year by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

1961-53, he served as special consultant to Secretaries of Defense George Marshall and Robert Lovett.

He served full time on the National Administration of the World Bank. He was a Delegate to the 14th General Assembly of the United Nations. He is a recipient of the Freedom Foundation Award 1961-56 and '73.

Since 1960 to the present time, he has been management consultant on governmental and legislative affairs and international financing.

He is Chairman of the Board of Cocks and Phillips International, governmental relations and public affairs consultants.

He is married and has three daughters. He is Chairman of the Deacons and Moderator of Briggs Memorial Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

By now, you folks know the man I am talking about, so at this time, I would ask Earle Cocks, Jr., Past Commander of The American Legion, Honorary National President of the Society of American Legion Founders, to come front and center.

I salute you for your academic accomplishments, for your courage and resourcefulness and bravery under fire in the service of your Country, for your Legion leadership, and for your accomplishments in government and business and the world.

I am pleased to present this handsome Medallion with the signs of the palms of the Legion, and I hope you will wear it in good health.

Ladies and gentlemen of The American Legion, I give you Past National Commander Earle Cocks, Jr., and Honorary President of the Society of The American Legion Founders.

EARLE COCKE, JR.

Past National Commander

Mr. Commander, President of the Society of American Legion Founders, I accept your nomination.

I am sincerely honored by your recognition, and, Mr. Commander, if I had time I would show my gratitude to the tremendous auditorium here, and I would love to make a speech. I will save that for another occasion.

Having run for public office, winning a few and losing a few, this is an honor that means much to me, because it was so much of a surprise and no effort on my part.

The American Legion will be in the 21st Century, in a role of veterans' leadership, and we have to thank that small group of founders in Paris and St. Louis for the benefits and rights that we enjoy today. Thank you very much.

* * *

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: This past year it has been my privilege to have served with a true man of God. He has provided spiritual inspiration to The American Legion in the same manner he has served his fellow man, with humility and with grace.

He served his country on the battlefields of Europe during World War II and then entered the priesthood several years thereafter. As a Parish Priest he taught in Ohio Catholic Schools for 20 years before becoming Pastor at St. Ann Roman Catholic Church in Dresden.

He has been heavily involved in Scouting for more than 40 years and is a recipient of the St. George Award, the highest adult award in Catholic Scouting. He has been a member of The American Legion for 28 years, seven of them as Chaplain for The American Legion Department of Ohio. This past year he has served you as your National Chaplain.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I present

to you the Reverend Father John D. Kempf, and it is with great pleasure that I present to him this Certificate of Appreciation for his unwavering service to his fellow veterans. Chaplain Kempf.

NATIONAL CHAMPLAIN KEMPF: And thank you for the opportunity and thank you for the memories, and God bless you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: One of the most valued privileges of being National Commander of the greatest veterans organizations of America is working with the finest women's organization in America, and especially with their President.

Ladies and gentlemen, from Creve Cour, Missouri, accompanied by her husband Walter, and the National Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary Anna Gear and the National Secretary Miriam Junge, please stand and welcome a lady to whom I am greatly indebted, and whose friendship and warmth I treasure, the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary June Stolte, Madam President.

MRS. WALTER (JUNE) STOLTE

National President, American Legion Auxiliary

Commander Keller, National Officers, Past National Commanders and Past National Presidents. To all of you great Legionnaires and Auxiliary members from throughout the world and the Nation, and all those visitors who are visiting with us today, what a privilege it is for me to greet you this morning.

Commander Keller and I began a year ago in Chicago as good neighbors, he from the great State of Illinois and I from Missouri, the Show-Me State. We became a team, a team working together to let freedom ring in America and throughout the world.

To show you what a great team we are, this is the first time in the history of The American Legion and the Auxiliary that our emblems have hung side by side at any National Convention. Thank you, Commander Keller.

We have both traveled far and wide on your behalf. I think we have learned something more about freedom as we have served, something special for all of you who cared so much about America and all she represents.

This year the Stoltes and the Kellers have become good friends. I thank you for electing Commander Al to be my National Commander and for giving me the opportunity to know his lovely wife Gen. It takes a special lady to be the wife of a National Commander, and Gen Keller is that special lady.

This year we have had some inspiring moments and many good times. Though we have been a team we have enjoyed some friendly competition. I officially concede that the American Legion Auxiliary lost a membership challenge to the Legion. I am not a sore loser. I enjoyed eating hot dogs and beans while he ate steak, and also for dessert I ate frozen jelly beans. But whether we won or lost a challenge isn't important because we all won by putting a little extra effort into membership this year, and every member counts whether it is a Legionnaire or an Auxiliary member.

I thank all of you for the many courtesies as I have traveled visiting your Departments, and our foreign countries for all the kindnesses, most of all, for caring so much about our Country. As long as there is an American Legion and an American Legion Auxiliary freedom will ring in America. Thank you.

Special Introductions of Visiting Dignitaries

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I would now like to ask our National Vice Commander Bob Gabrielson from South Dakota to assume the microphone.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER GABRIELSON: Ladies and gentlemen, as we prepare to receive the President I would like to introduce to you some visiting dignitaries who will be on the platform with us.

The Governor of the great State of Washington, the Honorable John Spellman.

The Secretary of the United States Department of Labor the Honorable Raymond J. Donovan.

The Honorable Slade Gorton, United States Senator from the State of Washington.

From the 1st Congressional District of the State of Washington the Honorable Joel Pritchard.

From Washington State's 4th Congressional District the Honorable Sid Morrison.

And the Honorable Rod Chandler from the 8th Congressional District of the State of Washington.

Also with us this morning is the Mayor of the Emerald City of Seattle the Honorable Charles Royer.

Gentlemen, welcome.

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States and the National Commander of The American Legion.

Introduction of the President of The United States of America

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: It is with deep pride and personal pleasure that I present our next and most distinguished guest. This is the second time this year he has honored a gathering of Legionnaires and guests with his presence, and the second time he has appeared before a National Convention of The American Legion.

At our Washington Conference in February he presented a major foreign policy address. At that time we took great satisfaction in bestowing on him The American Legion's highest honor the Distinguished Service Medal.

Ladies and gentlemen, without further delay, please join with me in welcoming a fellow Legionnaire from Pacific Palisades Post No. 283 the President of the United States Ronald W. Reagan.

SPECIAL ADDRESS

The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan President of the United States of America

Thank you very much, Commander Keller. Governor Spellman, Secretary Donovan, Senator Gorton, members of Congress who are here, and all of you my fellow Legionnaires. I thank you for that warm greeting, and the feeling is mutual.

It is always a special pleasure to address the Legion. Today is no exception, so it is Legionnaire Ronald Reagan, Pacific Palisades Post, as you have been told, 283, 340 Purdue.

My uniforms are long since in mothballs, but one of the major responsibilities that goes with my present job is being the chief advocate for America's Armed Forces and veterans, and I take that responsibility seriously.

One of the great lessons of lives is that if you set high standards and do your best to live up to them you won't go wrong. The Legion has set high standards for itself and for our Country, and as long as America lives up to your standards America will not go wrong.

At home and abroad our Country is on the right track again. As a Nation we have closed the books on a long dark period of failure and self-doubt and set a new course. With your continuing support and the support of millions of other patriotic God-fearing Americans we have come a long way. But the task we face is still a challenging one, and a lot of hard work remains to be done. But let's be sure we know what needs to be done. We have got a few people in Washington who don't want to hear when we tell about arms control and strategic modernization programs and America's responsibility to protect the peace and freedom.

My own concern with these issues is nothing new.

As many of you know three years ago at your Boston Convention I pledged to restore America's military's posture so that we could promote peace while safeguarding our freedom and security. With the help of groups like the Legion we've kept that pledge.

Our military forces are back on their feet and standing tall. Modern equipment is being delivered to the troops, training is way up, and combat readiness rates have really soared. Once again young Americans wear their uniforms and serve their Flag with pride.

We are getting and keeping very good people in all of the services. We have made great progress, we are going to make more, and I hope that makes you as proud as it makes me.

No, I don't mean that these young men and women in the armed services are not peacekeepers. An Ambassador wrote me a letter, our Ambassador to Luxembourg. He said he had been up to the East German front and was visiting the Second Armored Division. As he was returning to the helicopter a 19-year-old trooper followed, and the young man asked him if he thought he could get a message to me. Being an Ambassador he allowed as how he could.

Well, the kid said, "Well, will you tell him we are proud to be here and we ain't scared of nothing."

While I'm on the subject of our military forces, I want to reaffirm our determination to account for every brave American who served in Southeast Asia.

This Administration has not forgotten and will never forget the sacrifices that they and their families have made, and we will not rest until the fullest possible accounting has been made.

The other half of restoring our military posture concerns our strategic forces. In the past we paid a grim price for indecision and neglect, for a one-way restraint that was never returned by the other side. The resulting imbalance weakened the credibility of our nuclear deterrent, the deterrent that has been the single greatest bulwark for peace in the postwar era. While past American leaders hesitated or naively hoped for the best, the Soviet Union was left free to pile up new nuclear arsenals without any real incentives to seriously negotiate reductions.

History doesn't offer many crystal-clear lessons for those who manage our Nation's affairs. But there are a few, and one of them is surely the lesson that weakness, on the part of those who cherish freedom, inevitably leads to trouble, that it only encourages the enemies of both peace and freedom.

On the other hand, history teaches us that by being strong and resolute we can keep the peace, and even reduce the threats to peace.

That was why at your Boston Convention in 1980 I pledged to strive for arms reduction agreements, and not so-called arms control agreements that permitted further growth, but real arms reductions. We have kept that pledge, too. For the past two and a half years this Administration has steadfastly followed a dual-track of deterrence through modernization and the

search for a more stable peace through arms reduction negotiations.

There are no contradictions in this dual approach, despite what some of the critics in Washington might have you believe. The restoration of a credible deterrent and the search for real arms reductions and stability are two sides of the same coin, a coin that is inscribed with words, peace and security.

Now, our efforts are designed to sustain peace, plain and simple. We do not seek an arms race; indeed, we seek to reverse the trends that cause it by beginning to lower the levels of nuclear arms. But we will not, we cannot, accept anything that would be detrimental to our security and to the freedom and safety of our children and grandchildren.

That is what is so important about the MX. The MX Peacekeeper Missile and our program to develop a new, small, single-warhead missile are critical to our Country's present and future safety. They will maintain state-of-the-art readiness against the Soviet's already modernized systems. They will also ensure stability and deterrence, making it clear that aggression by the Soviet Union will never pay.

And they are an essential incentive for the Soviets to negotiate seriously for genuine arms reduction so that we can move to a more stable world in which the risk of war is reduced.

Modernization goes hand-in-hand with deterrence. Both are necessary incentives for successful negotiations.

Many of our critics willfully ignore this interrelationship. Instead, they focus their attention and criticism on some single point which does not address the central issue. Often it is based on wishful thinking or downright misinformation.

For example, one argument contends that the MX Peacekeeper would pose a first-strike threat to the Soviet Union. In the most fundamental sense this argument runs counter to the whole history of America. Our Country has never started a war and we have never sought, nor will we ever develop, a strategic first-strike capability. Our sole objective is deterrence, the strength and credibility it takes to prevent war. And, in any case, there is no way that the MX, even with the remaining Minuteman force, could knock out the entire Soviet ICBM force.

So, the argument is a false one, both philosophically and technically. What we really want and what we would have with the MX in place is enough force that tells them we would do them a lot of damage.

The examples that I have given is typical of the twisted logic of the anti-MX lobby.

It reminds me of the tale told of an arms service poker game which took place a few years back on a western military base. The MP's were tipped off and raided the barracks, and the four poker players just managed to hide the cards and poker chips in time, and when the police got there they were sitting at the empty table and staring innocently at each other. The MP Sergeant asked each one, "Have you been gambling?" And the soldier bit his lip and replied, "No, Sergeant, I haven't been gambling." And the sailor silently asked for the Lord's forgiveness and also said he wasn't, and the airman answered the same way, and that finally brought them to the marine and they said, "Have you been gambling?" And the marine looked the cop right dead in the eye and asked, "Who with?"

That was quick thinking, but the marine sure avoided the real issue, and the real issue is what counts.

The real national defense issue of our time is maintaining deterrence while seeking arms reductions. And, today, I'm pleased to be able to report some good news on the negotiating front. Our fundamental negotiating positions in both the START and INF talks have been strengthened by a number of related de-

velopments that have occurred this year.

Let me share a few of them with you.

First on the list is that a strong bipartisan support is beginning to surface for our strategic program. Starting with the perceptive recommendations of the Scowcroft Commission, and strengthened by the bipartisan Congressional support in strategic modernization votes in May and July, America has finally begun to forge a national consensus for peace and security.

The MX Peacekeeper program and the development program for a new small, single-warhead missile will complement the B-1 bomber and Trident submarine programs, the other legs of the TRIAD. But, we aren't over the hump yet. There is still work to be done, and I am counting on your continuing and active support as we approach the next legislative round on appropriations for the MX this autumn. If we see this mission through, the combined efforts of this Administration and the Congress will restore the credibility of America's strategic posture, the essential foundation for deterrence and successful negotiations. We have learned over and over again that only common resolve in the West can bring responsiveness from the East.

Fortunately, Western allied unity today is a firm reality. Our negotiations have been preceded by close consultations with the Congress and with our allies. This process has continued during the negotiations in Geneva, and we have given our negotiators the flexibility to explore all possible avenues with the Soviets.

Peace is a beautiful word, but it is also freely used, sometimes even abused. As I have said before, peace is an objective not a policy. Those who fail to understand this do so at their peril. Neville Chamberlain thought of peace as a vague policy in the '30s and the result brought us closer to World War II. Today's so-called peace movement, for all its modern hyp and theatrics, makes the same old mistake. They would wage peace by weakening the free. That just doesn't make sense.

My heart is with those who march for peace. I'd be at the head of the parade if I thought it would really serve the cause of the peace. But the members of the real peace movement, the peacekeepers and peacemakers, are people who understand that peace must be built on strength, and for that the American people and free people everywhere owe you a debt of gratitude.

Like you, our allies remain united in a common effort to strengthen both deterrence and the prospects for arms reduction through negotiations. They recognize the dangers to allied unity of Soviet propaganda and thinly-veiled threats aimed at causing NATO to abandon its dual-track decision to modernize and negotiate. If we lack the will to provide a credible deterrent then we could look forward to evermore aggressive Soviet behavior in the future. Because NATO understands this, NATO will persevere.

When you add it all up, despite the problems, there is strong reason for hope. This Administration has worked very hard over the course of many months to refine our own negotiating objectives and positions. We have developed a sound, well-thought-out strategy to achieve them. We stand united with the Congress and our allies.

Our strategic TRIAD is being modernized. We are negotiating arms reduction in good faith. And there has been encouraging movement in these negotiations. For the first time, in the START negotiations, the Soviets are willing to talk about actual reductions. In Vienna, at the Mutual Balance Force Reduction talks, the Soviet negotiators have shown movement on the verification issues needed to permit us to negotiate reductions in the conventional force safely. There has also been progress in discussing confidence-building measures. All these in-

dicators, modest though they may seem, point in the same positive direction, new hope for arms reductions and a more secure world.

Let's not kid ourselves. There are lots of ambiguities and we are still a long way from agreement. Plenty of tough, hard bargaining remains to be done at the negotiating table. But I can assure you that our highest priority is focused on this, the challenging and important issue of our lifetime, and we are making headway, headway for peace.

Another issue of critical importance to all of Americans, and one I view as the centerpiece of American foreign policy, concerns our responsibility as peacemaker. We can't build a safer world with honorable intentions and good will alone. Achieving the fundamental goals our Nation seeks in world affairs, peace, human rights, economic progress, national independence, and international stability, means supporting our friends and defending our interests. Our commitment as peacemaker is focused on those goals.

Right now this commitment is most visible in Central America, the Middle East and Africa.

Our policy in Central America is to help the people of that troubled region help themselves: To help them build a better life, to help them toward liberty, toward peace, and to help them reverse centuries of poverty and inequity. That is what they want, too. In Costa Rica democracy and respect for human rights are a long and proud tradition. In Honduras democratic institutions are taking root. In El Salvador democracy is beginning to work even in the face of externally supported terrorism and guerrilla warfare.

We know that democracy in Central America will not be built overnight. But, step by step, with humanitarian, economic, and private sector assistance from the United States, it can and will be achieved. That is why we established the Caribbean Basin Initiative, a program designed to help the people in that region help themselves. The Caribbean Basin Initiative is based on a combination of trade and private investment incentives.

We decided to listen and learn what our neighbors have been saying for a long time, that the best thing we could do is to help them build a better, freer life for themselves. We agree, and though you wouldn't know it from some of the coverage, by far the greatest portion of our aid to Central America is humanitarian and economic.

Now, there are some, in Moscow and Havana who don't want to let our Caribbean neighbors solve their problems peacefully. They seek to impose their alien form of totalitarianism with bullets instead of ballots, and that is why we are supporting a security shield for those nations that are threatened. Unless that shield is there, democracy, reform, economic development, and constructive dialogue and negotiations cannot survive and grow. Other than training our own troops, this is the only purpose behind our military exercises, to demonstrate our commitment to the free aspirations and sovereign integrity of our neighbors.

I have said it before and I will say it again, human rights means working at problems not walking away from them. Would America be America if, in their hour of need, we abandon our nearest neighbors? From the tip of Tierra del Fuego to Alaska's Point Barrow, we are all Americans. We worship the same God and cherish the same freedom. Can we stand idly by and allow a totalitarian minority to destroy our common heritage? Our concern is justice.

Has communism ever provided that? Our concern is poverty. Has a communist economic system ever brought prosperity? No. If the United States were to let down the people of Central America, people who are struggling for the democratic values

we share, we would have let ourselves down too. We could never be certain of ourselves, much less of the future, if we turned our back on our nearest neighbor's struggle for peace, freedom, and evolving democracy.

In the Middle East the pursuit of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors remains another fundamental objective of this Administration. Yes, it is a thorny problem and our negotiators have faced serious difficulties over the past two and a half years, but there has also been real progress.

The Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt in April, 1982. This essential step in the establishment of peace between Egypt and Israel would not have been possible without our decision to contribute to the multinational force and observers currently operating in the Sinai.

In Lebanon our Marines continue to serve alongside their French, British and Italian comrades as we work for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from that troubled land. Our joint presence strengthens the resolve of the Lebanese government to assume the tough task of maintaining order.

We Americans covet no foreign territory and we have no intention of becoming policemen to the world. But, as the most powerful country in the West we have a responsibility to help our friends keep the peace, and we should be proud of our achievements.

And especially proud of the fine men and women of our Armed Forces who undertake those tough yet vital tasks.

In Africa we are engaged in a parallel commitment, economic development, the growth of democracies and the peaceful resolution of conflict. Here, too, our emphasis is on developmental and economic assistance. We maintain only a handful of military advisors on the whole African Continent. Our economic aid is four times larger than what we spend on security assistance.

Contrast this with what the Soviet Union is doing. The record shows that since the Soviets began their aid program to Africa in 1954 military aid has outpaced all other Soviet aid by seven to one. Then add more than 40,000 Soviet and surrogate military personnel stationed in Africa and it is no wonder that Africa is rife with conflict and tension.

For our part we are actively working to defuse the tension and conflict in Namibia and Angola while we help fight poverty in the region.

In Chad, the United States is a partner in a multinational economic assistance package designed to get this tragically poor and strife-torn country on its feet. But without protection from external aggression there can be no economic progress. And naked, external aggression is what is taking place in Chad today. Drawing upon the nearly \$10 billion worth of Soviet military equipment and munitions now in Libya, Colonel Qadhafi has been using Soviet-built fighter bombers, T-55 tanks and artillery in a blatant attempt to destroy a legitimate government.

President Habre and the people of his country are truly beleaguered as they struggle to preserve their independence. It is in this context that we have joined a number of other countries in providing emergency security assistance to Chad.

Yes, in Africa there is real reason for concern. But there are also harbingers of hope. Less than two weeks ago I had the pleasure of meeting with President Diouf of Senegal. He is a great man doing a great job. His outstanding leadership has brought Senegal fully into the community of truly democratic states. And a similar democratic success story has just taken place in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, where pre-Parliamentary elections were successfully completed last week.

That's right, there is a democratic revolution going on in this world. It may not grab the headlines but it is there and it is

growing. The tide of history is with the forces of freedom, and so are we.

That's that real message, the overwhelming news story of our time, even though it seldom makes the front page. The light of the democratic ideal is not slowly fading away. It gains in brightness and brilliancy with every passing day. But it needs our care and cultivation.

You know, Mark Twain once remarked that he spent \$25 to research his family tree and then had to spend \$50 to cover it up. Well, America is more fortunate. We can be proud of our heritage and we need never hide from our roots.

The world we live in is not an easy one, but we have inherited a noble mission, a mission that casts a beacon of hope for all the Earth's people. America, more than anything, wants lasting peace, peace with liberty, with justice, and with the freedom to follow the dictates of God and conscience. To succeed we will need wisdom, strength and imagination. We will need patience and vigor. But to seek anything less would be to deny our heritage and the real meaning of our great Nation.

You know, our National Anthem asks a question, "Does that banner still wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave? When Francis Scott Key wrote that he was asking if our Flag was still flying. Today we know the Flag still flies. What we continue to answer is that it waves over a people that are still free and still brave and determined to preserve this land for generations to come.

Thank you for all you and the Legion are doing to help America stay true to this quest, and God bless you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Our next guest has been a long-time friend of The American Legion, a World War II Royal Canadian Air Force veteran, he participated in anti-submarine patrols for the North Atlantic, and in particular the European Theater. He did voluntary duty at the break of the war.

He has been a member of the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada for more than 30 years, moving up through many elected offices, until last year, he was elected Dominion President.

RON DUNNE

Dominion President

Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada

Mr. National Commander, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen and comrades all, it is my pleasure and privilege to bring fraternal greetings to all former comrades in arms of The American Legion from the Officers and members of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada. Although we may not be the largest veterans organization in our country, we are certainly the oldest.

Our main aim and objective is to protect the rights of our fellow ex-servicemen and women and continuously remind our government of the debt that is still owed to those who served our country in time of war.

At this point in time, one of our main problems facing us is the long-term aging veteran. While our Department of Veterans Affairs have active veterans' programs for aged veterans, we are not leaving everything to the government.

The British Columbia command of our association is actively engaged in raising funds to finance research facilities to veterans hospitals in Canada to study this problem.

While our association is non-political, I know the majority of your members support the decision of our government to allow the cold-weather testing of the cruise missile in Alberta.

We deplore the action of some of our fellow citizens in their

protest cases of policies. We recognise the fact that they have a democratic right to protest, but we do not agree with their methods.

These people in turn have to recognise our democratic right to be in favor of development of weapons which are in our own defense, as well as that of the United States.

Many well-intentioned people are only fooling themselves by believing that any agreement made by a dictatorship is worth the paper it is written upon.

We only have to look back to the so-called nonaggression pact signed by Germany and Russia in 1939. History has already shown us the results of that Treaty. After the outbreak of the war, both countries proceeded to carve up Europe. Both sides intended to scrap the Treaty at the first opportunity. It was only a matter of time until one or the other felt they were strong enough to stab the other in the back.

We, who went to war so ill prepared in 1939, recognise the debt that is owed to the United States of America for your support at that time in supplying us weapons, ammunition and equipment, so we at least had some means of defending ourselves.

We also are aware of the terrible pain and human lives lost for listening to the appeasers and for letting down our defenses. At least with them, we were fortunate enough to play catch-up ball. We shall not have the opportunity the next time around.

Since last appearing before you in Chicago, I have had the privileges as well as the sad experience of visiting the battlefields of France and Flanders, where so many of our fore-fathers suffered and died in the First World War, and the beaches of D-Day and Normandy where so many of our comrades suffered death and were disabled and/or imprisoned in the Second World War.

I am sure that no one here wants our children or grandchildren to face the horrors we have seen in wars and campaigns in all three wars in which we have served.

It is our opinion, that as long as we are still allies, friends and neighbors of the United States, in order to prevent such an event taking place, in the best interest of world peace, we must support our government in its deterrent policies.

Thank you, comrades, once again for allowing me to bring greetings to your Association from ours, and I wish you every success in your deliberations in this your 65th Annual Convention

Presentation

Commander Keller, I would like you to accept this small token of our esteem for you and your Association, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you very much. It is a book entitled, "Treasures of Canada."

Ladies and gentlemen, our next guest is making a third visit to The American Legion National Convention. He represents hundreds of thousands of veterans from a country that has been a long-time friend and ally of the United States. He is the former political Vice Minister for our national defense of the Republic of China and Taiwan, and has held many other important defense positions with his government. In his current capacity as Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, he has important responsibilities to the economic well-being of the Republic of China and our military veterans.

GENERAL CHENG WEI-YUAN

Chairman, Vocational Assistance Commission
for Retired Servicemen
Republic of China

... General Cheng Wei-yuan addressed the delegation in Chinese, followed by the following English interpretation by his interpreter:

National Commander Keller, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great honor to attend the Opening Session of the 65th Annual National Convention of The American Legion at Seattle, Washington. On behalf of all the veterans of the Republic of China, I wish to extend our sincere congratulations on this occasion to American veterans, who have come from all over the world, as Delegates to this Convention.

We recognize that, as the world's strategic center has gradually shifted to the Asian-Pacific region in the last decade and the pivotal position of the Western Pacific has become of paramount importance, it is of profound significance that your Annual Convention will consider extremely important policy matters in the areas of foreign relations and national security. Certainly, among your concerns is the relationship between the Republic of China and the United States.

In December 1978, President Carter severed diplomatic relations with the Republic of China, in order to establish an embassy in Peking. Although our traditional relationship suffered considerable damage, the deep and friendly feeling between our two peoples remained intact. To amend the foreign policy deficiencies caused by recognition of Red China, Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act, which was designed to maintain relations between our countries on an unofficial basis and, most importantly, to provide for continuing sales of defensive weapons to the Republic of China.

Fortunately, we had a number of good friends—especially The American Legion—who persistently reminded the Executive Branch that the Republic of China is a valued ally and is the seventh largest trading partner of the United States. President Reagan has begun to take a more realistic approach toward the Republic of China in recent months, as a result of your supportive efforts.

Because of your continuing support, we maintain a spirit of alliance with the United States. We are convinced that the strategic value of Taiwan, described by General Douglas MacArthur as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier", must be integrated into allied plans, for effective utilization in checking Communist expansion in the Asian-Pacific region. The Republic of China wishes to assure the Free World that, in this time of growing Soviet power and influence in the region, we are willing and able to share American responsibilities in maintaining democracy, peace, and security in the Western Pacific.

However, the Republic of China needs a continuous augmentation of military preparedness to maintain national security and prosperity on Taiwan and to assist the United States in strategic defense. For this reason, we welcomed the recent announcement that the United States planned to sell us U.S. \$530 million of weapons, which included anti-aircraft missiles and kits to upgrade our Korean War vintage tanks. We are still awaiting approval of certain other essential defense systems, including the Harpoon anti-ship missile for our navy and improved fighter aircraft to further strengthen our air defenses.

Our two countries, based on traditional friendship and common geopolitical interests, must cooperate, support each other,

and—with one mind, one heart—forge ahead toward our common goals. It is earnestly hoped that on the foundation of our veterans' esprit de corps, we shall continue to expand influence, enlarge fields of cooperation, and generally re-establish the relation of alliance between our two countries, so that we may join forces to safeguard freedom, security, peace and prosperity in the Pacific region.

I wish this Convention great success and I give you all my best regards for your health and happiness.

Presentation

GENERAL CHENG WEI-YUAN (Through interpreter): In recognition of the contribution made by Commander Keller in promotion of friendship between us, we would like to extend our appreciation and best wishes properly expressed by the citation of the *Caveat of the Order of Cloud and Banner* that I have the honor of presenting which reads as follows:

"Mr. Al Keller, Jr., National Commander of The American Legion has distinguished himself by leading American veterans to uphold international justice, safeguard workers in freedom and stand firm in the support of the position of the Republic of China.

"He has also made great contributions in the promotion of the traditional friendship between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of China and to the strengthening of the friendly ties and in cooperation between the veterans of two countries.

"In recognition of this outstanding accomplishment, I take pleasure on behalf of the Government of the Republic of China in presenting Mr. Keller the *Caveat of the Order of Cloud and Banner* with our profound admiration and warm congratulations."

Signed by Chairman General Cheng Wei-yuan, Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen Republic of China, August 23, 1983.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Another representative from an organization from our neighbor to the north is with us this afternoon. He was born in Scotland, and served from 1939 to 1946 with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

He has served at all levels of the command in the Royal Canadian Legion, including zone, District and Provincial Post. He was elected President of Ontario in 1975 and served two years.

Additionally, he was appointed to the Dominion Executive Council, served as Dominion Vice President and First Vice President, and subsequently was elected Dominion President last year.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to a good friend, the Dominion President of the Royal Canadian Legion, Dave Capperault.

DAVE CAPPERAULD Dominion President Royal Canadian Legion

National Commander Keller, distinguished guests, Legionnaires, this is a distinct honor and pleasure to be able to address Delegates to the 86th National Convention of The American Legion here in Seattle, and also to bring you greetings and best wishes from the Royal Canadian Legion.

The Commander gave the secret away when he said where I was born. I thought you wouldn't recognize my distinct Canadian accent and so forth. When you are a Canadian you have a problem from time to time with bilingualism. Now I claim to be a bilingualist, but not in the same language the officials are talking about.

We were your comrades in arms in World War I, World War II and the Korean Conflict. We are equally committed to the preservation of democracy and to our country's commitment to the NATO and NORAD alliances. We consider ourselves members of the same family, and although from time to time we may have family squabbles, these in no way reduce our mutual respect and admiration for each other.

Canadians continue to hold the American people and particularly The American Legion in high esteem. Perhaps the mark of good neighbours is that we can have our differences but we do not let these affect the fundamental mutual respect and understanding that exist.

In 1985 the membership of the Royal Canadian Legion will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee, and for that occasion we have selected the slogan "Pride in our Past-Faith in our Future."

The "Pride" represents 60 years of service to our country, service to our communities and service to our comrades in arms. The "Faith" is in the steps we have taken to insure that the Legion will survive. We have done this by offering the torch of responsibility to our sons and daughters who have willingly accepted the challenge and continue our work in communities throughout Canada. We feel it is an appropriate slogan, not only for our organization, but for our country.

I need not remind you that we live in very complex times. Our ideas of service and sense of duty seem to have eroded—at least they are not the same. We live with a profusion of ideologies and perplexities of change. Our faith in national institutions has sometimes been badly bent. Recent events in the fields of economy, resources, politics and world affairs are confusing to say the least. It is only when we return to our traditions which have stood the test of time, that we feel more secure. It is therefore necessary to rededicate ourselves continually to the reason for our existence—service to our country, service to our community and service to our comrades in arms.

For example, there has been a growing voice from a proportion of our citizens demanding what amounts to "peace at any price." Unfortunately, all governments are influenced by public opinion, and very often it is the squeaky wheel that gets the grease. Those bleeding hearts who believe that members of the Legion are less concerned with maintaining peace than they, are grossly mistaken.

Our past experience of the horrors of wars, our personal sacrifices and the men and women with whom we served are still very real to us. We want peace as much, or more than anyone, but one-sided disarmament is not the answer.

On a more specific matter, we have had a good deal of local protest from anti-war groups in Canada concerning the flight testing the cruise missile in Canada. I think this has been all out of proportion to the real feeling of the majority of the citizens, and has had much immediate coverage.

I thought it was necessary to inform our Federal Government of the Legion's position on this matter, and a letter to Mr. Trudeau, our Prime Minister, made it clear that Canada should honour its commitments to NATO and to our greatest ally, the United States, in fulfilling obligations we had for deference both in North America and in Western Europe.

Again, we veterans who have seen the horrors of war, realize that the maintenance of peace cannot be achieved simply by declaring that we are against war.

There is another matter that is of long-standing interest to the Royal Canadian Legion and concerns our U.S. ally. For many years we have hoped that the U.S. Government would consider the enactment of reciprocal legislation that would extend to Canadian veterans residing in the United States the same general provisions which apply to American veterans who decided to live in Canada.

Without trying to go into any details, the situation in a nutshell is this: The Canadian Government back in the 1960's extended the benefits of the War Veterans Allowance Act, which in your terms deals with non-service-connected pensions, and to U.S. veterans with long-term residency in Canada. The period is now 10 years. This is a benefit that has both an age qualification (60) and also a means test.

As you are no doubt aware, there are many U.S. citizens who served in the Canadian forces during the war where our countries were both involved, and those veterans cannot now qualify for our War Veterans Allowance unless they come back to Canada and have the allowance before they return to the U.S. Even if this arrangement is fulfilled, such a veteran still cannot qualify for any medical treatment in the U.S. from any VA sources, so that is another part of the inequity.

I know there have been many efforts in the past to correct the situation in the form of bills introduced into Congress that have helped to solve the problem, and our close friend Golembieski, former Director of your National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, was one of the most knowledgeable persons on the subject, and who had on occasions appeared before the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives.

I think the up-to-date situation is that a Bill HR-1142 was introduced into the 97th Congress at the request of The American Legion on the 22nd of January, 1961, and we continue to hope that some action may be taken.

These matters obviously come down to a matter of priorities with governments, particularly the problems of physical restraint, and my real plea to you at this time is that efforts continue to keep the request for legislative action alive. If there is something that you feel we can do through any other channels, I hope that you will let us know.

The American Legion has been most gracious in receiving us at your National Convention. We are delighted to attend, because it is another occasion to reinforce the mutual determination on behalf of our veterans. These men, wherever they served in war, answered the call of their Country, and we continue to remember the great sacrifices that they so made. Our cemeteries both at home and abroad are mute testimony to the cost of preserving democracy with eternal vigilance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Our Country is indeed fortunate to count among its friends those such as our distinguished visitor represents. He became President of the Korean Veterans Association a year and a half ago, and at that time he vowed to do his best to maintain and further promote the existing warm friendship and close relationship between our two countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, will you please join me in a warm welcome to the President of the Korean Veterans Association, General Chong-Hwan Kim, General Kim.

**GENERAL CHONG-GENERAL CHONG-HWAN KIM,
ROKA RETIRED**

President, Korean Veterans Association

National Commander Keller, distinguished guests, Delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the 4 million members of the Korean Veterans Association, I am most pleased and honored to have an opportunity to deliver a message of greetings to you at this, your 65th Annual National Convention. Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend our heartfelt thanks to the Officers and members of The American Legion for your strenuous support of the national security of Korea and the promotion of friendly

relations between our two blood pledged nations, and convey our most warm fraternal greetings to you.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Korean Armistice. As you are well aware, the Armistice Agreement is not a peace treaty but a mere agreement between the two sides to stop the military conflict. We have maximized all available efforts to honor the terms of this agreement to keep peace on the Korean peninsula, but North Korea has intentionally made 70,000 violations an average of seven cases daily.

In recent cases, they infiltrated four armed agents within 20 Km north of Seoul, which eventually were discovered and annihilated by our soldiers last May, and three large spy rings were rounded up in the first half of this year. Though it is 30 years since the Armistice Agreement, North Korea, the world's most belligerent communist clique, is only eager in beefing up their military power in order to communize the entire Korean peninsula by force of arms.

Quoting the book, "The Military Balance 1963" published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies of U.K., North Korea has gained superiority over south in military power. By comparison, their powerful ground forces outnumber us by 80,000 men. Their 2,700 tanks, 2.7 times our strength; plus their two-fold artillery fire power add a decisive disparity favoring the north. The communist navy has 30 or more submarines to our none, 25 high speed missile boats—2.5 times our number, twice as many fighter-bombers and 10,000 commandos to be deployed behind our lines in the early stages of a war. In addition to the supremacy of the north, the formidable military power of communist China and Russia, which can breach, within minutes the thin border line in support of the north, constantly keeps us in fear of war.

These facts have been proven by the two North Korean defectors, air force Captain Lee Ung-Pyung who flew his MIG 19 to the south seeking freedom last April and Army Captain Shin Jung-Chul who followed in May.

Thanks to the help from the U.S. and other allies, my country has achieved a remarkable growth in many fields such as politics, economy and so on, to be recognized with an international reputation. Our progress should not be taken lightly. It has taken us 30 years to overcome the devastation of war. Only our national determination and, the strength and will of the Korean people have made it possible. We willingly annually invest 6% of our gross national product to maintain our defense readiness posture. We realize this is the only real deterrent of war. We fully intend to retain what we have achieved and ensure our future prosperity. A basic of military strategy for keeping the peace in an area where two adversaries constantly confront one and other sharply, is to maintain the balance of power.

Dear Legionnaires, to have our right to live insured, we honestly need more Foreign Military Sales Loans, state-of-the-art weapons and technology from the United States of America. I sincerely hope you will provide us with your staunch support and a thorough understanding of our situation. We must beef up our military muscle to attain a balance of power and to secure yours and our national interests in Asia.

I thank you again for your invitation to this significant and colorful event and hope your Convention will prove a successful and rewarding one. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Chair recognizes Mr. James P. Dean, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs for the purpose of making a Report.

**REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE
ON CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

James P. Dean (Mississippi) Chairman
Section I - Credentials

Forty-two members of the Credentials and Other Internal Matters Sections of the Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs met at 9:00 a.m., August 21, 1983, in the Vaahon Room, The Westin Hotel, Seattle, Washington.

James P. Dean of Mississippi was elected Chairman, and Herman G. Harrington of New York was elected Secretary.

Motion was made, seconded and duly carried to approve the membership report of the National Adjutant as of 30 days prior to the National Convention and to base delegate strength to the 66th National Convention upon the provisions of Section 3, Article V, of the National Constitution: five delegates for each Department plus one additional delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the opening of the Convention (July 25, 1983), and one alternate for each delegate. In addition, members of the National Executive Committee, including the National Commander who exercises his vote only in his capacity as Chairman of the National Convention, and five National Vice Commanders are delegates to the National Convention with vote exercised in their Departments.

Total Number of Delegate Votes

Alabama	29	Missouri	64
Alaska	12	Montana	18
Arizona	29	Nebraska	72
Arkansas	34	Nevada	9
California	124	New Hampshire	27
Canada	7	New Jersey	77
Colorado	25	New Mexico	16
Connecticut	32	New York	193
Delaware	11	North Carolina	48
Dist. of Columbia	10	North Dakota	39
Florida	77	Ohio	140
France	10	Oklahoma	45
Georgia	43	Oregon	27
Hawaii	8	Panama	7
Idaho	14	Pennsylvania	248
Illinois	164	Philippines	11
Indiana	131	Puerto Rico	17
Iowa	90	Rhode Island	15
Italy	8	South Carolina	27
Kansas	64	South Dakota	36
Kentucky	35	Tennessee	43
Louisiana	53	Texas	88
Maine	31	Utah	12
Maryland	70	Vermont	21
Massachusetts	68	Virginia	43
Mexico	7	Washington	39
Michigan	79	West Virginia	34
Minnesota	131	Wisconsin	77
Mississippi	29	Wyoming	14
		Totals	2,930

The report was adopted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I would like to recognize Chairman Gary W. Sammons of Michigan, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Rules, for the purpose of making his Report.

**REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE
ON LEGISLATION AND RULES**

Gary W. Sammons (Michigan) Chairman

Your Committee on Legislation and Rules met on August 21, 1983, in the Olympic Room of the Westin Hotel with 43 Departments represented.

The Committee was called to order by E. Philip Riggin who had been appointed by the National Adjutant to serve as Temporary Chairman. After the Committee had been duly formed and guidelines of Committee responsibilities had been read, the election of permanent Officers was held. Gary Sammons of Michigan was elected Chairman and Charles Pessio of New York was elected Secretary.

After adopting the standing Rules of the Convention, the Committee proceeded to consider several pending resolutions. Resolution No. 41 from North Dakota to support retention of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 68 of Oklahoma and No. 467 of New Mexico were essentially identical and sought to designate a Subcommittee in the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees to study the problems associated with veterans unemployment. Both of these resolutions were rejected by the Committee for two principal reasons. First, the House Veterans Affairs Committee already contains a very active Subcommittee which continuously evaluates veterans employment programs. Second, it is clear that Congress is currently devoting a great deal of attention and effort to veterans employment, as demonstrated by the amount of legislation enacted over the past several years.

Apart from the actions taken by the Committee on Legislation and Rules, we wish to briefly discuss our Organization's recent legislative activities in Washington, D.C., and to offer an assessment of several remaining items on the Congressional Agenda this year.

As expected, Congress has spent most of its time over the past three months working on federal budgetary matters. Congress recessed in early August after having approved three appropriations bills. We are pleased to announce that one of them included funding for the Veterans Administration through fiscal year 1984.

Despite our success regarding formal VA appropriations, we will find ourselves in September working to gain Congressional approval of one more major spending initiative in the area of Veterans Affairs. This proposal which was authorized by Congress several weeks ago creates a program of job retraining for veterans who have become unemployed as a result of the recent recession.

We will also be concentrating our efforts on two other appropriations measures and we urge the active participation of all Legionnaires in support of our campaign on both of these issues. First, we will be promoting Congressional approval of funds to produce the MX missile. MX production is expected to be particularly controversial in the House when it's debated on the floor as a portion of the Defense Department appropriations for fiscal year 1984.

It is important that all defense-minded Legionnaires communicate their support for MX production in order to neutralize the effective grass roots efforts of those who advocate an immediate freeze in producing any nuclear weapons. Congressional members, especially in the House, must be advised that immediate freeze supporters do not speak for the majority of Americans.

The American Legion will also be concentrating its efforts in September to insure that Congress approves sufficient appropriations to stabilize nonprofit postal rates. Our Organization

at every level, from the Post to National Headquarters, has felt the burden of increased postal rates over the last several years and most of us know that we would simply be unable to regularly communicate with all of our members if we were required to use full commercial rates.

As with the MX issue, we urge all Legionnaires to communicate with their elected Representatives in Congress by advising them that subsidized mail rates are necessary to allow us to continue our local volunteer service activity. Congress should be told that nonprofit postal appropriations are essentially an investment in the Nation's volunteer community—a community which provides more than \$60 billion annually in service to America.

In closing, we wish to re-emphasize that Congressional disposition of each of these spending proposals will occur in September. It is absolutely essential that The American Legion begin to act immediately to express its support for veterans job training funds, MX production funds, and non-profit postal funds.

The report was adopted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Chair recognizes Mr. James P. Dean of Mississippi, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs, for the purpose of making a Report.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

James P. Dean (Mississippi) Chairman
Section II - Other Internal Matters

Thirty-two resolutions were received and reviewed by the Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section II - Other Internal Matters. Action taken on these resolutions was as follows:

Rejected:

Resolution No. 304 (Illinois)—Urging deletion of the word "department" and insertion of the word "state" with reference to state organization and state officials of The American Legion

Received and Recorded:

Resolution No. 44 (Arizona)—Nomination for National Commander of The American Legion

Resolution No. 72 (Nebraska)—Guidelines for burial of The Unknown Soldier

Resolution No. 168 (South Carolina)—Interment of an Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War in Arlington National Cemetery

Referred to Internal Affairs Commission:

Resolution No. 30 (Wyoming)—Regional Conferences

Resolution No. 34 (New Hampshire)—Korean conflict postage stamp

Resolution No. 25 (New Hampshire)—Oppose any cuts in the postal subsidy funds

Resolution No. 45 (Arizona)—Suggesting a return to area Post and District Commanders seminars in lieu of the regional leadership workshops

Resolution No. 119 (Massachusetts)—Korean conflict postage stamp

Resolution No. 164 (Maine)—Issue a commemorative postage stamp to honor the memory of General Henry Knox

Resolution No. 238 (Pennsylvania)—United States Steel Company

Resolution No. 269 (Virginia)—Opposition to Demonstrations on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Resolution No. 323 (New York)—Support the erection of a national memorial to the four chaplains in Washington, D.C.

Resolution No. 346 (California)—Handling and disposal of hazardous waste material

Resolution No. 348 (California)—Energy

Resolution No. 350 (California)—Korean war memorial

Resolution No. 351 (California)—Designation of the Henley-Hornbrook cemetery in California as a national monument

Resolution No. 387 (Washington)—Korean war memorial

Resolution No. 386 (Washington)—Urge the Congress of the United States to disallow any action that claims any redress or reparations to civilians who were relocated from strategic military zones on the West Coast during World War II

Resolution No. 405 (Texas)—Support the restoration of the Statue of Liberty

Resolution No. 448 (Minnesota)—Korean war memorial

Referred to Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee:

Resolution No. 130 (Massachusetts)—Recognition award for the Post Adjutant and Post Finance Officer

Resolution No. 288 (Wisconsin)—Service star pin

Referred to American Legion Magazine Commission

Resolution No. 81 (Montana)—Urging inclusion of information about Korean War and Vietnam War veterans in American Legion publications

Resolution No. 179 (Ohio)—The American Legion Magazine

Resolution No. 203 (Illinois)—The American Legion Magazine

Referred to Finance Commission:

Resolution No. 346 (California)—Urging that the American Legion initiate a program to establish a national human organ bank for transplant operations

Referred to National Convention Commission:

Resolution No. 309 (Mexico)—Invitation to hold National Convention in Mexico

Referred to Public Relations Commission:

Resolution No. 403 (Idaho)—Publicizing The American Legion in local newspapers

Approved:

Resolution No. 138 Indiana (as amended)—Distribution of Food to the Needy

WHEREAS, There is now a large number of our population unemployed, and many of those having a difficult time to maintain proper food, shelter and warmth for their families; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Agriculture has vast stores of food commodities that should be used before eventual spoils with no definite plan for its distribution to our unemployed and the needy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion urges Posts throughout the country to offer their service and their facilities for the distribution of this food to our needy.

Resolution No. 347 California (as amended)—Energy

WHEREAS, The Department of California has formed an Energy Commission for the purpose of creating an ongoing Energy Conservation Program; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Energy Commission and Committee wish to proceed in a compatible energy program with the National Organization; and

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee of the National Internal Affairs Commission which is devoted to an active energy program has information which would be of help in keeping The American Legion Energy Program compatible in all respects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, That National Headquarters be encouraged to disseminate pertinent information concerning energy programs automatically to all Department Energy Chairmen.

Resolution No. 483 (Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs)—Appreciation to host department city

WHEREAS, The 65th National Convention has been held in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983; and

WHEREAS, There has been a warm feeling of cooperation and friendship evidenced by the Legionnaires of Washington, the officers of the Convention Corporation and the Department, and by the officials and the people of Seattle; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, That we express our deep appreciation to the Department of Washington, the city officials of Seattle, to the 1983 National Convention Corporation of Washington, to local citizens and Legionnaires, and especially to Richard H. Klinge, President of the Corporation and General Convention Chairman; W. H. "Bill" Dunn, Vice President of the Corporation and Assistant Convention Chairman; Terry Minsler, Secretary; James R. Burdett, Treasurer; and E. R. "Andy" Adams, Past Department Commander. Around this nucleus has been built the moving force providing for every necessity for a successful, enjoyable Convention.

The report was adopted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Chair recognizes Mr. Douglas W. Henley of Maryland, Chairman of the National Convention Committee for Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section III, Membership, for the purpose of making a Report.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Douglas W. Henley (Maryland) Chairman
Section III - Membership

Delegates and guests to the 66th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983 forty-seven (47) members of your Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section III, Membership, met at 9:00 A.M., Sunday, August 21, 1983. James L. Adcox (NC), Temporary Chairman called the meeting to order and proceeded to the first order of business of electing a Permanent Chairman and Permanent Secretary.

Douglas W. Henley (MD) was unanimously elected Permanent Chairman. Clayton Mann (TX) was elected Permanent Secretary. Your Committee agreed upon the following report, and submits it for your consideration as Delegates to this Convention. The Roll Call indicated that a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Elmore Meshew (OK) to refer Resolution No. 328 (CO)—"Membership Card Expiration Date" to the Standing Committee on Membership and Post Activities. The motion was seconded and after discussion was passed.

A motion was made by Jay E. Harville (TN) to reject Resolution No. 333 (NY)—"Direct Billing." The motion was seconded and after discussion was unanimously passed. The resolution was rejected because of conflict with The American Legion National Constitution.

A motion was made by Gerald Goetsinger (SD) to reject Resolution No. 480 (NY)—"Membership Card Expiration Date." The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The resolution was rejected because of improper form.

Chairman Douglas W. Henley reported that 1983 membership as of August 17, 1983 was 2,548,133, reflecting a decrease of 35,635 compared to 1982 membership on this same date last year. Progress and status reports were then presented concerning other membership recruitment and renewal programs.

A motion was made and properly seconded that the Committee stand adjourned subject to recall by the Chairman.

The report was adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: At this time I would like to call on a close associate and able Vice Commander H. Melvin Napier of Indiana who will conduct the Membership Awards presentations.

MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER H. MELVIN NAPIER: Thank you, Commander. Ladies and gentlemen, the time has come to honor those Legionnaires who have achieved record numbers in their membership activities this year. It is through efforts such as those for which these Department and District Commanders and Membership Chairmen are being recognized, that The American Legion remains strong. Our membership is the dynamic force that makes this the greatest veterans organization in America, because in our membership is our strength.

The Commanders who are about to be recognized, in addition to their Awards, also will be able to proudly wear the title Mr. Department Commander or Mr. District Commander.

This year there has been a new category added to Membership Awards. Department Membership Chairmen who successfully participated in the 1983 Membership "Wrap Up" Contest also will be recognized today.

Before we get to the official recognitions, let me mention to you that our competition for Post Commanders already has been held and they have received their Awards and honors.

Mr. District Commander Awards

Emilio Garcia, District 10, Department of New Mexico, 114.73%.

Tom Ruff, Western District, Department of Alaska, 112.93%.

Ed Shugda, District 2, Department of Arizona, 105.93%.

Paul Rugers, District 8, Department of Florida, 102.44%

Gary L. Hoffman, Sr., District 3, Department of Maryland, 102.24%.

Department Membership Chairmen Awards

Walter Bumala, Department of Alaska, 106.60%.
 Alex McComber, Department of Canada, 107.79%.
 John Lockhart, Department of Hawaii, 103.99%.
 Sonny Stearna, Department of Arizona, 103.12%.
 Milton Willis, Jr., Department of Vermont, 101.66%.
 John Davis, Department of Nevada, 101.02%.
 Wilbur Walker, Department of Virginia, 100.86%.
 Raymond E. Allen, Department of New Hampshire, 100.57%.
 Richard H. Milbeck, Department of California, 100.503%.
 Lee H. Wall, Department of Mississippi, 100.500%.
 James Loughran, Department of Maryland, 100.15%.
 Donovan L. Orth, Department of Delaware, 100.04%.
 Gene Bosben, Department of Florida, 100.02%.

Mr. Department Commander Awards

Donald A. Drumheller, Department of California, 100.50%, seven day cruise for two.

Charles C. Bender, Department of Maryland, 100.12%, an elegant, walking-length mink coat and a gold ring for his Department's all-time high.

Edwin J. Dants, Department of Virginia, 100.89%, an elegant, walking-length mink coat.

Julian F. Santos, Department of Arizona, 103.12%, an elegant, walking-length mink coat and a gold ring for achieving an all-time high.

Thomas W. Streep, Department of Alaska, 106.60%, a seven day cruise for two and a gold ring for his Department's all-time high.

In addition to those just introduced, James A. Proco, Department of Florida, also receives a gold ring for his Department's all-time high record for 1983.

REPORT ON NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

Eugene V. Lindquist (Minnesota) Chairman

Your Convention Committee on Children & Youth met at 9:00 A.M., August 21, 1983, and organized by electing Eugene V. Lindquist of Minnesota as Chairman and Thomas Gabel of Ohio as Secretary. In attendance were 43 Delegates, along with nine guests. The Delegates agreed upon the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The 1983 National Children & Youth program was a great success. Our National theme—"Threshold of Tomorrow"—was the rallying cry of thousands of volunteers from across our nation. Without the cooperation of volunteers from the American Legion Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty, our National effort would be most difficult. With their assistance, we have reached great heights. Thousands of people giving tens of thousands of hours for children's programs make reports of this nature possible. It takes a lot of dedication as we strive for the ultimate goal of "A Square Deal for Every Child."

Volunteerism is the key to the future success of organizations like ours. The response of our members is critical. This response will come in various forms. If time cannot be given to a project, many of our members support our programs with financial contributions. This type of assistance is always needed, and for the 1982-83 year, the response was phenomenal. With less than 50 percent of our Posts reporting, we tallied over 24 million dollars in cash donations. This monetary outlay represents thousands of projects and special events—a dollar here and a quarter there. It all adds up to victory for our children.

Since the mid-1920's, total expenditures for the Legion, Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty combined have exceeded 479

million dollars. How many children have we helped? How many lives have been saved? How many dreams have come true? A program such as this can only be good for us, and every year hopefully better for those we serve.

The highlight of our total program this past year would have to be our support of the 1983 International Special Olympics Games. Over 700 Legion and Auxiliary volunteers from the Department of Louisiana helped to make these games a tremendous success. Department and local organizations were unparalleled as they dedicated themselves to a successful games. Your National Commander and the National President of the Auxiliary were there as representatives of our organization. We were proud to have been designated as one of the top five national sponsors of Special Olympics. Congratulations and thanks for all your support.

Other successful programs include: Teenage Suicide Prevention, Infant Hearing Assessment and Drug Abuse Prevention. Many hundreds of Posts conducted Children & Youth programs this past year which were not a part of our annual emphasis. We applaud these efforts and any other project that endeavors to reach the young people with productive and meaningful activities.

After concerned deliberations on resolutions assigned to us, your Convention Committee on Children & Youth offers the following recommendations:

Rejected Resolutions:

Resolution No. 330 (New York) National Man Boy Love Association

Resolution No. 8 (Florida) Amerasian Children

Received and Recorded Resolution:

Resolution No. 387 (Wisconsin) Child Pornography

Referred Resolutions:

Resolution No. 46 (Arizona) Youth Employment

Resolution No. 447 (Minnesota) Missing Children

The report was adopted.

* * *

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

IMMEDIATE PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD A. DRUMHELLER, California: Mr. Commander, distinguished members of The American Legion and what is left in the hall of my delegation from California. It was our pleasure at the very beginning of the year to escort you through the great State of California. We enjoyed having you there, and the Department Adjutant Don Don Kelsey and myself present this history book of your travels through the state.

Remember being in the Rose Parade, how cold it was that morning and the floats that went around the corner and hit the corner of the stand you were on, and you enjoyed watching them trying to disconnect the float?

These are some of the things that happened throughout the whole state, and this very one we remember. If you remember Commander Keller has the record of being a prisoner of war. One of the strong things that happened, and I was really delighted that we could do this, you remember that picture? This was a picture painted by a professional artist of the airplane that he flew during the war with the exact markings of his squadron and has some other aircraft on the side as he explained to us later. We enjoyed having you there, Commander, come back any time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I just want you to

know how much I appreciate that. We had ample opportunity on those mornings we were traveling up the state because of the fog, when we couldn't see anything, so we had to talk about membership, and Don said then when the final returns are in California is really going to do a job for you this year, Mr. Commander, and you are going to be proud of what has been accomplished, and as you saw earlier, Commander Drumheller walked up here and received this award, and I want to personally congratulate you and all your members for the job done by all of you.

. . .

Is there any further business to come before this Session of the Convention?

Will the Delegates please join me in a salute to the Flag of the United States of America.

... The delegation stood and saluted the Flag of the United States of America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Convention will stand in recess until 9:00 tomorrow morning.

... At 1:45 P.M. a recess was taken until 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, August 24, 1983.

. . .

PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY SESSION—AUGUST 24, 1983

The Convention was called to order by National Commander Al Keller, Jr. at 9:05 A.M.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Convention will come to order. The Delegates will stand and give a right-hand salute at my command. (The Delegates stood and saluted the Flag.)

Next we will have the Invocation by our Chaplain, Rev. Father John D. Kempf.

INVOCATION

Rev. Father John D. Kempf, Ohio
National Chaplain

Let us pray, Almighty Father, we thank You for the silence and this time to pray.

Father, we thank You for the blessings of this day, for all the blessings you have so graciously bestowed upon us in our life.

We pray that You keep these United States in Your holy protection, cultivate in our citizens the spirit of devotion, obedience to government, love towards all our fellow citizens, and a dedication to the principles of our American heritage.

Watch over our beloved country, Almighty Father. Guard us from the immoral enemies who would destroy our souls. Guard us from the physical enemies, who would seek to destroy our country, denying us of our freedom and the privilege of a free people.

Almighty God, we remember Your admonition in sacred scriptures, in which you instruct us, you know as well as I, if the head of the house knows when the thief was coming, he would not let him break into his house. Keep us strong, reaffirm our faith and dedication to You, our Country and to all peace-loving people of the world.

I would like to leave you with a thought for today. We often associate theology with gray-haired weak-eyed professors pouring over yellow pages of a Greek lexicon. That is unfortunate, because theology means knowledge of God, and knowledge of God is everyone's business, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Convention is now in session.

I would like to announce that we have received several letters addressed to the Convention.

First of all we have a letter from Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington, and it reads:

"Dear Commander Keller:

"Please convey for me, as a United States Senator from Washington state, a warm and hearty welcome to members of The American Legion assembled in Seattle, August 24, 1983 for the annual National Convention.

"I deeply regret that a long-standing commitment to be overseas in connection with my service on the Senate Armed Services Committee makes it impossible for me to be home to welcome everyone personally. Seattle is proud to be the host for this important gathering and I hope everyone has an interesting and enjoyable stay.

"We are proud of you, The American Legion's tireless work and dedication to the principles of peace and liberty over the years and I want to thank you for that support and encourage your efforts in the years ahead.

"With best regards, sincerely yours, Henry M. Jackson, United States Senator."

We have also received a letter from someone who has been with us in past Conventions.

The message from fellow Legionnaire Bowie Kuhn.

"Dear Commander Keller:

"While I am extremely sorry I cannot attend your Seattle convention, I do want to convey the enthusiastic best wishes of this blue cap Legionnaire to you and to all the members of your great organization.

"Thanks to the selfless dedication over the years of thousands of American Legion volunteers, the Legion has produced, developed and nourished one of the finest amateur baseball programs in the world. We in Professional Baseball are particularly aware of the productivity of this program. In 1982 alone 55% of the players who appeared in the Major Leagues had played American Legion baseball as teen-agers. In addition the program has performed superbly in strengthening the moral character and citizenship of the young men who have participated.

"The American Legion and Professional Baseball have come a long, happy road together since 1926. The road ahead is just as promising. May I personally thank you for the unremitting support I have received during my time as Commissioner from The American Legion. It has meant a great deal to me and Professional Baseball.

"I salute you all!

"Sincerely yours, Bowie K. Kuhn."

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Chair would now like to introduce Mr. Daniel J. O'Connor of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Americanism.

REPORT ON COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM

Daniel J. O'Connor, (New York) Chairman

Fifty-one members of your Committee on Americanism met at 9:00 A.M. on August 21, 1983 and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Your Committee organized by electing Daniel J. O'Connor, New York, Chairman, Leo Malloy, Massachusetts, Vice Chairman and Albert Moeller, New Jersey, Secretary.

The Committee divided into Subcommittees with Leo Malloy, Massachusetts, Chairman of the Counter-Subversive Activities Subcommittee, James Gilmore, Oklahoma, Chairman of the Immigration and Naturalization Subcommittee, and William Flowden, South Carolina, Chairman of the Education and Youth Activities Subcommittee.

The Delegates expressed continued support of The American Legion's position on illegal aliens and efforts to control the almost limitless influx of non-citizens, some of whom have criminal and/or subversive records. We make a sharp distinction between those unfortunate who have been persecuted, deprived of their individual civil liberties and driven to the point of loss of life when committed to fragile craft by communist forces in their assault against native Cambodians; we resent the presence of those individuals who served time in jail and were sent

by Castro to the United States—we are in favor of returning them to their own country. We recognize the tremendous contribution of millions who came to our shores in the past two centuries and have woven the fabric of a Nation dedicated to the ideals expressed by our founding fathers and treasured as part of our American heritage and we know that many naturalized Americans have proven to be more patriotic, law-abiding and useful citizens than some native-born Americans.

However, we believe the time-tested procedures leading to American citizenship should not be discarded or ignored. It is high time, we exercised controls over our own borders.

We would strengthen the Immigration Service and provide a realistic budget supporting the work necessary to safeguard our borders. It is time also to reaffirm our welcome to the law-abiding legal resident alien and encourage him or her to learn more about our Constitution, our Flag and our role in world affairs.

We are not opposed to the principle of amnesty because there are deserving and compassionate cases but we are opposed to any legislation which encourages and sanctions blanket amnesty.

It is unfair to the legal aliens who have dutifully awaited their turn under present law to become Americans. I might say it would cost about \$25,000 of Americans' money to feed and house an individual confined to prison.

And we are opposed to any change in the law pertaining to the requirements of the U.S. Government in safeguarding the internal security of the U.S. by infiltration of any criminal or subversive elements who would denigrate the laws of our land.

Let Castro take care of his own problems.

We appeal to all Legionnaires, their families, and friends to communicate with their Congressmen and Congresswomen and make known forcefully and emphatically, The American Legion's position on this subject which is so vital to the American way of life. We appreciate the work of Senator Allan Simpson in introducing legislation containing provisions favorable to The American Legion's mandated position which calls for penalties for those who knowingly employ aliens and which require responsibility on the part of employers to check the identity of job applicants. We regard as specious, the argument that it is too difficult or cumbersome a task to require a frank and truthful answer from job applicants as to their true identity and eligibility. Americans should come first with particular emphasis on the needs of American war veterans. Please note the Office of Management and Budget has projected estimates over a four-year period amounting to ten (10) billion dollars for legislation which subject is a specific part of the new immigration legislation. That estimate is predicated on the cost of federal social benefits which would be available to pardoned illegal aliens, assuming conservatively, and this is, we have six million illegal aliens.

I might pause here to say I remember seeing in the New York Times of August 1, that the Governor of the State of Colorado in a rather emotional attack for being in favor of legislation to control our borders, and in such language as to indicate bias, or even intent on his part.

As American war veterans, we believe the Governor has a right to express himself, because it is every American's right to express freedom of speech without being subject to that kind of an attack.

We urge all Legionnaires to correspond with their Representatives in Congress on their return home and impress upon them the importance of eliminating general amnesty from the provisions of the bill which include our position as previously stated.

The Delegates reiterated our support for a House Internal Security Committee, new guidelines for the F.B.I. in its efforts to control domestic subversion and a citation for Attorney General William French Smith.

The Delegates endorsed the efforts of the National Commission on Education to reverse the downward trend in educational values by improving American education as outlined in the official report to the President.

The Delegates reiterated our position in favor of prayer in public schools, on the restoration of Memorial Day to May 30th and placing emphasis on flying the American Flag and showing respect to our National Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Delegates directed attention to the need for maintaining the playing and singing of the Star Spangled Banner with pride, dignity and respect with emphasis by television cameras on the American Flag and the vocalist instead of on spectators and some sports people whose deportment shows a lack of respect for our National Colors and the National Anthem.

Your Committee considered a total of thirty-eight (38) resolutions and submit the following recommendations:

Three (3) resolutions were approved; seven (7) resolutions were approved as amended; two (2) resolutions were approved as consolidated; eight (8) resolutions were received and recorded; sixteen (16) resolutions were referred to the National Americanism Commission for further study; and two (2) resolutions were rejected.

Approved:

Resolution No. 466 (Missouri)—Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

WHEREAS, The Government of these United States, to reaffirm the sovereignty of our Creator in all governmental affairs of this Nation, did, in 1954, revise the Pledge of Allegiance by inserting the words "under God" as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, Despite various attempts through the media to educate the public as to the correct form for reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the intent of the authors of the revision continues to be thwarted by the insertion of an ungainly phrase after the word "Nation" which tends to both cloud the meaning and disrupt the natural flow of the words; and

WHEREAS, Television news interviews this past winter demonstrated the complete inability of many randomly selected citizens to accurately recite the Pledge of Allegiance in any form; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, universally recognized as one of the largest patriotic organizations in the United States, has sought, through its National Americanism Commission, to assure the education of every citizen in all matters pertaining to the etiquette of displaying and honoring the Flag of our Country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we spearhead a national effort to encourage and teach every citizen of the United States to recite the Pledge of Allegiance correctly; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this effort shall be directed not only toward educating the attendees at all meetings of The American Legion and public gatherings at which members of The American Legion may be officiating, but also toward introducing the

necessary information into the public schools and the various youth groups, so that succeeding generations of Americans will be able to correctly recite the Pledge of Allegiance in a meaningful and enlightened manner; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all levels of The American Legion shall be immediately made aware of this resolution, so that every Legionnaire throughout this land may join in a spontaneous, unified, and continuing effort to achieve this objective.

Resolution No. 106 (National Americanism Commission)—School Prayer

WHEREAS, The Preamble of The American Legion starts with "For God and Country"; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been an advocate of seeking the guidance of God in the affairs of this Nation and for those individuals who serve the people and the Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we reaffirm our support for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would permit voluntary prayer in public buildings.

Resolution No. 496 (National Americanism Commission)—Report of National Commission on Excellence in Education

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a long-standing commitment to improvement in education, as stated in "The Policy on Education"; and

WHEREAS, The final report of the National Commission on Excellence in Education makes several recommendations, all of which are in concert with present American Legion Policy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that it commends and endorses the efforts of the National Commission in Excellence on Education in improving education in the U.S., as evidenced in its official report to the President; and be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion Posts be encouraged to increase their efforts in each community to improve the educational program offered; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President, Secretary of Education and members of the House and Senate Education Committees.

Approved as Amended:

Resolution No. 136 (National Americanism Commission, Indiana)—Support Re-establishment of House Committee on Internal Security

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always recognized the importance of our Congressional investigating committees exposing the truth about subversive activities which contribute to the harm and destruction of our United States Constitutional Government of freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that all U.S. Congressmen are urged to support and co-sponsor House legislation to restore the U.S. House Internal Security Committee.

Resolution No. 110 (National Americanism Commission, D.C.)—Support of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

WHEREAS, The Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, both security agencies of this Nation, perform an essential function to the maintenance of our national security; and

WHEREAS, These agencies are under attack both from ene-

mies of our Country and from misguided idealists; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we call upon the President and the Congress of the United States to immediately take such action as may be appropriate and necessary to strengthen significantly, both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and all other intelligence and security agencies protecting us from foreign espionage, organized crime and subversive activities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we deplore and call for an end to the harassment of the CIA and the FBI and all federal law enforcement agencies.

Resolution No. 306 (National Americanism Commission, Washington)—Commending U.S. Attorney General William French Smith For Issuing New Guidelines To Allow The FBI More Freedom To Investigate Subversive Groups And Individuals

WHEREAS, In 1976, the U.S. Attorney General, issued new guidelines for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These guidelines, severely hampered the activities of the FBI in subversive investigations. Domestic cases prosecuted in 1976 were 4,868. These had dropped to 73 in 1982; and

WHEREAS, On March 7, 1983, U.S. Attorney General William French Smith issued new guidelines, which took effect March 21, 1983. These allow the FBI much more freedom to investigate subversive groups and individuals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we highly commend Attorney General Smith for his action in issuing the new guidelines.

Resolution No. 81 (National Americanism Commission, Oklahoma)—Flag Respect

WHEREAS, The American Flag should at all times be respected with honor and dignity; and

WHEREAS, On many occasions the Flag is misused; and **WHEREAS**, We as Legionnaires should honor, respect and dignify the Flag and its use; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we hereby go on record:

1. That all agencies of government dispose of tattered or worn Flags in the proper manner or turn the Flag over to The American Legion for proper disposal.

2. Resolve The American Legion will accept from governmental agencies or the public worn or untidy Flags; and be it further

RESOLVED, The American Legion call upon the public, especially public officials, to always honor and respect the American Flag.

Resolution No. 22 (National Americanism Commission, New Hampshire)—Oppose Legislation Granting General Amnesty to Illegal Aliens

WHEREAS, Legislation pertaining to the Immigration Reform Act contains a portion which refers to a general amnesty for illegal aliens; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been opposed to a general amnesty for illegal aliens, estimated to number six million; and

WHEREAS, The unemployment rolls of citizens of the United States will be expanded adversely affecting the Vietnam veteran; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1963, that we go on record as opposing a general amnesty for illegal aliens as outlined in current proposed legislation.

Resolution No. 343 (National Americanism Commission, California)—Urging That English Be The Only Language Used On Ballots In Any Federal, State or Local Elections

WHEREAS, The government of the United States derives all its powers through consent of its citizens, whether native or naturalized; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the United States have set this government apart from all others in the world by the adoption of a unique Constitution written in the English language and adopted in that language by the various states; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution guarantees the equality of all its citizens as opposed to preferential consideration for any group, ethnic, religious, or other; and

WHEREAS, Our government conducts all its official proceedings through the adopted English language and communicates its proceedings to the citizenship by use of the English language; and

WHEREAS, Citizens are required to communicate their business with and petitions to government in the English language; and

WHEREAS, The act of casting a ballot by exercise of the vote is the dominate form of the citizens right to communicate their will to government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1963, that English be the only language used on ballots in any federal, state or local elections.

Resolution No. 113 (National Americanism Commission, D.C.)—U.S. Armed Services Voting Rights

WHEREAS, A survey conducted by the Department of Defense Voting Assistance Office indicated that approximately 182,000 military personnel who tried to vote in the 1960 Presidential election were unable to do so because their absentee ballots arrived too late or not at all; and

WHEREAS, Absentee ballots are not actually received in time for qualified personnel to return the completed ballot to be counted, since the ballot must actually be received by election day; and

WHEREAS, Many states mail absentee ballots 30 days before election day, which is inadequate for many military personnel, who meet the voting requirements of the respective states involved, especially those at sea or at isolated overseas duty stations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1963, that The American Legion initiate work with the several state legislatures and federal authorities where applicable, to urge enactment of legislation, wherever a state does not have legislation, to allow the election officials concerned to begin mailing absentee ballots to those state residents who meet the voting criteria of that state and who have an A.P.O., F.P.O. and/or a foreign address, at least 45 days or more before a general election day of the state involved.

Approved as Consolidated

Resolution No. 299 National Americanism Commission, Maryland—Musical Arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner"

WHEREAS, "The Star Spangled Banner" has been played

and sung in the same manner, with solemn pride, dignity, and respect, since it was adopted as our National Anthem; and

WHEREAS, Recently the musical arrangement has been changed and presented in a "rock" fashion. Audiences are verbally cheering during these presentations and disregarding the respect that needs to be shown; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1963, that this version of "Our National Anthem" to be in poor taste. And request that all public presentations of "The Star Spangled Banner" be done in its traditional manner.

Referred to the Standing Commission

Resolution No. 197 (Illinois)—Nad War Criminals.

Resolution No. 265 (Washington)—The American Civil Liberties Union.

Resolution No. 345 (California)—The American Civil Liberties Union.

Resolution No. 363 (California)—Control of Foreign Intelligence Agents.

Resolution No. 398 (Mexico)—Promote the Issuance of Scholarships Within the United States to Talented Students From Abroad.

Resolution No. 464 (California)—Support of the Teaching of Civics and Law-related Education Courses in the Schools.

Resolution No. 237 (Michigan)—Displaying the Flag on U.S. Post Office Buildings on all Legal Holidays.

Resolution No. 178 (Ohio)—Immigration and Naturalization Moratorium.

Resolution No. 201 (Illinois)—Illegal Aliens.

Resolution No. 7 (Florida)—Oppose any Constitutional Amendment Allowing Naturalized Citizens to Become President of the United States.

Resolution No. 156 (Hawaii)—Hold the Oratorical Finals in Hawaii in 1967.

Resolution No. 261 (Virginia)—National Chaplains Conference.

Resolution No. 43 (Louisiana)—Commending "Real People" Television Program Shown the Week of November 11, 1962.

Resolution No. 202 (Illinois)—Commending "Real People" Television Program Shown the Week of November 11, 1962.

Resolution No. 344 (California)—Support of the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF).

Resolution No. 337 (Colorado)—Enact Legislation to Designate May 7 as "Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day" As an Annual Event.

Received and Recorded:

Resolution No. 1 (Panama)—Support of United States Intelligence Agencies.

Resolution No. 236 (Pennsylvania)—Jane Fonda.

Resolution No. 296 (Maryland)—The Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution No. 19 (Philippines)—To Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to Classify as "Special Immigrants" Alien Veterans who Served Honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces Together with Their Spouses and Children, for Admission into the U.S.

Resolution No. 199 (Illinois)—Provide Adequate Funds to

the Immigration and Naturalization Service to Reduce the Influx of Illegal Aliens.

Resolution No. 200 (Illinois)—Illegal Aliens.

Resolution No. 71 (Nebraska)—The National Anthem.

Resolution No. 33 (North Dakota)—Memorial Day.

Rejected:

Resolution No. 446 (Minnesota)—Opposition to the Removal of Religious Programs from Radio Airways of the United States. Reason: Lack of Documentation.

Resolution No. 79 (Montana)—Drug Abuse. Reason: Not germane.

The Delegates on the Americanism Commission felt that we should call your attention to the need for better phraseology, better composition of our resolutions. It is our reaction that we do not need a great multitude of resolutions on the subjects of vital concern, but we need better composed and framed resolutions, so that we may win the respect and the cooperation of all of our neighbors in our home communities to do an even better job for God and Country.

The report was approved.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Ladies and gentlemen, in addition to our involvement with veterans affairs, one of the most important areas of interest of The American Legion is in our Country's youth.

Our first guest is a young man who represents the truest meaning of "God and Country." His youth organization has provided leaders in all walks of our society.

The American Legion sponsors more than 4,000 Boy Scout troops throughout the Nation and I am proud to present to you the young man who holds the title of 1983 American Legion Boy Scout of the Year.

CHRISTOPHER HUGH DAVIES

Scout of the Year

Thank you for the many opportunities which have made scouting such a tremendous part of my life. Together The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America have helped to make good citizens for many many years now, and by doing this a feeling of the patriotism can be felt in both organizations more than any other organization which I know of. Thank you for your tremendous support of scouting. Without The American Legion, scouting in my town wouldn't be possible. I am confident that The American Legion will do a tremendous job in years to come in supporting scouting. Thank you very much. Thank you, Maryland, for doing all that you have for me. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Ladies and gentlemen, from Blacksburg, Virginia, a 16-year-old senior at Blacksburg High school and sponsored by Blacksburg Post No. 182, our 1983 National Oratorical Champion, Keith R. Finch.

KEITH R. FINCH

National Oratorical Contest Winner

I would like to talk to you just a second about your Oratorical Contest and the results that it has had. Now, you might think that all the thousands of hours that you put in and all the thousands of dollars you put into the Oratorical Contest, that one person standing up and talking to you for a few minutes might not be much, but I would like to tell you that what you have done with your Oratorical Contest is something that you can't see but you can feel it. What you have done is to teach the young people of America about what America really

stands for by telling them about the Constitution.

People who are involved in the Oratorical Contest have to learn about the Constitution of the United States in order to take part in the Contest, and, believe me, even if a person doesn't know anything about the policies of the United States, if he knows about the Constitution, and whether or not he agrees with what the President is doing makes no difference because he understands that the people who went before him are responsible for what he has now.

I have learned a great deal about the Constitution through my dealings in the Oratorical Contest. Two years ago, I knew very little about it, now I know a great deal, and there is The American Legion that I have learned about. Two years ago I didn't know very much about The American Legion.

When I found out about the Contest, I asked some of my friends what The American Legion was. They said, "Well, it's another one of those service organizations, just a bunch of veterans who go out and do things and help the community." Well, I found out that The American Legion is not only that, but a great deal more. You are a bunch of people who made their commitment to uphold the Constitution years ago and never forgot that commitment. You are a group of people who have gone out and decided to uphold the Constitution beyond the ability of muscle and sinew, people who have decided to uphold the Constitution with their spirit and by faith, and you are passing on that spirit of patriotism and Americanism to people throughout the entire Country.

I thank you for the gift of your Contest to myself and to the youth of America. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Ladies and gentlemen, a 17-year-old senior at Central Union High School in El Centro, California, and sponsored by Boyce Aten Post 25 in El Centro, our 1983 Boys Nation President, Donal F. Logue.

DONAL F. LOGUE

1983 Boys Nation President

Those of us who attended the Memorial service on Sunday got to hear the National Chaplain, Father Kempf speak about a parable in which an old man was planting a tree. The old man was approached by a younger man who asked, "Why are you planting that young sapling when you will be too old to ever enjoy the benefits of its fruit?"

And the old man simply replied that many many men, many years ago had planted many trees knowing that in the future there would be individuals who are enjoying the fruits from those trees that they were planting.

What I would like to say is that The American Legion is very much like that old man. Indeed, every American veteran has planted his own tree, a tree which has borne the fruits of freedom and democracy, the fruits of which myself and my generation are enjoying today. I would not only like to thank The American Legion for supporting me and the Boys State and Boys Nation program and the many hundreds of thousands who have participated in that program, but I would like to thank them for that very thing, that is, planting those trees so I may have those rewards, and I am very thankful to live in this Country, the greatest in the world, and I feel that thanks is very much due to The American Legion. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Ladies and gentlemen, from the defending American Legion World Series Champion, Boyertown, Pennsylvania, team, a sophomore enrolled on a baseball scholarship at the University of Alabama, from Barco, Pennsylvania, the 1982 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year, Ivan S. Snyder.

IVAN S. SNYDER

1982 Baseball Player of the Year

I stand up here to give you thanks but it seems like thanks isn't enough, but it is all that I have to offer this morning.

I cannot begin to describe the royal treatment I have received here in Seattle. It has been a pleasure and an experience I shall never forget and one that I shall cherish for the rest of my life.

First I must thank God for investing the talent in me to excel in the sport of baseball, a sport that shall never die as long as the American spirit is alive and well.

Next I must thank you, The American Legion, the two-and-a-half million gracious Legionnaires who have made the youth program possible, and I think you ought to be proud of such a number one, first-class organization.

Next I must thank The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania for their gracious hospitality that I received at the State Convention in Pittsburgh this summer, and, of course, I can't forget Alabama.

Next I would like to thank my coach, Charles B. Yoger, Post 471, who was my coach there, and the executive business manager, Petty Tempner who just this year turned 90 years young, and our assistant business manager, Donald Specks who has to wait another 90 years to take the executive position.

Next I would like to thank my coach especially, Mr. Richard Lee. You will never find a man who has more love for the sport of baseball, and you will never find a man who will put more of a commitment into teaching and into turning young boys into young men.

I would like to thank my assistant coach, Riley Howe who helped me in the three-years campaign to become an American Legion baseball player.

Of course, I cannot forget the other 18 members on my baseball team. Such supportive talents which really isolated my own to win this very honorable award. I cannot say this is a personal achievement because without them I would not be able to be standing up here and speaking to you right now.

I would like to thank the people who are very close to me. I would like to thank Donald Schultz, who at that time was my very personal trainer, and my family, my two older sisters and their families, and of course, my parents. I cannot begin to describe the gratitude I feel towards my parents, because they are two beautiful people. I wish they could have been here in Seattle with me, but I know that they are listening to me. They are back in Pennsylvania but they know what I am saying up here and they know my feelings that I feel for them.

So, when you are involved in an athletic sport, there are many thank yous and there are many that I have missed, but at least I do wish to thank you again. God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Now, it is time for you to meet another National Vice Commander. I would like to call our lady member to the rostrum at this time to fill in for me for a few minutes.

This is Margaret Malone of the great State of New Jersey, Margaret.

Presentation

Hearst Americanism Trophy

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MALONE: This is the 45th consecutive year that Hearst Newspaper Enterprises has joined The American Legion in honoring the best Americanism program among our Departments.

The winning Department is selected by the National Ameri-

canism Commission on the basis of total resources, manpower as well as financial, devoted to Americanism activities during the Legion year.

The William Randolph Hearst Americanism trophy is an impressive award named in honor of one of American journalism's most prominent and influential figures. The winner, ladies and gentlemen, of the 1983 Hearst Americanism Award is the Department of Maryland, one of my Departments.

With us today to present the Hearst Americanism trophy on behalf of Hearst Newspaper Enterprises is Mr. Virgil Fassio, Vice President and Publisher of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

VIRGIL FASSIO

Vice President and Publisher
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

I am glad to be here today. I am appearing before you this morning, incidentally, wearing two hats. One really by coincidence. You have already received official welcomes to our state and our city from Governor Spellman, County Executive Revelle and Mayor Royer. In my capacity as current President of the Seattle/King County Convention and Visitors Bureau, I want to add the welcome of the hospitality industry and business community of this area.

We, in Seattle, have fond memories of the Legion Convention held here in 1976. We are honored and proud indeed that this city was selected again just seven years later. Please enjoy your stay.

But, as you know, I am really here today as the Publisher of a Hearst newspaper, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and to present the William Randolph Hearst Americanism trophy, which has been a tradition at National American Legion Conventions for 44 years.

William Randolph Hearst, founder of the Hearst newspapers and the Hearst Corporation, established the Americanism trophy that bears his name in 1939 and the first winner was Pennsylvania.

Hearst was first and foremost for America first and for decades Hearst newspapers were readily identifiable by a spread-winged eagle in their mastheads.

Indeed, from the beginning of his illustrious career, more than 100 years ago, William Randolph Hearst was a firm believer in a strong America. He, perhaps as much as or more than any other American at that time, raised the consciousness of the American people that this Nation should be recognized as a strong world power, and in 1898 he achieved that status following the Spanish-American War.

In the decades that followed, he continued his advocacy of a strong America, of patriotic and demonstrated Americanism, and of a free press so essential to the maintenance of those liberties which we all cherish.

On the walls in the P-I lobby are inscribed these words by Thomas Jefferson: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate for a moment to prefer the latter."

The Hearst newspapers, which during the early decades of this century comprised the largest newspaper group in the land, have always fought vigorously to preserve that free press and the other rights and freedoms guaranteed in our Constitution. It must also be said that all of the newspapers in this land have done the same.

Newspapers take their responsibilities seriously. A newspaper is a unique and personal entity in our society because it is the only private profit-making institution protected by the

Constitution of the United States—because it is a vital and basic source of ideas, information, education, entertainment and enlightenment for untold millions—because it has tremendous influence upon the course of events at every level of society and government, and because a newspaper touches the daily lives of people at every economic level and with every ideological opinion in every community in this Nation.

The freedom to have and to keep such an institution and to enjoy all of our other freedoms is what all of us here in this room have fought for.

No individual or organization has worked harder to preserve these freedoms, inside uniform and, just as significantly in the years afterwards, outside the uniform, than Legionnaires and The American Legion.

In a period when the display of patriotism seems to have diminished, the Nation needs more than ever the Legion's Americanism program which reaches down into every community in this Nation with educational programs to instill a sense of personal obligation to the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship.

In behalf of the Hearst newspapers, I am proud to present the William Randolph Hearst Americanism trophy for having the best Americanism program to the Department of Maryland.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JAMES LOUGHRAN: Thank you very much on behalf of Maryland and its delegation to the 65th annual American Legion National Convention. If I might at this time, I would like to introduce to you our immediate Past Commander, Charles C. Bender. If I may, I would like to thank you very briefly again on behalf of the Department of Maryland and to the 63,610 members, especially those who worked so long and diligently on Americanism programs to make this possible. I gratefully accept this award on their behalf. Thank you so much.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CHARLES C. BENDER, Maryland: Thank you very much. It is an opportunity for me to address this 65th National Convention of The American Legion. I will echo the remarks of our newly elected Commander, Jim Loughran. In Maryland, we have a team and it was definitely a team effort that was responsible for many of the awards that the great Department of Maryland received this past year, not only in the Americanism but in membership and many of the other activities of The American Legion, and I am glad to be a part of such a great team. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MALONE: Almost from the inception of The American Legion 65 years ago, our organization has supported scouting. In fact, it was the first program endorsed by our first Americanism Commission.

Please give a warm welcome to Mr. Clifton E. Simmons, Director of Community Relationships for the Boy Scouts of America.

CLIFTON E. SIMMONS
Director, Community Relationships
Boy Scouts of America

Thanks and good morning. I bring you greetings from the National officers of the Boy Scouts of America who, of course, sent me here for the sole purpose of saying thank you to the many men and women who for the past 70 years have been giving up their time and talents to the program called scouting.

One of the most encouraging developments of the year was

the action taken by The American Legion at their National Convention here in Minneapolis on November 19.

The following resolution was passed:

"RESOLVED, That The American Legion heartily commends the principles and achievements of the Boy Scouts of America and recommends that each Post assist the Boy Scout troops in its community in whatever manner possible. With the cooperation of Lt. Col. Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., son of the twenty-sixth President of the United States and a member of our National Executive Board, plans have been developed whereby each Post will be requested to organize a committee for cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America."

I am so pleased to say that that partnership has produced almost 60 million alumnae. Give yourselves a big hand for that.

Let me tell you about 66 percent of what happens to every 100 boys who come into scouting. We guarantee you a 66 percent return. Two of those 100 boys will become Eagle Scouts. One out of that 100 will be brought before the juvenile court. Twelve will have their first contact with the church. One of those 100 will become a member of the clergy. Eighteen of those boys will develop a hobby that will last them through their adult life. Five of those 100 young men will earn their church religious award. Eight of those young men will have a job that will last them a lifetime that they learned about in the Boy Scouts of America. One will use his scouting skills to save a life. One will use his scouting skills to save his own life, and 17 of those 100 boys will be key volunteers in the community and civic endeavors throughout this great Country.

A favorite quotation of mine of what happens to those boys, "Let me live in the house by the side of the road where the races of men go by, men who are good, men who are bad, men who are weak, men who are strong, men who are as good or as bad as I. I would not sit in a scorners' seat nor would I herald a sign of the past. I just want to live in the house by the side of the road and be a friend of man."

Now, that is what The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America's great partnership has produced, young men, examples that you saw here this morning that would go out and make their mark in this great Country.

We salute you, we thank you and we encourage you to keep on going on behalf of the youth of our.

Commander Keller, if you please, I bring with me a resolution from the National office of the Boy Scouts of America which reads:

WHEREAS, The aims and objectives of the Boy Scouts of America are totally compatible with those of service to youth and the American citizenship programs of The American Legion and

WHEREAS, The American Legion considers the Boy Scouts of America to be a dynamic organization in preserving the youth of America and

WHEREAS, Thousands of American Legion Posts have sponsored Scout units and are continuing to do so, and have contributed significantly of manpower and funds in support of scouting in their communities, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and scouting are dedicated to the advancement of service to youth objectives to the end that more boys in every segment of our society will be involved in their programs and future generations of Americans will be better prepared with the skill and confidence to master the changing demands of America's future and prepared to give leadership to it, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Boy Scouts of America and The American Legion for its support of scouting in their communities since 1919, true sponsorship of Scout units, cooperation

with local Boy Scout organizations and assistance in all areas of scouting, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion maintain and extend its primary relationship with the Boy Scouts of America to achieve mutual aims and objectives and to continue to rank as number one among veterans organizations using scouting.

So on behalf of the National office, I would like to present this to you, Commander Keller.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you, thank you very kindly.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you so much. The next portion of the agenda is a particularly enjoyable one for me. Since our founding 65 years ago, only 79 times has the National Executive Committee organized the award of our highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal. Today, we are honoring its 80th recipient. Admiral Hyman G. Rickover is a pioneer in the truest sense of the word. He is one of only a handful of veterans who has served this Country during each of this century's four wars. Beyond that, he has contributed uniquely to this Country's history.

Under his guidance, wisdom and foresight, the United States Navy pioneered and perfected the use of nuclear propulsion and by so doing, attained for this Country preeminence in the field of Navy nuclear power.

His engineering and administrative leadership in the development of safe and reliable nuclear power and its successful application to America's national security and economic needs, has revolutionized the field of energy.

Through Admiral Rickover's dynamic leadership and professional competence, our Nation's capability to deter aggression has vastly improved and, through its service to the citizens of this great land, he has embodied the truest principles of patriotism.

We also have received several messages of congratulations from members of the United States government.

Allow me to read them. The first one is from Senator Henry M. Jackson.

UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, D.C.

August 18, 1983

Mr. Al Keller, Jr.
National Commander
The American Legion
1606 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Commander Keller:

I very much regret being unable to stand along side my dear friend, Admiral Rickover, as he is presented the American Legion Distinguished Service Award on August 24, 1983 at the annual convention in Seattle.

This is a tremendous honor and I believe Admiral Rickover is richly deserving of it. For more years than either of us care to remember, I have worked with him and watched as he masterfully guided the development of our nation's nuclear Navy. In fact, I think it is fair to say that we could very well not have a nuclear Navy today if a man of Admiral Rickover's tenacity, genius and total dedication had not been in charge of the program. Certainly, without his efforts, our strategic deterrent force would be considerably less credible.

Admiral Rickover's dedication to excellence and his unparalleled managerial abilities created a record of technological achievement that is without peer. But his contributions have

not been limited to merely technical management. My personal belief is that he is truly one of the greatest military leaders in the history of our country and, in fact, is one of the great men of the 20th Century. The nation owes him a profound debt of gratitude for his part in preserving the great freedom we enjoy.

I trust you will express my personal congratulations and deep appreciation to Admiral Rickover as you recognize his many achievements with the presentation of the American Legion Distinguished Service Award.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Henry M. Jackson
Henry M. Jackson, U.S.S.

Additionally, we have received a communication which reads as follows:

"Dear Admiral Rickover,

"I am proud to send warmest greetings and congratulations as you receive The American Legion Distinguished Service Award.

"This Award is a fitting tribute to your many years of service to our country. Your contributions to the security of the United States are many. Yours has been a lifetime of accomplishment and dedication to others. It is my hope that you will continue to meet with much success in every endeavor you pursue.

"Nancy joins me in expressing deep admiration and, again, congratulations.

"Sincerely, Ronald W. Reagan."

Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, it is an honor and distinct privilege to present to Admiral Hyman Rickover, United States Navy retired, the father of nuclear Navy, The American Legion's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Admiral would like to know whether that medal would get him on any bus free. He put the word "free" on the end of that, and I didn't know quite how to answer that question. All right, it is nice to have you with us.

ADMIRAL HYMAN G. RICKOVER
United States Navy Retired

Members of The American Legion, because this Award has been given me in Washington state, Senator Jackson's state, I feel compelled to say a few words about this eminent American lawmaker.

He is a man who knows where he stands on every question of life and affairs. He has a warm heart and a gift for friendship. He is a patriot, a wise, grave, sober-minded statesman.

He remains inflexibly attached to first principles. His chief virtue is courage. Another virtue is honor. When presented before the bar of history, men will have to answer the question, whether in a crisis, they acted honorably. The single central organizing principle of that moral and intellectual universe is a strong, comprehensive and historical imagination. He permits nothing to deter him from doing his duty in the United States. He knows knowledge is preferable to ignorance and that human sympathy is more valuable than ideology, and that is at the heart of The American Legion also.

In spite of the recent advancement of science, man has not changed much, and in consequence, we must still learn from history.

Future generations will remember him for what he has done to preserve our heritage more than anything else.

Now as to The American Legion, the word "patriot" derives from the Greek word, "patros", meaning of or characteristic of

one's forefathers. I give you that that there is such an organization as The American Legion whose object is the security of the United States, and whose imagination means for him accomplishing this which is to promote patriotism. That is, the love of Country among our people.

Now as to the medal. I am honored to receive The American Legion's "Distinguished Service Award." I also felt that in honoring a person, we must remember that all human achievements flow not only from individual efforts, but from associated efforts as well. We the living, are heirs to all the ideas and accomplishments of every human being who has ever lived before.

In accepting this Award, I hope I have contributed in some way to the channel pool of ideas and accomplishments of mankind from which I have so often drawn.

I was on active duty in the United States Navy for 63 years, longer than any military man in the history of our Country.

I am grateful for having been able to serve my Country, and I remain your devoted servant.

No, what do I do?

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Admiral, this may be the one that gets you on the bus free.

I don't know, but it is pretty heavy to carry. But it does say—

ADMIRAL RICKOVER: I tried getting on the bus free, and it has never worked.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: "The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal presented to Admiral Hyman Rickover, United States Navy, Retired, 1983."

Admiral, I present this to you because you are a guardian of freedom, and The American Legion is honored to have this privilege.

ADMIRAL RICKOVER: When I look at this thing, I see a soldier, an airman, but no Navy man.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: You put me on the spot with that.

ADMIRAL RICKOVER: Somebody else ought to be put on the spot. Don't you have a lot of Navy members? I am surprised that none of you were smart enough to see this.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I guess those of us who served in this capacity, since we are all Air Force men, we don't know.

ADMIRAL RICKOVER: Your Army fliers and these aviators that fly, think they are the only ones that are doing anything. Just like the leaders of The American Legion, you think the leaders do it, it is not the leaders, if you don't have all of these followers, you wouldn't get any place.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I agree with you. You didn't leave me much choice, did you?

ADMIRAL RICKOVER: How about making me a member of The American Legion?

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I have just been handed an application for The American Legion. We are going not only to give you this application, because we need your signature, we will find your service record.

ADMIRAL RICKOVER: I hope you don't find my service record.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I am personally going to see that we present you with a paid-up-for-life membership, compliments of all of these Legionnaires.

This is a morning Navy hour. And it gives me the distinct privilege of presenting to you, Mrs. Rickover, who is a 20-year Navy nurse. Mrs. Rickover.

MRS. HYMAN G. RICKOVER

I didn't expect to be introduced, but I am delighted to be here, and of course, my time in the Navy was the most exciting time until I decided to marry my dear husband. Then it became, I don't know what the word is yet—

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you so much.

Our next speaker has a long history of public service. He served ten years in the Mississippi State Senate and was elected to Congress in 1966. Last year, he was reelected to a ninth term. He has served eight terms on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and has been Chairman of that body since 1981.

THE HON. G. V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs U.S. House of Representatives

The American Legion is one of the great organizations, and in fact, it is the largest veterans organization and we need you to get things done in Washington.

I might say that I did have the privilege of being in Chicago last year when you had your National Convention in Chicago. I did make the trip to Honolulu two years ago, and quite frankly, it took me a year to recover.

I don't know how I am going to come out here, but I did still have some problems this morning. I went to The American Legion Southern Caucus this morning with Roy Stone presiding, and I am still shook up.

Let me say that your Girls and Boys State, and I can only state from my state of Mississippi, Girls and Boys State, it is a tremendous program. Keep it up. We are really doing a lot for so many in the Girls program and the Boys program. Don't let anything happen to it.

I have had the privilege in the last six months to visit different veterans hospitals, and I have been impressed by the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary workers there. The Auxiliary is working with our veterans, and I thank you for caring. Congratulations to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Another point I would like to make this morning, and I watched you on television last night. I liked the way you American Legion fellows handled these demonstrators outside this building yesterday.

They are a bunch of nuts, and we have lots of nuts in Washington, and you ought to be there helping. But you handled yourselves well yesterday, God bless you all.

I am certainly proud of my Mississippi Legion, Commander Henry McCoy and Ralph Godwin and others. They work very hard. We have over 70 here I believe from our state.

I commend you for honoring our Country's truly great heroes such as Admiral Rickover, which is a pretty hard act to follow. Admiral Rickover, this morning, the father of our nuclear Navy, and also to space shuttle astronaut Dr. Thagard. And I just had the privilege of meeting Dr. Thagard a few years ago. He is both a man of wisdom and a man of strength and courage. They are the explorers who dare to go where others would not. They are men of character who have strived and succeeded in strengthening this Country's security. We owe them a debt, and I congratulate The American Legion by paying part of this debt by honoring these two great Americans.

You know, we have a mutual goal in The American Legion and myself and the members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. That goal is to see that the veteran has a decent education, decent health care, that they have a decent future.

And ladies and gentlemen, as long as I am Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I am going to see that the veteran is treated fairly in the Congress of the United States.

If this doesn't happen, I am going to raise holy hell on Capitol Hill.

I also support John Paul Hammerschmidt from Arkansas and Alan Simpson in the Senate, certainly strong supporters. And you have heard from Harry Walters who is great on handling veterans programs. We have been very pleased to work with Harry Walters.

Harry covered a number of points that I would have made this morning, and I am going to skip over these detailed points only to say that we have a fair budget. You never get enough money for veterans. But we have been treated pretty fairly in Washington.

In 1984, we will have our largest veterans budget program we have ever had.

I would like to say that we have been awfully busy in the Congress of the United States. Well over 90 bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives, pertaining to veterans and benefits. That is good. And we are passing some of these bills. We are taking a look at some of the bills.

The Administration has worked well with The American Legion, and with your House Veterans Affairs Committee. I would like to point out, we have worked well with this Administration, The American Legion, and the Veterans Affairs Committee.

This Administration told us, The American Legion and the veterans, that we need to cut back in some spending, and we need to look at the cost of living increases for compensation and DIC recipients. We said, fine, we will delay that if you will do the same thing to the Social Security recipients, and the Federal retirees, Federal military retirees—if they will take the same six months delay on compensation benefits in living increases, then we will also do the same thing for the veterans. So that is taking place. So we protected the veterans.

We are not going to do anything different to us that you don't do to others who receive these cost of living increases.

So I can pretty well safely say that on April 1, there will be an across-the-board living increase of around 3.5 percent for the compensation and for the DIC beneficiaries, and it will be effective April 1.

Now this Administration set up legislation to curb our requests that went to the Budget Committee. We shot it down immediately. I want to make that point. It said that we think this Administration said this, we think that the cost of living increases in the future, full cost of living increases should be given only to the 100 percent service-connected, and the veteran who is 50 percent service-connected will only receive 50 percent cost of living increase. We said no sir, we are not going to accept that. That was shot down. And you will receive the full cost of living increase, which is only fair.

Gary Simmons of Michigan, the Chairman of the Legislative Committee, will talk to you about some of these bills that I will now mention, Jobs Bill for Veterans. Congressman Marvin Leath of Texas and myself, who is Chairman of one of my Subcommittees, we were looking at the unemployment situation back in February of veterans. It was shocking to see that the Vietnam veteran was having a harder time getting a job than the non-Vietnam veteran. So we introduced the Veterans Bill and the bill has been enacted. The President signed it, as you recall, about a week ago. At first, he did not support it, but he did sign the bill.

Now for a Jobs Bill for Veterans, we still need The American Legion to help us get the bill funded. It will cost \$180 million in 1984, and \$150 million in 1985. It is a two-year bill. We think it will help the Vietnam veteran and the Korean veteran and the service-connected veteran in that it will pay part of their salaries for the veteran who gets the job, and part of the salary is for his training or her training. Also, it will provide funds for vocational education to teach the veteran a new skill so that they can get jobs.

This bill has a lot of merit to it. We appreciate your support for the Veterans Jobs Bill.

Another matter, Judicial Review. I won't go into the details of it. Most of you understand totally what Judicial Review is. Your American Legion did not support a resolution calling for Judicial Review, where claims would be thrown into the Federal Courts if they cannot be settled by the Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C., or by the Regional offices back in the different states. It sounds pretty good, but my fellow Legionnaires, take a good hard look at it. I am afraid it will add more time to settle a claim for the veteran. We would probably in Congress do away with the Veterans Appeal Board. You don't need another layer of government. And therefore, that would do away with the Service Officers program. The Service Officers program is one of the best programs that we have ever had. Be careful on Judicial Review.

On construction, I have to say that the Administration has been tremendous. In the fiscal year 1984, we will have well over \$700 million to spend on medical care improvement. We need it. And certainly, we are going to have to restore the medical care facilities for our veterans.

One other matter, Congressman Richard Shelby of Alabama, a member of my Committee, and Chairman of one of our Subcommittees, we passed legislation out of the House of Representatives pending in the Senate now, which has a lot of merit to it. It would, on some guaranteed G.I. home loans, who are facing foreclosure, it would set up some assistance, not a grant, to have to pay back these monthly payments.

We found out that some veterans have made some good payments on their houses over the years—they have lost their jobs, and they are in trouble. We think foreclosure is really not the answer. This will slow down foreclosure. It has some merit. It is pending in the Senate.

Now talking about another subject which is very emotional, Agent Orange, and I would like to briefly talk about that to you. Tom Daschle of South Dakota, a member of our Committee, has introduced a bill called the Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Relief Act, and in the Subcommittee, which was chaired by Mr. Applegate of Ohio, he offered an amendment, which in effect said that under the Agent Orange Act, it provided for a disability allowance rather than opening up the compensation section of the bill, and it would provide a disability allowance, and it would cover three areas of Agent Orange that could have been contracted in Southeast Asia. One would be the soft-tissue sarcoma, PCT, a liver condition and chloracne, a skin condition. These are benefits that would terminate one year after the Agent Orange reports have been fully brought before the Congress of the United States.

Now let me say that a recent Air Force study called "Operation Ranch Hand," and there were 1,200 of these persons in Vietnam who handled Agent Orange, and they put it in aircraft, and sprayed it from the aircraft. The report said that the death rate among personnel who were heavily exposed to Agent Orange death rate had been no higher, in fact, it has been less

than the death rate among other servicemen who were in Vietnam at the same time.

Still, this report is not conclusive. It was one of the first reports. And we have the Center for Disease Control. Our Committee took the study out of the Veterans Administration, and asked it to be done by the Disease Control Center in Atlanta. We are going to spend \$100 million on this report.

I think probably we should wait until these reports come out. Mr. Commander, I want to commend The American Legion. You are one of the few organizations that has asked for a study. We are waiting also on your study. It is costing The American Legion some money, but I think it is worth it, and I commend you for your action on this study on Agent Orange. We think these studies should be completed by 1987 on Agent Orange.

Let me talk to you, Mr. Commander, a word or two about a problem that we are going to have. We are all getting a little bit older, and we think in Washington, they should be taking care of domiciliary care, and nursing care and outpatient clinics and drugs. We are certainly going to watch the drug program for your buddies, as I have just mentioned.

Now let me close on this topic, where I mentioned several areas talking about the defense of this Country, and thank God for The American Legion that actually takes a position for a strong military defense. Not many organizations in this Country speak up for a strong military defense.

You know, dealing with the Soviet Union, they only understand military strength. If you deal from weakness with the Soviet Union, our Nation is going to get in trouble.

So we have to deal from military strength.

Whatever we can find out that the Soviet Union is cutting back on, their military hardware and personnel and on through their nuclear weapons, if we find it out, we will do the same thing in Congress. We will follow suit immediately and start cutting back, but until they do so, we have no choice.

The only way to have freedom in the major nations is to deal from military strength. We have no choice. That is for our support.

Thank you for helping us keep the Selective Service organizations going. It costs about \$700 million a year, not a lot of money in Washington, but we have members who would like to do away with the Selective Service system. We have to have these young men age 18 registered. The information is very valuable, and also, we need to use it on the Solomon amendment. What is the Solomon amendment? It is an amendment, and it is law now that says that if a young man does not register with the Selective Service system, he is not eligible for college grants or loans.

This is nothing but right. I hope the volunteer system will work. It is working now, because people need jobs and we are in a recession.

Mr. Commander, we better closely watch the volunteer system and be prepared if we have to, to go back to a draft or a limited draft. We are ready to do it. We may have to, because our comrades in arms are doing well, but they are not completely fighting you and we hope we all come out of this recession okay and we can go back to work. We have to keep abreast of the military so that we can keep the ranks up.

You mentioned last night that the President did not touch on the Philippine situation and we didn't ask what is going to happen in the Philippines. Since the assassination of Senor Aquino, well, you know, I don't know President Marcos had anything to do with the death or not. If he did, it would have to be classified as one of the all-time political blunders.

You know, his government has the responsibility of protecting political persons. But you know, in this country, and this is

my point, I think here today, that we should not overreact, because there has been some stability in that country over the years. We have two bases that are key bases as far as the Pacific, and that part of the world for strategic protection of this Country, and that is Clark Air Force Base—which some of you have been stationed at, and at Subic Bay, where we have our naval facility. So let's wait and see what these reports and investigations say.

We do hope that we can have some stability in that country. We don't want to make it practically impossible for us to keep our bases in that part of the world, and they are two of our key military bases around the world.

Let me say, as far as Central America is concerned, and I know your chief touched on that yesterday, that I think the President is right in his stand on Central America.

We need to give military aid in my opinion, to El Salvador and Honduras, and we also need to give American military trainers to that personnel. Yes, it will cost a little money up front, but it will do two things in my opinion.

Let me say, we don't need to send American troops and put them on the ground as we did in Vietnam. We need to make El Salvador and Honduras to do their own fighting, but they do need military help and they do need military trainers. Two things could happen down here. If we don't get involved, and we don't get involved now, is that the Soviet Union and Cuba, that bloc will move in and take over those countries. And what happens after that? That triggers an influx of refugees coming from Central America into this Country. And quite frankly, we cannot have any more refugees in this Country. We have almost had too many as it is.

These people are not coming by boat, they are coming right from Mexico, and they come by pickup trucks, and they are crossing the Rio Grande, and they are coming into the United States, and they go right on welfare, food stamps and Social Security. We just can't handle them. So it is for you to try and train these people. I am not going to say that it is going to work, but it is better to try to bring stabilization to these Central American countries, and we will be better off in the long run.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity for being here. It is a highlight for me to talk to The American Legion. God bless you, and I love you all.

Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you now the newly elected Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Mr. Fred Hartline of Ohio.

FRED HARTLINE
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

Before I give you my outline this year of the program that I have developed for the National organization, the Sons of The American Legion, I would like to say thank you to two distinct people:

One is a couple of people, and one is an individual person, who have guided me in the last 12 years in my rise to National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. One is the great Department of Ohio. I would not be here today without them. Thank you.

And another individual I heard speak at the first SAL Convention in Ohio in 1969. He told me, he says, if you have a dream, live for it, believe in the Man upstairs, and you will achieve it. Father Kempf, I thank you very much.

The National organization of the Sons of The American Le-

gion this year has taken a new turn. I have a challenge as my project. Every member of the Sons of The American Legion is to put in a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer time in a veterans hospital in his area. My project will be rehabilitation of the veterans in all aspects of the Veterans Administration.

We owe so much to the veterans; we owe so much to The American Legion. Our Preamble says, proud possessors of a prestigious heritage, possessors of a heritage of the members of The American Legion.

You have given us so much, you have given us the red, white and blue, that is something that I'll never forget, nor will the members of the Sons of The American Legion ever forget it.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy said it in 1961, let the word go forth that this time and place to generations and to nations and the torch has passed, to the new generation.

After all, the torch that is passed to the Sons of The American Legion, we will pass it down to those who come up behind us to see that The American Legion will never die.

Before I close, I would like to say thank you to everybody, but I would like to introduce a guiding force behind me. The day we were married, she knew nothing of what The American Legion was. We were married on one Saturday and the following Saturday I had a Department Convention of The American Legion, and that was our honeymoon. That is my wife, Jackie.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Ladies and gentlemen, just two months ago today, our next guest returned to earth from a seven-day trip into space.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give your warmest welcome for one of this Country's newest pioneers, physician and astronaut aboard the space shuttle, Challenger 2, Dr. Norman Thagard.

DR. NORMAN THAGARD
Astronaut/Physician
Space Shuttle Challenger 2

It is clearly a pleasure and an honor to address such a large group, certainly and such a fine group that means so much to the United States.

I am going to sort of give you a different speech this morning. It is going to be more of a report. It is going to be what I did on my summer vacation.

I will start by giving a little background. First of all, these crews for the missions are normally named about one year ahead of time. Originally, the launch date was to have been April of this year, so the original four people in the crew, not five, but four, were named in April of last year.

It turned out that after the crew was named, I became the support crew that are to wait until December. Then I guess even out of the hardship comes some good things which came about, and certainly they did for me. We had a little problem on the fifth flight last year, in which a couple of the crew members were ill, which resulted in a one-day delay, and as a result of that, NASA decided that a medical doctor should accompany the mission on the seventh and eighth flight.

They looked around, and they added me as the medical doctor to the flight. It was only about four months away. That is awful short notice, but they wanted a medical doctor for the support crew on the flight, and guess who that was.

And last December I was added to the crew.

Secondly, it was the number seven flight.

Well, in April of 1983, the sixth flight finally launched, after a couple of months delay, due to main engine problems you may remember. But on the 18th of June of this year, at 7:33 Eastern Daylight Time, the Challenger lifted off for its second flight into space. Of course, as usual, not even everything is ex-

actly on time. It turns out we were .0033 of a second late when we lifted off, but I hope we are forgiven for this little tardiness.

The mission was characterized as a number of firsts. First of all, we were the first five-person crew, the first flight for a female into space; first flight for what we call the class of 1978, which I am a member. There were 35 accepted as astronauts back in 1978; the first selection there for about two years. It was to be the first flight in which we did what we call proximity operations, and basically that is where we released another satellite or fly near another satellite, and even fly around it. It was the first flight scheduled to arrive at the Kennedy Space Center, and I will have more on that in a minute, and as a final first, it was my first flight.

I am going to give you a description of the flight from my perspective, and I will sort of do it on a day-to-day basis. First of all, I will tell you what is an ascent. An ascent is really, it is quite an experience indeed. I remember the OTC, which is the on the test conduct of the indication around all the members of the flight. They had all the people looking at the consoles, looking at the various orbiter systems to make sure that everything is okay. And at that point, during that ten-minute hold, nine minutes before liftoff, he asked each one to clearly look at all their instruments and to tell him if there is any reason why the launch ought to be aborted or held.

I have been asked what were you thinking about just before the liftoff, were you nervous? Were you changing your mind? Were you having second thoughts? Well, I think I can speak for the rest of the crew by saying that the test conduct posed that question to all the members of his group, and my thought was, we don't ask questions like that. Somebody is just going to find some reason to stop this. Let's go ahead and do it. And fortunately, no such occurrence happened, and we lifted off on time.

At the main engine ignition, you do get some sound, and you also get some slight movement of the vehicle, but it really is spectacular. However, the computer monitor that makes the engine come up to stress, and if they have it, then it sends the firing thrust of two-and-a-half million pounds. Believe me, when those ignite, the shuttle is going to go someplace. You may not know where, but it is not going to stay on the pad with that much thrust.

The vehicle literally leaped off the pad, and I was looking out the window and I was watching the tower. It shook and it shuddered past, and it looked like we were clearing the tower in a hurry.

Right after we cleared the tower, it was then that we made some of our tests. So I executed a hold maneuver, and we did that, and there were some clouds right around us, and it was not difficult, and I could clearly see the roll maneuver. At about one-and-a-half minute off.

That is when we get our maximum dynamic pressure, at that point, it means the wind pressures are the greatest and the gravitation is the most, and the vibration was there, and there was a lot of wind noise, and vibration at that point.

However, it was nothing out of the ordinary, and it was certainly not in the least bit scary. At about two minutes our solid boosters burned out, and of course, they were jettisoned and they were jettisoned into the ocean, and some specks appeared on the window, probably some material from the separation of the rockets and the solid jettisons. Those things are by the way parachuted down into the Atlantic Ocean, and they are used again. The solid rockets on our vehicle had actually been used on an earlier flight.

At about eight minutes and 20 seconds after liftoff, we executed all the maneuvers to bring us into full use of oxygen and hydrogen. We are near orbit at that point.

Then we jettisoned the last tank that we had, and it burned up on reentry over the Indian Ocean. After we did that, we fired our 6,000 thrust rockets ohms. That maneuvers us into the final orbit, and the movement is not too great, with only 12,000 pounds of thrust.

After this, we are in orbit, some ten or 11 minutes after liftoff. We were doing between 17,000 and 18,000 miles an hour, and we were not coming back to earth at that point without doing so intentionally.

Once we got into orbit, I saw some reports from the media that said I didn't have much to do as I was just going along as a medical officer. I was just there twiddling my thumbs. And I am here to say that that is not true. I probably worked as hard as I ever had. For one thing, all of my experiments had to be spread out of the lockers, had to be set up, which was a fairly elaborate setup. And then I immediately had to start performing the processes involving in taking the pictures. We had over 1,600 still pictures taken in 35-millimeter, 70-millimeter, and 60-millimeter and also television and video tapes, that sort of thing.

So I was real busy photocopying for a lot of this time while we were going into orbit.

At about eight-and-a-half hours after lifting off, we delivered one of our two satellites called the Antares which was launched for the Canadian government. That satellite is now in geosync orbit, and it is providing communications basically for television and telephone to much of northern Canada, and some parts, I understand, of the northeastern United States.

I had a number of experiences I mentioned, and I will just tell you that I was sent up on this flight to look into this thing called space adaptation syndrome. About half of the astronauts had reported being sick after about a half a day into space. And so, I was there to monitor their flight motion. I was to measure the adaptation theory, the one is called the space conduit theory, which says that all of a sudden, the relationship between your system of balance and your eyes and your body in the suspended position, since that has changed, for whatever reason, that produces a stress, which causes some people to be sick.

So I did some experiments such as the electro-oculogram to measure the eyes, to look into the eyes and test them. The other principal theory is one that if you have shifted your body, the fluids flow from the lower parts of the body and extremities and causes them to flow up to the head. And the theory of that fluid shift causes a problem producing sickness to astronauts.

I had a photometer, and I looked in the eyes, which is a little thing that focuses on their eyes. And I had an audiometer and also a tonometer which just measures tissue pressure, and also something called a stocking pressure register, and that is nothing more than the stocking you put on them and then measure the diameter of the leg at various places and also the leg.

I also had some other medical tests, to see if our pharmaceutical apparatus on board could be used to separate cells in some future experiments. We checked their vision acuity to see if the astronauts lose some ability to focus in space, because of a complaint that had been registered on an earlier flight, and then some ambulatory monitoring that measured the heart pressure.

In a summary of the first days, we were extremely busy. We had no extremely difficult anomalies. The difficulties I had with the audio potential turned out to be a bad electrode, and I didn't recognize that until the second day, but other than that first day, everything really went well.

The second day also was busy. We had 26 hours after liftoff, we ran the second of our two payloads, and which was the satellite launched for the Indonesian government. And I am happy that

it went into geosync over Indonesia providing television and telephone communications to a nation that is fairly scattered over a huge number of islands. And in some cases now, there are areas in that country which have advanced communications, where none existed before.

I think if you looked for a positive aspect of the shuttle program, certainly this business of launching communication satellites around the world is one, and that has got to be a big plus for the space program.

As I said earlier, I did a lot of photo documentation. Virtually all medical VSO has to be performed as I already mentioned. I made the audio potential electrodes, and after that, I never had problems in the rest of the trip with any of the equipment.

Remote manipulation system, which is the 50-foot arm produced by the Canadian government, worked fine, and then we had the satellite which is a German satellite that sits back there in the payload bay. And then we launched that and that was from the Office of Science and Technology, and that was a little satellite we carried in our payload bay. We had many material experiments on it.

The second day, a good report, no significant anomalies.

The third day was most relaxed, and I think I would like to tell you now that for the first two days, I had, as I earlier mentioned, I was very busy. I had been working, and everybody was getting up and able to spend a little time working on projects, and Commander Bob Crippin said, you have got to get up and look out and see what's going on, you can't miss that.

So finally on the third day, I had a little time, and went up, and I sat down like we usually are, and so I just turned myself upside down and at this point, I was in the pilot's seat, and with the windows down in the vehicle downward, it was sort of like being in the gondola of those old dirigibles or blimps and looking at the world from 160 miles up—well, we were 162 statute miles, and it was some kind of a fantastic experience. And I am looking forward to repeating it again.

On the third day, additionally, we went through eight experiments in regard to solar cell calibrations, to mass spectrometry on some material science processes. We continued those two activities. We activated those things that look like oil cans that fit back in the bay. We had seven of those. One of them, you may recall, was the one with the ants in it, the ones that the students from two high schools in New Jersey had worked on and we had put them on board. And then we were doing so-called the MLR, which is a manufacturing plant that we carry in the bay. It turns out that these have a lot of application in science and medicine, and we started working on those. Then the captain reduced the atmosphere from the normal 17.7 down to 10.2. And at this time, I had an optometric drum, which was just inflated earlier. Well, I had inflated it on the first day when the atmosphere was 14.7. Well, he decreased the cabin pressure to 10.2 and the cylinder was more like this. I think we caught it just in time before the whole thing exploded.

The third day, we also lost one of our cathary tubes, which is the way we talk with our own onboard computer, and we noticed a small pit on the pilot's window, and we think we might have gotten that from a micro-meteorite on the third day.

Fortunately, as most of the particles are, this one was extremely small and caused no significant damage.

Day four was also relaxed. We did the first three hours of that electrophoresis, which is the pharmaceutical plant that we carry on board, that is sort of exciting, because it turns out there are some very important pharmaceutical experiences using that system that on earth are not feasible. In fact, I think that the relative efficiency of that process in space is anywhere from 400 to 800 times where it is on earth.

Day five was probably our busiest day, and that is one in which I probably paid the flight the most attention. That was one where we took the satellite out of the bay and released it, and flew around it. In the morning, Bob Crippin flew around it, and while Bob Crippin operated the rotary arm, we released it and flew 200 feet around it and moved into transition up to 1,000 feet in front of it and stayed up there around three hours, and then moved in back of it, and grabbed it again. After that, I set up, and we went up there and released it and backed up and waited a while, and there we put in rotation in space that system which had its own attitude and then Sally made the rotation, and when it rotated, we went back in and grabbed it again and we went around it.

After lunch, Rick Hall, the pilot had the wheel while Sally operated the vehicle, and pendament study, which released it and we moved away, and purposely fired jets at it, and that was important, because we plan to use the shuttle next year on flight 13 to go back and grab six satellites and repair them. If we can't repair them there, we want to bring them back to earth. So really, we needed to demonstrate that the Challenger has the capability of flying close proximity to satellites, some of which may not have an attitude control system in such a manner, not to disturb it. In other words, you are going to get up close, and you are going to send this thing into a huge spin, and then the shuttle may not be used in that situation. It turns out that the shuttle was a very good vehicle for operating close to others, and we don't think we are going to have problems with any of these future attempts to do repairs on satellites or bring them back to earth for repair.

Day five was also very like the others, we already, or finally ran the tests with the R and S, that was the robot. We stored our antenna, which is the radar that we had on board, that we used which told us how far we were away from the satellite, and we started getting ready to come in. I did a checkout myself in space. John Fabrian and I were designated to go out on the space walk if that became necessary. We had not one planned, but there are some failures that can occur outside the vehicle for which we would go out and effect repairs.

The shuttle checked out fine, which was good, and since we had no plans early in the flight, that we wouldn't have to go outside. Then we had a flight control checkout, that we had the APU project, and that was one of the ones that gives us our hydraulic pressure, which provides the hydraulic pressure which with all the other R programs, we absolutely need those for reentry.

Anyhow, it was that program with this APU, one of them, that ultimately it is that caused a further problem on the next day.

On the seventh day—of course, that was reentry day. It was both exciting and disappointing for me. We had planned to end at Rev 96 and I expected my first shuttle mission to land there. As a native Floridian, you can imagine I really wanted to go back there.

However, we passed over the Cape on Rev 96, and they already told us we couldn't come in then because of the weather, and the Commander said, "I am not going to land there." It did not look good at all because if we were landing slow, it might have damaged the shuttle had we tried to reenter. So we went into Rev 97 and came around on the next rev. And the weather hadn't improved at all. Ordinarily what we would have done is waited until the next day, we had plenty of consumable food and fuel and whatnot to stay up an extra day or two, and we simply would have waited for better weather conditions.

The next morning it turned out the weather was still bad unfortunately and probably the APU kept us from doing that. We

had a flight rule that says that for problems like that, we would not delay an extra day. We would go ahead and land at the earliest opportunity, and the earliest opportunity, of course, proved to be at the end of Rev 98 at Edwards Air Force Base, and we touched down there shortly after dawn on the 24th of June of this year.

The only anomaly we found after we landed, and we didn't know it before, was that the right brake, apparently one of the two right brakes had crumbled and come apart. I didn't mention the biggest problem I thought was on the fifth day when out toilet sort of quit working as it normally would. Ground Control said not to worry, but to continue to use it. I said that was not aesthetically pleasing, I think I will wait until I get back home, and it's amazing what willpower will do for you.

Anyhow, despite the disappointment I was really both a little angry and disappointed at landing at Edwards Air Force Base, but as soon as we touched down, my mood changed to that of being ecstatic, and coming back on the airplane to Houston later that morning, Crip looked at me, you know, "You are so high you are never going to go to sleep." Everybody else was already asleep on the airplane. About five or ten minutes after I was sound asleep with all the rest of them. That is my report on my summer vacation.

I have a couple of more words I would like to say. I was impressed, as I said, up here on the podium this morning that we often miss the point entirely about technological achievement for which we Americans are so famous. We think it indicates tremendous sophistication, and perhaps technically it does, but I think it demonstrates a profound simplicity that is inherent in our American society. It is a simplicity which this great American Legion promotes admirably. It is a simplicity of high ideals and of incredible achievements by the men and women who are simply honest and straightforward, hard-working and patriotic people, these virtues that built that magnificent flying machine that I was privileged to fly in, and I think we can all be proud of that. Thank you.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you so very much, Dr. Thagard. Before we let you leave here, we have something for you. To commemorate your visit and to offer our thanks for your efforts on behalf of us all, I would like to present you with this special plaque.

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Veterans employment is an earned right to all citizens of this Country who have sacrificed time, opportunity, and, sometimes, their jobs to serve America in time of war.

One of the ways we have of recognizing those employers who assist us by providing jobs for veterans is through our Employer of the Year Awards. These organizations have achieved outstanding records in the area of hiring veterans, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor them as 1982 Employers of the Year.

The Award is given in two categories: This year, the Award in the over 200 category goes to Fraser Paper Limited, of Madawaska, Maine.

From a total work force of 1,147, 702 men and 62 women, more than two-thirds of their employees, are veterans. That is a record of which they can be extremely proud.

The Employer of the Year in the under 200 category goes to Stratagraph Incorporated, of Lafayette, Louisiana. Of their 193

male employees, 80 percent are veterans. That, indeed, is impressive.

Mr. McLean and Mr. Jeansonne, these Awards carry with them the gratitude and esteem of all Legionnaires, and are inscribed, "The American Legion National Award 1982 Presented to Fraser Paper, Ltd., of Madawaska, Maine, For an Exceptional Record in the Employment of Veterans."

The other one, "The American Legion National Award, Outstanding Employer of the Year, 1982, Presented to Stratagraph, Inc., Lafayette, Louisiana, For an Exceptional Record in the Employment of Veterans."

MR. REGAL McLEAN: Thank you, Commander Keller. Madawaska, Maine, is the home of the Thomas O. Cyr Post 147 in Fraser Paper, Limited. Fraser is honored to be recognized by The American Legion as your Employer of the Year. Fraser has always taken affirmative action with respect to the hiring of veterans because it is the right, the fair and proper thing to do, and it is also a good business decision.

We are fortunate as an employer to have excellent and dedicated employees. The Thomas O. Cyr Post is an outstanding active and participating organization in our community, and we thank them for submitting Fraser as nominee for this Award.

My first association with The American Legion was as a member of a Little League baseball team which was sponsored by our local Post. I am an Eagle Scout and The American Legion was supportive of the scouting program. During high school, I attended Boys State that is under the sponsorship of The American Legion. I can attest to the value of these programs and positive influence that it has made in my life and commend you for your continued support for such programs for the benefit of the youth of our Nation.

I served our Country in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps and was welcomed home by Legionnaires. They encouraged me to join your organization and I am proud that I did, and today I am a paid-up-for-life member.

Fraser has assisted veterans in providing employment opportunities over many years in the United States and also in Canada. Fraser is a friend of the veteran. I am honored to be with you in Seattle, and on behalf of Fraser Paper, Limited we proudly accept the Employer of the Year Award.

MR. RONALD JEANSONNE: Thank you, Mr. Commander. I am not a politician, ladies and gentlemen, but I am here to accept an Award which has a lot of meaning to me. I am retired Navy. Of the 80 percent people who are veterans in our organization, 85 percent are retired military. The old saying, "If you want the work done, hire a vet," take it from an expert, it works.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Churchill T. Williams (Iowa) Chairman

Forty-five (45) members of your Committee on Finance met at 9:00 A.M. on August 21, 1983 and agreed upon the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Paul M. Allen, National Finance Director, opened the meeting as Temporary Chairman and announced that nominations were in order for Chairman and Secretary. Churchill T. Williams, Iowa, was elected Chairman, and Walton D. Griffin, Tennessee, was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

The Chairman recognized National Treasurer, Webber LaGrange for the Treasurer's Report. Mr. LaGrange informed the Committee, the interest rates on our investments have been very stable this year with most of them in the 10 percent range.

The Treasurer also reported, if rates continue to remain in this normal yield curve, it will enable us to invest some of our dues income in longer term securities.

Dean B. Nelson, Publisher of The American Legion Magazine, reported on the Magazine's operation. Mr. Nelson reported that the Magazine will conclude the year with an approximate surplus of \$1.3 million dollars. This favorable condition was derived from the increase in subscription income, and a substantial increase in advertising revenue.

The Certified Audit, which has been distributed to each Committee member was reviewed by the Chair. Chairman Williams informed the Committee the 1982 deficit was \$88,234. Chairman Williams was pleased to inform the Committee the 1983 surplus should be in excess of \$3 million dollars.

Upon motion by Paul J. Hubbuch, Kentucky, and seconded by Melvin Hudson, Alabama, the Audit Report was unanimously approved.

It was moved by Frank R. Kelley, Massachusetts, and seconded by H. E. Thibault, Nebraska, that the per capita dues for 1984 be set at \$5.50, which is the same as this year. Unanimously approved by the Committee.

The Committee unanimously approved a motion made by E. Roy Stone, Jr., South Carolina, and seconded by Roy A. Pope, Indiana, that the National Finance Commission, the National Treasurer, the National Finance Director and the entire National Staff be commended for the fine job they are doing in safeguarding and investing the monies of the National Organization.

The following resolutions were referred to the Standing Commission on Finance:

Resolution No. 122 (Utah)—"National Emblem Sales."
Resolution No. 187 (Iowa)—"National Emblem Sales."
(The report was approved.)

Seagrams Post Awards

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER JACK PLATO, Oregon: This next event has become one of the highlights of The American Legion National Conventions.

Ladies and gentlemen, the man who will conduct the drawings for a new Dodge 400 convertible, an all-expense paid trip for two to the 1984 National Convention, and present the award to the winner's Post or Unit, the Sales Promotion Manager for Seagrams, Mr. Monte Monseratte.

MR. MONTE MONSERATTE: We are running a little early, but we are running right on time as far as I am concerned for a little excitement, that excitement being that of the Seagrams Post Awards. This year commemorates 37 for us to participate with you, The American Legion, in our Post Awards. For those of you who filled out a coupon, and hopefully in our audience this morning, we will have a lucky person. We know we are giving a 1984 Dodge 400 convertible as our number one prize this year, and for second prize, an all-expense paid trip for two to the National Convention in Salt Lake City. If I may explain just a few rules before we make the drawing.

We have the Madam President and National Commander pick three coupons for each winning position. The reason for that, the rules specifically say that you must be a dues-paid member and your membership card number must be on that coupon. We haven't had any problem, but in case that does happen where that information is not correct, we will then select the second coupon, and so on, to make the Award.

Now, I also ask after we see the winner's name and they are announced, if they are in the audience, that we will recognize them here on stage and congratulate them, and if they are not

here, which is oftentimes the case, that the Department Commander or the Department Adjutant please come forward and accept on behalf of their member.

I think without much ado, unless we don't have everybody here to draw—Madam President is not here yet. I may well have to do something in terms of a substitution or the National Commander. How about Margaret Malone. Would you step over to the drum. We have a giant drum, as you can see, that contains thousands of coupons. I am ably assisted today. Thirty-five of those 37 years we have been participating. Mr. Bob Cutler, a great Seagrams man and Legionnaire, is our able assistant, and will direct what is happening over these.

Okay, Bob, here comes Madam President. I fondly ask her this year, starting a new precedent, to make the first draw. The first draw will be for the all-expense paid trip and the second will be for the winner of the automobile. So, the first draw we are getting ready to make. Madam President, if you will step up there. Put your hand in there and draw out the lucky winner for the all-expense paid trip to Salt Lake City, Utah.

... American Legion Auxiliary President Mrs. Stolte drew the name.

MR. MONSERATTE: I have the winner of the all-expense paid trip, Mr. Dan Bianchini. I believe, 1719 Westwood Circle, West Sacramento, California, the Department of California, and Post No. 61. Can I hear it. Do we have him here by any chance? Would someone then, either the Department Commander or Adjutant please come forward. Hal Goldman, the Department Commander.

Commander, on behalf of the Seagrams Post, I present to you the winning name of your member, Dan Bianchini. Do you know him?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER HAL GOLDMAN: No, I don't, but, I am sure he will be at the next Convention.

MR. MONSERATTE: I have to keep that. You take that, then we won't be able to remember who the winner was. Also Post 61 wins a check for \$500.00 to go in the Post fund for whatever they wish to do with it. That helps out.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER GOLDMAN: That helps out on the rehab in California.

MR. MONSERATTE: Now for that beautiful 1984 Dodge.

... At this time, National Commander Keller drew the name.

MR. MONSERATTE: Here it is. I don't see the membership card on here, Bob.

MR. CUTLER: No.

MR. MONSERATTE: That guy was real close. I am not going to tell you his name. The winner of the car is Rachel Magleone, 221 Providence Street, Westport, Rhode Island. She is a member of the Auxiliary Unit. This is fantastic. No. 74 Post, Westport, Rhode Island. Is anybody present from—perhaps not from the Auxiliary—anyone know this lady or know this Post or Auxiliary Unit? Nobody coming to claim it? All right. I think Madam President should come up. I believe this is the first time we have had an Auxiliary winner for the automobile. The Rhode Island Commander is also coming up.

Mr. Converse, Jim Converse, Department Commander of Rhode Island, is here to collect on behalf of the winner. Madam President can accept for the Auxiliary Unit.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JAMES J. CONVERSE: On behalf of the winner, I would like to say thank you and I am sure she will really appreciate it.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT STOLTE: I wonder if we would be allowed to tell it in our meeting this afternoon. She might even be here.

MR. MONSERATTE: We will be able to verify both these winners within an hour or two, so it is very possible we will

have that information, and if so, we will give you the announcement. All right, thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: One of the most tragic results of any war is the anguish and uncertainty that plagues the families and friends of those unaccounted for when the fighting stops. Just over a year ago he began an assignment as principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA Affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome United States Air Force Lt. Col. Gerald S. Venanzi.

LT. COL. GERALD S. VENANZI, USAF
Principal Advisor to the Secretary of Defense
POW/MIA Affairs

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Resolution of the POW/MIA issue is a matter of the highest national priority for the United States government. To those of us in the Department of Defense, it is an especially poignant and important issue.

Our missing men were our comrades in arms in the service of our Country. Many of us, and many of you, suffered the pain and anguish of losing a good friend during the Vietnam War, an individual now listed as missing. To these men the Department of Defense has a special responsibility. They were lost serving our Country under difficult circumstances and we must not forget their sacrifices or the debt we owe to them.

What then is the POW/MIA issue? Put simply, it is the return of all prisoners of war, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and the repatriation of remains of those who died serving our Nation. As you heard yesterday, the President is steadfast in his commitment to the fullest possible accounting and has elevated its resolution to a matter of the highest national priority. This personal commitment is shared by the Secretary of Defense and has been institutionalized throughout the Executive Branch of the government. Everyone is working toward our common goal.

How have we translated the words "highest national priority" into concrete action? Although I cannot discuss all that is being done, I would like to touch on a number of points which I hope will give you an appreciation for the full scope of our efforts. First, we have intensified efforts to increase our dialogue on this issue with the Indochinese governments and we have achieved limited success in this regard during the past year. In February of 1982, acting on an initiative approved by the President, a high level Department of Defense official led a United States delegation to Hanoi. The delegation brought with it considerable knowledge and expertise on the subject. Collectively, the five members of the United States delegation accounted for more than 25 years of personal experience in Vietnam.

During this visit, it was made clear to the Vietnamese that President Reagan was deeply committed to the fullest possible accounting for our men and that the American people wanted this humanitarian issue to be satisfactorily resolved in the shortest possible time frame. Acting on a United States invitation, in August, 1982, the Vietnamese sent a delegation to Hawaii to visit our POW/MIA facilities. During these meetings, the United States proposed that technical experts from both sides meet on a regularly scheduled basis. The Vietnamese accepted this proposal and have agreed to four technical meetings annually. The third and latest of these meetings took place this last June. During this meeting, the Vietnamese turned over the remains of nine individuals and returned material evidence on three others. Of the nine remains repatriated, we have been able to positively identify eight as American servicemen and

are vigorously pursuing an identification in the ninth case. Let me emphasize that the return of material evidence relating to missing servicemen does not close the book on these cases, but adds to the information we have available and mandates follow-up action. As we indicated at the time, we hope this latest turnover, the largest in five years, is an indication of a Vietnamese decision to adopt a sustained pattern of progress.

Our efforts have not been limited to Vietnam. Laos is a country in which nearly 600 Americans are still missing. A senior State Department official opened the dialogue with the Lao last fall following a visit to Laos by a Congressional delegation and delegation from the National League of Families. Then on February 12 of this year, a U.S. POW/MIA technical team visited Laos for the first time since 1975. We are committed to improving relations with Laos and have indicated that the principal measure of their sincerity is progress on the POW/MIA issue.

In addition to our efforts with the Indochinese, this issue has been kept before the International Community of Nations. For example, last June, Secretary of State Schultz asked the Asian Foreign Ministers to help us in resolving the POW/MIA issue. They have expressed their willingness to help and our government is following up this initiative. Also, our Embassies in Asia and Europe are acutely aware of the importance of the POW/MIA issue and are prepared to make full use of all available opportunities to seek the help of friendly countries.

We have significantly increased our efforts to inform the American people about the POW/MIA issue. Our public awareness program is designed to educate the American people to the fact that we still have nearly 2,500 men missing in Indochina and to emphasize that resolving their fate is indeed a matter of the highest national priority. Through public awareness, we strive to inform the American public of our efforts to resolve the accounting issue. Public knowledge of our seriousness serves to demonstrate that the best way to resolve the POW/MIA issue is through government to government channels. Additionally, public awareness signals the Indochinese governments that we will not relent in our efforts to account for our men. As a part of our intensified effort, we have established contact for POW/MIA affairs with the major veterans organizations including, of course, The American Legion. We feel, as you do, that it is critically important for the veterans of this Country to understand the current status of POW/MIA issue and the progress being made to resolve it. The veterans organizations are sent periodic updates which can be used to inform their members of current developments. Our POW/MIA fact book, designed to provide statistical data and information on current United States government initiatives, is being widely circulated and has been well received.

While our commitment is to the fullest possible accounting for our missing, the Department of Defense has not forgotten its obligations to their families. As I indicated earlier, the Department of Defense feels a special bond with the families, and, in a larger sense, they are a part of our family. It is impossible for those of us who are not POW/MIA family members to fully grasp the pain and uncertainty that they endured and continue to endure. One of our obligations is to ensure that they are fully informed as to the current developments on this issue. To aid us in fulfilling this responsibility, the Defense Department is again sending the families periodic newsletters on POW/MIA developments.

I cannot leave a discussion of the next of kin of our missing men without mentioning the National League of POW/MIA Families. For years, the POW/MIA issue languished. It was kept alive only by a few members of Congress, a few individuals

within the government and most importantly, the superb efforts of the National League of Families. The League has and is now playing a vital role in the resolution of this issue. It is a full and integral partner with the agencies of the U.S. government on this matter and its advice is consistently sought by the government during the policy development process. We greatly value our close cooperation with the League and in particular, the League's office in Washington, headed by its Executive Director, Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths.

What are we doing about the possibility that Americans may still be held captives in Indochina? Let me briefly describe our efforts on this critical aspect.

Since the fall of Saigon in 1975, the U.S. has received almost 2,000 reports related to POW/MIA problems, most of them from Indochinese refugees. Of the total reported, over 500 are firsthand live sighting reports. Approximately 54 percent of these live sighting reports have been resolved through correlation with Americans who were in Indochina but have since returned to the United States. Fifty-seven reports, or 11 percent are known or suspected to be fabrications. However, over 180, or 35 percent of the sighting reports, are under continuing investigation in an attempt to confirm the information. All live sighting reports are handled on a priority basis and each report is thoroughly investigated. The sources of these reports are extensively interviewed and polygraph examinations are administered if required and agreed to by the sources.

The major obstacle to our ability to achieve an accounting is a lack of cooperation from the Indochinese governments. There are many reports that Americans may be held captive in Indochina. Although we have thus far been unable to prove that Americans are still detained against their will, the information available to us precludes ruling out that possibility. Actions to investigate live sighting reports receive and will continue to receive necessary priority and resources based on the assumption that some Americans are still held captive in Indochina. The President has pledged to take decisive action on any live sighting report which can be confirmed.

The United States government is doing everything possible to resolve the POW/MIA question, but progress has been painfully slow and disappointing. It has been ten years since the United States and Vietnam signed the Paris Accords which ended the war. These Accords call for the repatriation of all POWs from both sides, as well as an exchange of information about the missing and the return of the remains of those who died. During the ten years since the agreement was signed, the Vietnamese have returned the remains of only 88 individuals. Yet the Vietnamese state they believe the accounting issue is a humanitarian matter and they claim to repatriate United States remains as soon as they are found. However, we know that the Vietnamese have a great deal more information about our men than they have thus far been willing to provide. Let me give you several examples.

In January, 1980, on his second trip to Vietnam, former Congressman Lester Wolf asked the Vietnamese to respond to a report from a Vietnamese refugee that American remains were warehoused in Hanoi. U.S. intelligence officials had conducted intensive interviews with the source who reported that the remains of over 400 U.S. servicemen were stored in a former POW camp. We consider the source and his information to be very credible. To date, the Vietnamese have replied only that the report is completely false and a deliberate attempt to slander Vietnam.

For another example, in the South, representatives of the former provisional revolutionary government (PRG) should have information on missing U.S. personnel. After signing the Paris

Peace Accords, the PRG provided the U.S. a list of 37 Americans who had died in captivity. To date, the Vietnamese have taken no action to return the remains of the individuals on this list or to otherwise account for them. In addition, it is known that the Vietnamese captured a number of U.S. personnel whose names have not appeared on any yet lists provided to the U.S.

Although progress has been slow, there are some hopeful signs. The fact that the Vietnamese have agreed to hold regular technical discussions with us is encouraging. While none of the meetings thus far can be considered a breakthrough, each meeting provides an opportunity to continue the dialogue. After announcing to a non-governmental group their intention to return remains, the Vietnamese worked with U.S. officials and in October of last year, repatriated the remains of four Americans previously listed as missing. The repatriation in June of nine individuals is the largest number of remains returned since August of 1978 and brings to 13 the total remains returned from Vietnam in the last nine months. We hope this latest turnover is an indication of a Vietnamese decision for greater cooperation.

We hope that the situation in Laos is also improving. In the past, the Lao have provided us with very little information on the nearly 600 Americans missing in their country. We consider the POW/MIA technical meeting in Vientiane a step forward and hope that it is an indication of future joint cooperation between our two governments in resolving the status of our men missing in Laos.

I should point out that nothing said here today indicates the prospect of quick resolution to the POW/MIA issue. Unfortunately, the door is only ajar. However, we are committed to resolution in the shortest time frame possible and will vigorously pursue all available avenues to completely open that door.

In spite of the fact that the United States government is fully committed to resolution of the POW/MIA issue, there have been some Americans who have undertaken irresponsible private operations. I must state that although it is our policy to receive POW/MIA information from any source, we are resolutely opposed to cross-border forays mounted by private U.S. citizens. These forays interfere with and damage legitimate efforts of our government in a number of ways.

For example, the recent totally irresponsible escapade of retired Lt. Col. Bo Gritz seriously impaired our efforts with Laos. Our discussions indicate that his operation is directly responsible for preventing us from joint recovery efforts with the Lao at U.S. crash sites in that country. We hope this is only a temporary setback and that we will be able to begin such visits in the near future. Furthermore, our experience has been that private excursions begin with faulty or fabricated intelligence and lack even marginally adequate operational capabilities.

The U.S. government will continue seeking a solution to the POW/MIA issue through all available avenues, including diplomatic and Congressional channels. We will take whatever actions are necessary to achieve our goal of the fullest possible accounting of our missing countrymen, most importantly, the return of any live POWs.

The nearly 2,500 Americans who did not return from the Vietnam War have not been forgotten. On the contrary, we are pressing the Indochinese governments and holding them to their humanitarian obligations to provide an accounting for our missing men. It is in this context that veterans groups like The American Legion can make such a difference. Responsible efforts, such as the POW/MIA resolution before this Convention, your public awareness efforts, like the POW/MIA group right outside this Convention hall and your generous support of the League of Families have the full support of the President and

the Department of Defense. By staying involved and abreast of our efforts, you can demonstrate to the Indochinese governments that resolution of this issue has the complete support of the American people. Working together, we can maximize our capabilities to resolve an issue of unprecedented tragedy, an issue that demands official action to meet our obligations to those who served, those who will serve in the future and to their families.

Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: At this time, I would like to introduce to you a special guest. He is an immigrant to our shores from Greece and he is a U.S. Army veteran of World War I, where he fought in four major battles of that conflict, and was wounded.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Mr. I. A. "Johnny" Lougaris.

IONNIS A. "JOHNNY" LOUGARIS

I happen to be a little hoarse. During my 96 years in America, I have received four great happinesses and honor. The first is when I came to New York in 1907 on a freighter and came into the harbor of New York. And when I saw the Statue of Liberty, I commenced to cry. How happy I was. And then I say to myself that I love this Country. This is my Country and I would give my life for it.

The second time was when I became a citizen of the United States in San Francisco in 1933. Then I said, "Thank God, I belong now to my Country. I love it. I have become a part of it."

The third was when the Veterans Hospital was dedicated to my name after many years of service. And the fourth is to be with you, my Legionnaires. I devoted 62 years of my life for the association and efforts, and I am happy to be with you.

Now, as your National Commander said, I am now 96 years old. I won't be here very long, but before I go, I want to leave you, and this story I do for you, but you dedicate your love and devotion to our Country, but what I want you to convey to your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and that is, let's love, protect and defend only the United States of America.

Let's love the Stars and Stripes forever. God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Chair now recognizes Mr. W. F. Lenker of South Dakota, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

William F. Lenker (South Dakota) Chairman

To the 65th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983.

Ninety-seven members of your Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation met at 9:00 A.M. on August 21, 1983 in the Fifth Avenue Room, Westin Hotel, and again on August 24, 1983, in the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation cubicle, National Headquarters Office, and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The Committee was called to order by Robert E. Lyngh, Colorado, Liaison Representative appointed by the National Adjutant to act as Temporary Chairman. John F. Sommer, Jr., Ohio, Deputy Director of the Commission, acted as Temporary Secretary and called the roll. A quorum being present, nominations were received for Permanent Chairman. William F.

Lenker, South Dakota, Chairman of the Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Convention Committee.

With unanimous consent, the Chairman appointed Fred C. Heinle, Wisconsin, as Committee Secretary; A. V. "Bubba" Alkin, Georgia, Chairman, and Michael D'Arco, Secretary, respectively of the Medical and Hospital Subcommittee; and Val Likens, Iowa, Chairman, and Thad Grudisjeiko, New Jersey, Secretary, respectively of the Claims and Rating Subcommittee.

Subcommittee liaison assignments were as follows: Robert E. Lynch, Director, and Thomas M. Schneiders, Assistant Director, to Claims and Rating; and John F. Sommer, Jr., Deputy Director, and Thomas Holland, Claims Representative, to Medical and Hospitals.

The following officials were present from the Veterans Administration:

Dorothy L. Starbuck, Chief Benefits Director
Paul T. Bannai, Chief Memorial Affairs Director
John P. Murphy, General Counsel

Kenneth E. Eaton, Chairman, Board of Veterans Appeals

As has been custom for the 39 previous National Conventions, a special Department Service Officers Committee on Veterans and Rehabilitation resolutions in a three-day pre-Convention meeting, screened and grouped the resolutions. A report of their analysis, with recommendations, was presented to the Convention Committee for consideration.

The Convention Committee expressed appreciation of the fine work performed by this Screening Committee in analyzing the resolutions. They conserved the time of the Convention Committee substantially. The Screening Committee was composed of the following Department Service Officers:

Region 1—Mark Andrews, Maine
Region 2—Walter S. Kownaski, New York
Region 3—Kenneth L. Sanders, Florida
Region 4—James H. Powell, Mississippi
Region 8—James M. Nall, Wyoming

The Convention Committee recommends that such a Committee be appointed for this purpose to serve the 96th National Convention on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The 120 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation resolutions presented for consideration of this Convention were referred by the Resolutions Assignment Committee from 31 Departments. These resolutions are classified as follows:

Policy	46
National Cemeteries	3
Medical and Hospitals	14
VA Hospitals	6
Claims and Rating	48
Vocational Rehabilitation and Education	2
Insurance	1

The following action on the resolutions was taken by the Convention Committee:

Approved or Approved as amended	18
Consolidated with resolutions approved	9
Received and Recorded	36
Referred to the Standing Commission	39
Rejected	18

A report of action taken on the 39 resolutions referred to the Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission will be made to the National Executive Committee and to the Adjutant of the Department concerned, and, in addition, will be contained in the National Adjutant's report to the 96th Annual National Convention.

In each category, the resolutions are arranged in sequence to permit orderly consideration of related topics by this Convention.

Approved or Approved as Amended Resolutions

Policy

Resolution No. 37 (North Dakota)—Oppose any administrative or legislative proposal to reduce the payment of any other Federal benefit by offsetting VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans

WHEREAS, There has been consideration given to proposing an offset of social security disability insurance benefits by payments of any other Federal benefit; and

WHEREAS, The adoption of such a measure would reduce the overall income provided to those service-connected veterans who have a compensable disability and who also suffer a permanent and total disability for purposes of disability insurance benefits from the Social Security administration; and

WHEREAS, Such an offset would work a grave and undue hardship on all totally disabled service-connected veterans and their families by drastically reducing their total income; and

WHEREAS, Benefits received from the Veterans Administration or under military retirement pay and other Federal programs have differing eligibility criteria as compared to the earned payments of social security disability insurance benefits; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion oppose any Administration or Legislative proposal to reduce the payment of any Federal benefit by offsetting VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 103 (Mont.)

Resolution No. 43 (North Dakota)—The American Legion policy on "Mainstreaming Medical Services to the Veteran"

WHEREAS, Within the health care community, nationwide, there remains an element that advocates the direction of veterans health care into the private sector, using as its designation for this change in the present system, the term "mainstreaming"; and

WHEREAS, The problems of under-utilization of physicians and hospitals in the private sector result primarily from maldistribution of physicians and construction of too many beds by for-profit hospitals; and

WHEREAS, It is not the function of the program of medical care for veterans to rescue the private sector medical community from the problems created by its enthusiasm for profit-taking; and

WHEREAS, The mechanisms established by Congress governing approval of and funding for all aspects of veterans medical care, including staffing in medical centers and construction and renovation or replacement of medical facilities are effective and sufficient to protect the interests of the taxpayers who fund such programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, After more than 62 years of experience in seeking the welfare of sick and disabled veterans, The American Legion is satisfied that the present system of veterans medical care that is operated by the Veterans Administration is the best system to achieve its goal and provide cost-efficient medical care to veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983,

that The American Legion reiterates its faith and trust in the veterans medical care program operated by the Veterans Administration, as the best and most cost-efficient system available to enable the Federal Government to meet its fundamental obligation to look into the welfare of the service disabled and of sick and disabled veterans who have need of and apply for care within that system; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion rejects the concept of care delivery known as "mainstreaming," as an acceptable way for the nation to meet its responsibilities for the health care of veterans.

Resolution No. 49 (Arizona)—Support legislation to extend the Vet Center program thereby providing necessary readjustment counseling for Vietnam veterans

WHEREAS, The Vet Center program, established under PL 96-22, and extended under PL 97-72, is now comprised of 136 Vet Centers and Satellites across the country; and

WHEREAS, There are also approximately 500 facilities providing counseling services under contract to the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, During Fiscal Year 1983 it was estimated that between 60,000 to 80,000 new Vietnam veterans would seek assistance through the Vet Center program; and

WHEREAS, There continues to be demonstrated a significant need for additional research on the readjustment and health of Vietnam veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion through its visits to these Vet Centers has found that the program is performing well and is accomplishing the purpose for which it was established; and

WHEREAS, Additional information from the mental health professionals in the country indicate that a much higher number of Vietnam veterans are suffering some symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, Because of the continuing influx of Vietnam veterans seeking assistance through these Vet Centers, The American Legion believes that a further extension of the program is in order; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion support legislation to provide an extension of the Vet Center program thereby providing necessary readjustment counseling for Vietnam veterans for as long as there is a demonstrated need for such services.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 364 (Calif.)

Resolution No. 326 (West Virginia)—Urge the Congress to provide sufficient VA health care facilities for the treatment and care of the nonservice-connected disabilities of war veterans

WHEREAS, The right of veterans to preferred treatment as a special class by reason of their military service has been long established as public policy supported by specific legislation extending throughout the history of our country; and

WHEREAS, Each time there is an austerity program within the Federal Government, systematic attempts are made to reduce appropriations for Veterans Administration programs; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration was especially created to coordinate and consolidate Federal activities in the administration of laws providing benefits to veterans; and

WHEREAS, The veteran population is growing increasingly older and the Veterans Administration medical care program must be prepared to meet the increasing care needs of our older veteran population; and

WHEREAS, Provision of title 38, United States Code, provide the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, within the limits of

Veterans Administration facilities, to furnish needed hospital care to any veteran for a nonservice-connected disability if such veteran is unable to defray the expense of such hospital care; and

WHEREAS, Any reduction in appropriations and outlays proposed in the Veterans Administration budget may be effected only by cutting service to eligible veterans in the areas associated with medical care; and

WHEREAS, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion urge the Congress of the United States to provide sufficient Veterans Administration health care facilities for the treatment of and care of the nonservice-connected disabilities of war veterans.

Resolution No. 466 (Minnesota)—Urges that radiation exposure cases be entitled to medical treatment on a presumptive basis

WHEREAS, Public Law 97-72 provides that veterans exposed to radiation during active duty may be furnished hospital or nursing home care for any disability, notwithstanding that there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that such disability may be associated with such exposure; and

WHEREAS, The provision of such health care services has been limited primarily to veterans suffering from cancer or thyroid nodules; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion firmly believes that the criteria for VA medical treatment provided radiation exposed veterans should be liberalized to include treatment for all diseases except congenital or developmental abnormalities and acute conditions that are obviously not caused by such exposure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion urge the Veterans Administration to provide medical care authorized under PL 97-72, to any honorably discharged veteran who was exposed to ionizing radiation during active military service, and who has incurred a disability or disabilities other than diagnosed as a congenital or developmental abnormality, or an acute condition that is obviously not related to radiation exposure.

Resolution No. 469 (Minnesota)—Oppose legislation which would authorize judicial review of the decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs

WHEREAS, The United States Senate has approved legislation providing for judicial review of the decisions rendered on claims by the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The Senate has amended a measure approved by the House of Representatives to include the language of such judicial review legislation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long believed that veterans receive excellent representation by accredited representatives of veterans organizations who serve veterans and dependents without charge or fee; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is now and has been mandated to oppose judicial review of decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs based upon sound principals and extensive experience in the development and presentation of claims before the Veterans Administration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion shall continue to oppose the enactment of any measure that would authorize judicial review of the decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs except as currently authorized by law.

Resolution No. 461 (Minnesota)—Urging the expansion of the Veterans Administration's Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers Program (GRECC)

WHEREAS, The demand for geriatric and extended health care and medical services being placed upon the Veterans Administration is rapidly increasing; and

WHEREAS, By 1985 there will be nearly 5 million veterans 65 years of age or older, by 1990 there will be over 7 million veterans this age, and by 1995 those veterans age 65 or older will number more than 8½ million; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration has instituted a program titled: Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC), to give viability and respectability to geriatrics and, by creating centers of interest and activity to exploit available resources and develop enthusiastic new practitioners, teachers, and researchers in the field of geriatrics; and

WHEREAS, The VA hospital system should be the leader in geriatric research, training and care, due to the extensive network of VA facilities and the scope of medical care being provided; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration is currently providing geriatric and extended health care and medical services for older veterans and must continue to provide additional geriatric medical services for the older veterans; and

WHEREAS, At the same time the Veterans Administration must not deemphasize the provisions of acute medical care capabilities for all veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion urge and encourage the Veterans Administration to expand its role in the delivery of geriatric health care services by enlarging its current Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers program, and by initiating other innovative programs to alleviate the problems associated with aging.

Claims and Rating

Resolution No. 36 (North Dakota)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend Section 612 of Title 38, USC, To provide dental care on an out-patient basis to any Veteran who has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more

WHEREAS, Current law provides outpatient treatment for veterans where such services are necessary to obviate the need of hospital admission or if such services are necessary to complete treatment incident to hospital care; to any veteran who has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more; or, to any veteran who is a former prisoner of war; and

WHEREAS, The providing of these medical services does not now include dental care under any of the provisions indicated above; and

WHEREAS, Provision has recently been made whereby outpatient dental services and treatment are to be furnished any veteran who is a former prisoner of war and who was detained or interned for a period of not less than six months; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion perceives that a substantial number of veterans suffering from disabilities rated at 50

percent or more all too often neglect their dental conditions because of lack of necessary funds, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend section 612 of title 38, USC, to provide necessary dental care on an outpatient basis to any veteran who has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more.

Resolution No. 76 (Nebraska)—Support legislation to amend 38 USC, Section 314, so as to increase the monthly rates of Disability Compensation

WHEREAS, Disability compensation is a monthly payment made by the Veterans Administration to a veteran because of a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, These disability compensation payments are based on a schedule of ratings of reduction in earning capacity from specific injuries or combination of injuries adopted by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, In response to increased cost of living and other factors, the weekly take home pay of the blue collar worker in non-agriculture employment is constantly increasing; and

WHEREAS, To maintain the purchasing power of these disabled veterans, or those entitled to receive these monthly benefits, the rates payable must respond to cost-of-living increases; and

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of The American Legion that there is no way to adequately compensate a veteran for loss of ability to be a working, productive member of our society, and that the monthly rates of disability compensation do not adequately compensate these disabled veterans for their loss due to reduced earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes a further readjustment in the amount of disability compensation rates is needed so that these veterans can fulfill their fundamental purpose, that is, to assure that they have sufficient economic maintenance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion support legislation to amend section 314 of title 38, United States Code, to increase the monthly rates of disability compensation.

Resolution No. 161 (Iowa)—That the American Legion shall urge the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to accept Certifications of Documents by a Notary Public for the purpose of establishing claims for Veterans Administration Benefits

WHEREAS, Central Office of the Veterans Administration has decreed that all vital statistics in support of a claim must be the originals or current certified copies; and

WHEREAS, Central Office has also decreed that a current notarized photocopy of any vital statistic is not acceptable for VA purposes; and

WHEREAS, Sometimes a current certification of a document is not possible to procure, therefore cannot be used for VA purposes; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of State has commissioned certain individuals in their respective States to be a Notary Public; and

WHEREAS, A Notary Public is under Bond and Oath as prescribed by State Law so should be authorized to certify the validity of a document as being an exact and true copy of an original; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983,

that The American Legion shall urge the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to accept certifications of documents by a Notary Public for the purpose of establishing claims for Veterans Administration benefits.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 194 (OH)
Resolution No. 163 (Iowa)—Petition the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to transfer all activities relating to waiver of overpayments from the Centralized Accounts Receivable System to the regional office of jurisdiction

WHEREAS, Overpayments in veterans accounts are on the increase, primarily due to the implementation of the "end of the month rule" required by the provisions of Public Law 95-588, Improved Pension Act of 1978; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Administration overpayments are many times handled by four separate divisions within the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The Centralized Accounts Receivable System (CARS) is the only portion located outside of the regional offices involved; and

WHEREAS, The process for handling Veterans Administration overpayments is cumbersome, ineffective, inefficient, costly, with very limited communications between CARS and the regional office divisions involved, including the District Councils; and

WHEREAS, It appears that the handling of Veterans Administration overpayments could be done more effectively, efficiently, timely and would be more cost effective if they were handled at the regional office level; and

WHEREAS, There are those individuals in the Veterans Administration who agree that overpayments could be handled more effectively, efficiently, timely and would be cost saving if handled at the regional office level; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion shall petition the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to have all of the processing, development, consideration for waivers, and all other necessary functions and responsibilities pertaining to overpayments, which are now being handled by the Veterans Administration Accounts Receivable System, St. Paul, Minnesota, be reverted to the jurisdiction of the applicable regional offices.

Resolution No. 193 (Ohio)—Support legislation to provide that service-connected total deafness shall be rated at the 100 percent level

WHEREAS, The 1945 Schedule for Rating Disabilities evaluates total deafness at only 80 percent disabling; and

WHEREAS, Those veterans suffering from total deafness do, in many instances, find it hard to obtain suitable employment; and

WHEREAS, Veterans who are employed and suffering from this severe disability are often passed over for promotions due to their total deafness; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that it is inequitable to authorize entitlement to 100 percent ratings for severe disabilities that are rated total, but not in the case of total deafness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion support legislation to provide that service-connected total deafness shall be rated at the 100 percent level.

Resolution No. 186 (Ohio)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend Title 38, USC, so as to provide a special pension program for veterans of World War I

WHEREAS, The average age of the veterans of World War I approximates 87 years; and

WHEREAS, The number of living World War I veterans is decreasing steadily; and

WHEREAS, The surviving veterans of World War I are no longer employable, and in many instances are subsisting at or below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Through the years since November 11, 1918, these veterans have worked unremittingly to develop the comprehensive program of veterans benefits that is now provided for all American war veterans; and

WHEREAS, The veterans of World War I did not have the advantage of any of the readjustment programs provided for veterans of later wars; and

WHEREAS, The Government of the United States and the American people have a direct obligation to insure that all of the veterans of World War I are not forgotten in their later years; and

WHEREAS, The veterans of World War I are deserving of a special measure of attention because they have not received all benefits provided for veterans of other wars, and many of them live in a condition of economic deprivation; and

WHEREAS, The most efficacious and propitious way for the nation to fulfill its obligation to World War I veterans is to insure them an adequate monthly income; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, which was founded by veterans of World War I, has a special obligation to look to their needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to amend Chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, by adding a new section entitled "Veterans of World War I" and, which will provide as follows:

(a) The Administrator of Veterans Affairs shall pay to each veteran of World War I, who meets the service requirements of this section, pension at the rate prescribed by this section.

(b) If the veteran is unmarried (or married but not living with and not reasonably contributing to the support of such veteran's spouse), and has no child, and such veteran's annual income does not exceed \$10,000, pension shall be paid the veteran at the monthly rate of \$150.00.

(c) If the veteran is married and living with or reasonably contributing to the support of such veteran's spouse, or has a child or children, and such veteran's annual income does not exceed \$12,000, a pension shall be paid the veteran at the monthly rate of \$150.00.

(d) The pension provided for by this section shall be paid without regard to (1) any income of any kind payable to the spouse, and (2) the corpus of estate of the veteran or the spouse.

(e) In determining annual income for the purpose of this section, all payments of any kind or from any source shall be included, except those presently excluded under the existing provisions of section 503 of this title.

(f) Any veteran who is eligible for pension under section 521 or any other section of this title shall, if he/she elects, be paid such pension. If pension is paid pursuant to such an election, the election shall be irrevocable.

(g) For the purpose of this section, the term World War I means the period beginning on April 6, 1917 and ending on November 11, 1918.

(h) A veteran meets the service requirements of this sec-

tion if such veteran served in the active military, naval, or air service.

1. For ninety days or more during World War I.
2. During World War I and was discharged or released from such service for a service-connected disability.
3. For a period of ninety consecutive days or more and such period began or ended during World War I, and
4. For an aggregate of ninety days or more in two or more separate periods of service during more than one period of war.

Consolidated with this resolution are: No. 27 (N. Hamp.), No. 222 (Ill.), and No. 223 (Ill.).

Resolution No. 218 (Illinois)—Sponsor and support legislation to increase the present burial plot allowance for veterans from \$150 to \$250

WHEREAS, National cemeteries are not always located near centers of population, thus precluding many veterans from utilizing them; and

WHEREAS, The majority of veterans desire to be buried in either family burial plots or in cemeteries located nearest their homes; and

WHEREAS, The cost of burial plots has increased considerably during recent years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion perceives that many families of veterans have limited means to provide for the purchase of an appropriate burial site; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to increase the present burial plot allowance for veterans from \$150 to \$250.

Resolution No. 296 (Virginia)—Support legislation to provide for the payment of a clothing allowance to veterans with a compensable skin condition and for certain other compensable conditions when it is determined there is clothing spoilage

WHEREAS, Under title 38, USC, the Veterans Administration shall pay a clothing allowance each year to any veteran who because of disability which is compensable wears or uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance or appliances (including a wheelchair) which tends to wear out or tear the clothing of such a veteran; and

WHEREAS, There are certain veterans who receive compensation for severe skin conditions that require the use of medications; and

WHEREAS, Those disabilities that result in urinary or fecal incontinence and require the use of appliances for colostomies, ileostomies, drainage from wounds or infected areas, or the use of apparatus holding bandages, likewise wear and tear clothing due to abrasion or frequent need of laundering; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is aware that a substantial number of these veterans have clothing spoilage due to the types of disabilities involved and the use of salves, medications, and appliances for those disabilities mentioned herewith; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion support legislation to amend section 362 of title 38, USC, to provide for the payment of an annual clothing allowance to any veteran with a compensable skin condition requiring topical medication, and also to those veterans who have service-connected disabilities that result in urinary or fecal incontinence and require the use of appliances for colostomies, ileostomies, drainage from wounds or infected areas, or the use of an apparatus holding bandages.

Consolidated with this resolution are: No. 74 (Neb.), and No. 107 (Mont.)

Resolution No. 226 (West Virginia)—Sponsor and support legislation to provide service connection for lupus erythematosus becoming manifest to a degree of 10 percent or more within one year from the date of separation from a period of war service

WHEREAS, In 38 USC 301(B)(3), there are listed those chronic diseases which shall be considered to have been incurred in or aggravated by war service when manifested to a compensable degree within one year from date of separation from a period of such service; and

WHEREAS, Lupus Erythematosus, one of the collagen vascular diseases, is a chronic inflammatory connective tissue disorder of unknown etiology; and

WHEREAS, The onset of this disease, in many instances, is insidious and extending over a period of months, or frequently years; and

WHEREAS, A definite diagnosis of Lupus Erythematosus often times can be established only on the history of symptoms; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that this disease, by reason of its insidious onset and difficult early diagnosis, should be included among those chronic diseases which shall be granted service connection if manifested initially to a compensable degree within one year from date of separation from a period of war service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation so as to amend title 38, United States Code 301(B)(3), by adding Lupus Erythematosus to the list of chronic diseases that shall be considered to be service-connected under section 312(a)(1), when manifested to a degree of ten percent within one year from the date of separation from a period of war service.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 196 (OH).

Resolution No. 393 (Wisconsin)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC, so as to increase the grant for aid and attendance for veterans who are patients in community nursing homes from \$165.00 to \$215.00 per month

WHEREAS, A substantial number of older veterans are suffering from crippling illnesses and diseases; and

WHEREAS, A large number of this group are forced by the severity of their illnesses to spend the remainder of their days in community nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, Those veterans who are in receipt of aid and attendance allowance and are patients in these nursing homes are finding it harder, if not impossible, to defray the costs involved in such homes and still maintain a home for their spouses and dependents; and

WHEREAS, As a result of this situation, such veterans are forced to seek additional aid from public welfare sources to assist in the needs of their families; and

WHEREAS, The additional funds provided by public welfare sources are, for the most part, insufficient to meet the needs of the veterans' families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion perceives the need that an increase in the monthly allowance for these aid and attendance pensioners is vitally necessary, which would assist them to a greater degree to provide not only for their own needs, but for the welfare of their dependents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to

increase the grant for aid and attendance for veterans who are patients in community nursing homes from \$165.00 to \$215.00 per month; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this increase shall be used solely for the needs and welfare of the dependents of such veterans, and shall not be subject to any other provisions of law relating to income.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

Resolution No. 329 (Colorado)—Urges the Veterans Administration to revise its policies and regulations so as to grant vocational rehabilitation to veterans if their service-connected disabilities prevent meaningful or gainful employment

WHEREAS, The VA Vocational Rehabilitation program for veterans with service-connected disabilities is one of the VA's most successful enterprises; and

WHEREAS, The Vocational Rehabilitation program has enabled hundreds of thousands of disabled veterans to overcome their handicaps and make meaningful vocational contributions to America; and

WHEREAS, Such service-connected disabilities often prevent veterans from working at their full capacity and enjoying life to the fullest; and

WHEREAS, The VA currently tends to deny Vocational Rehabilitation to veterans who are working even if their vocational opportunities are restricted by their disabilities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion urge the VA to revise its policies to award vocational rehabilitation to veterans if their service-connected disabilities prohibit them from becoming employed in occupations consistent with their aptitudes, interests and achievement potential.

Received and Recorded Resolutions

Resolution No. 6 of the Fall 1966 meeting of the National Executive Committee amended the Uniform Code of Procedure for the organization of National Conventions to provide that the term "Received and Recorded" shall be applied to resolutions which reiterate or reaffirm a present policy or position of The American Legion, or which have been accomplished by law, regulation or by other purposes.

Policy

Res. No. 40 (North Dakota)—Support legislation that would compensate veterans for disabilities that can be associated with Agent Orange exposure as scientific evidence becomes available. (Covered in Res. No. 410 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 70 (Oklahoma)—Urges Congress and the Administration to expedite the studies and research on Agent Orange; and that the VA continue a priority program to provide medical care to those veterans who have disabilities attributed to Agent Orange. (Covered in Res. No. 210 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 73 (Nebraska)—Oppose any proposal that would consolidate or centralize the operations of the Veterans Administration Regional Offices. (Covered in Res. No. 56 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 78 (Nebraska)—Oppose those reorganization plans that would transfer from the Veterans Administration sole jurisdiction of any veterans benefits and service programs. (Covered in Res. No. 54 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 101 (Montana)—Oppose any attempt that would divert or transfer the operations of the Veterans Administration to any other Federal agency. (Covered in Res. No. 54 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 102 (Montana)—Oppose any National Health Insurance program which proposes to incorporate the Veterans Administration hospital system. (Covered in Res. No. 283 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 130 (Massachusetts)—Oppose any National Health Insurance program which proposes to incorporate the Veterans Administration hospital system. (Covered in Res. No. 283 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 131 (Massachusetts)—Oppose those reorganization plans that would transfer from the Veterans Administration sole jurisdiction of any veterans benefits and service programs. (Covered in Res. No. 54 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 190 (Ohio)—Support legislation providing that an appropriate committee be appointed to study the need for nursing care required by the aging veteran population. (Covered in Res. No. 43 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 221 (Illinois)—Seeks legislation to make the Veterans Administration an Executive Department of the Federal Government. (Covered in Res. No. 284 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 337 (New York)—Urges that the Veterans Administration be made an Executive Department of the Federal Government. (Covered in Res. No. 284 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 390 (California)—Urges the President of the United States and the Congress to provide full funding for all veterans programs. (Covered in Res. No. 126 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 384 (Pennsylvania)—Urges the support of legislation calling for health care and compensation for disabilities which may have been caused by Agent Orange exposure. (Covered in Res. No. 410 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 396 (Wisconsin)—Oppose any action that would consolidate the operations and activities of the Veterans Administration with any other agency. (Covered in Res. No. 54 and No. 385 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 487 (Minnesota)—Urges that the Veterans Administration be made an Executive Department of the Federal Government. (Covered in Res. No. 284 of the 1982 National Convention)

Medical and Hospital

Res. No. 17 (Philippine Islands)—Seeks legislation to restore the grants-in-aid program and nursing home care to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in the Philippines. (Covered in Res. No. 9 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 36 (North Dakota)—Support an increase in the rates of reimbursement by the VA for the care provided veterans in State Veterans Homes. (Covered in Res. No. 144 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 236 (Illinois)—Urges the appropriation of additional funds for the training of nurses in the VA hospital system. (Already covered in existing law)

Res. No. 230 (Michigan)—Urges the Veterans Administration to improve nurses salaries, and to offer more attractive fringe benefits. (VA has already taken action to accomplish the resolution's intent)

Claims and Rating

Res. No. 16 (Philippine Islands)—Seeks legislation to restore the payment of burial allowance for all veterans who have

served honorably in time of war. (Covered in Res. No. 394 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 23 (Tennessee)—Support legislation to provide that a disability rated at or above a certain evaluation for 10 or more years shall be protected, except when it is shown that such rating was based upon fraud. (Covered in Res. No. 294 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 34 (North Dakota)—Support legislation to provide that a disability rated at or above a certain evaluation for 10 or more years shall be protected, except when it is shown that such rating was based upon fraud. (Covered in Res. No. 294 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 39 (North Dakota)—Seeks legislation to provide veterans who are receiving pension and compensation benefits with a 4.1 percent cost-of-living increases in payments effective January 1, 1984. (Congressional hearings have been held on compensation, and pension increases have been resolved as a result of indexing)

Res. No. 67 (Oklahoma)—Seeks legislation to restore the payment of burial allowance for all veterans who have served honorably in time of war. (Covered in Res. No. 394 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 77 (Nebraska)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend PL 95-588 so as to increase the guaranteed annual income limits to a more realistic amount. (Covered in Res. No. 489 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 108 (Montana)—Support legislation to provide that a disability rated at or above a certain evaluation for 10 or more years shall be protected, except when it is shown that such rating was based upon fraud. (Covered in Res. No. 294 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 127 (Massachusetts)—Urges that the present Rating Schedule utilized by the Veterans Administration remain in effect without change, and that no revision be made unless it is first submitted to Congress subject to public hearings. (Covered in Res. No. 396 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 186 (Ohio)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC 3104 so as to remove the restriction against the receipt of Armed Forces retirement pay, due to length of service, concurrently with VA compensation. (Covered in Res. No. 99 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 189 (Ohio)—Seeks legislation to increase the rates of pension payments to widows and children. (Covered in Res. No. 489 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 220 (Illinois)—Seeks legislation to increase both the income limits and the monthly payment of disability and death pension. (Covered in Res. No. 489 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 226 (Puerto Rico)—Support legislation to provide that a disability rated at or above a certain evaluation for 10 or more years shall be protected, except when it is shown that such rating was based upon fraud. (Covered in Res. No. 294 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 297 (Virginia)—Seeks legislation to restore the payment of burial allowance for all veterans who have served honorably in time of war. (Covered in Res. No. 394 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 462 (Minnesota)—Seeks action to restore the end-of-the-year rule in the computation of income for pension purposes. (Covered in Res. No. 489 of the 1982 National Convention)

Res. No. 478 (New Mexico)—Seeks legislation to restore the payment of burial allowance for all veterans who have served honorably in time of war. (Covered in Res. No. 394 of the 1982 National Convention)

Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

Res. No. 191 (Ohio)—Sponsor and support legislation to increase allowances in education and training under Chapter 34, title 38, USC. (Covered in Res. No. 130 of the 1982 National Convention)

Insurance

Res. No. 192 (Ohio)—Support legislation to amend 38 USC, Chapter 19, to provide a special Government Life Insurance program for Vietnam Era veterans. (Covered in Res. No. 292 of the 1982 National Convention)

REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions are being referred to the Standing Commission for staff study or administrative disposition.

Policy

Res. No. 66 (Oklahoma)—Urges The American Legion to commend Veterans Administration officials.

Res. No. 69 (Oklahoma)—Urges The American Legion to oppose the recommendations of a Presidential appointed Committee; and commend the Congress for its support of veterans programs.

Res. No. 100 (Iowa)—Seeks to name the VAMC, Iowa City, Iowa, the Darwin Lee Judge Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Res. No. 168 (Maine)—Urges that a Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Foundation be created for the provision of funding a network of National Service Officers of The American Legion.

Res. No. 167 (Maine)—Urges that the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission create, implement and provide a Service Officers Training Program.

Res. No. 336 (New York)—Urges that the VA policy of providing names and addresses of veterans receiving benefits should be extended to all veterans organizations.

Res. No. 361 (California)—Seeks changes in VA administrative procedures governing the discharging of volunteers at VA Medical Centers.

Res. No. 394 (Wisconsin)—Urges The American Legion to expand its voluntary service awards program.

Res. No. 403 (Idaho)—Urges that female Vietnam veterans be included in research studies of the effects of Agent Orange exposure.

Res. No. 404 (Idaho)—Urges the Veterans Administration to expand its Vet Center program to include rural areas.

Res. No. 444 (Texas)—Oppose any recommendations of the Presidential Task Force that would eliminate or curtail veterans benefits and hospital care and treatment.

Res. No. 456 (Minnesota)—Urges the consolidation of the VA Insurance Centers in the St. Paul area.

Res. No. 463 (Minnesota)—Oppose any actions or proposals which would abolish the VA or reassign any of its programs to other Federal agencies.

Res. No. 477 (New Mexico)—Urges The American Legion to oppose the recommendations of a Presidential appointed Committee; and commend the Congress for its support of veterans programs.

Res. No. 479 (New Mexico)—Urges The American Legion to commend the Director, VAMC, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and his staff, for services to veterans.

National Cemeteries

Res. No. 219 (Illinois)—Urges the Veterans Administration to establish a National Cemetery in Northern Illinois.

Res. No. 362 (California)—Urges the Veterans Administration to establish a National Cemetery in Northern California.

Res. No. 465 (Minnesota)—Urges a further investigation of conditions at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, regarding size of grave sites.

Medical and Hospital

Res. No. 104 (Montana)—Sponsor and support legislation to provide an increase in the travel reimbursement for veterans suffering from service-connected disabilities.

Res. No. 105 (Montana)—Sponsor and support legislation to increase the fee limitation for certain veterans entitled to outpatient services.

Res. No. 117 (Arkansas)—Urges a study be made of current VA policies and procedures to make sure that all medical records are available at all times.

Res. No. 159 (Iowa)—Seeks legislation that would result in a tighter restriction of certain patients from VA medical centers.

Res. No. 175 (South Carolina)—Seeks legislation that would enable veterans with service-connected disabilities to receive drugs prescribed by non-VA physicians.

Res. No. 229 (Michigan)—Oppose the admission and treatment of non-veterans at the VAMC, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Res. No. 232 (Puerto Rico)—Urges the Veterans Administration to establish a Soldier's Home in Puerto Rico.

Res. No. 296 (Virginia)—Urges the VA to change the policies and procedures for admission to both domiciliary and medical centers.

Res. No. 342 (Alaska)—Urges that adequate funding be appropriated for certain beneficiary travel for those States without VA medical facilities.

Res. No. 401 (Alabama)—Oppose action that would change the medical mission of the VAMC at Montgomery, Alabama.

VA Hospitals

The following resolutions are recommended for referral to the Standing Commission for presentation to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, with the request that each resolution be considered in connection with the Veterans Administration's overall planning to insure that there will be sufficient hospital and nursing care beds, other medical care, and domiciliary facilities, meeting the present high standards of the VA hospital system, and suitably located throughout the Country for veterans requiring hospitalization and medical treatment, or domiciliary care, for their service-connected disabilities, and for war veterans suffering from non-service-connected disabilities, and who are unable to pay for needed hospitalization, nursing, or domiciliary care.

Res. No. 45 (Arizona)—Enlarge the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

Res. No. 50 (Arizona)—Urges the Veterans Administration to establish a Spinal Cord Injury Center at a Veterans Administration Medical Center in Arizona.

Res. No. 125 (Massachusetts)—Urges the construction of a Chapel at the West Roxbury VA Medical Center.

Res. No. 294 (Virginia)—Urges the construction of a new VA domiciliary at the Hampton VAMC in Virginia.

Res. No. 396 (Wisconsin)—Urges the VA to establish a clinic or satellite mini-hospital in Northwestern Wisconsin.

Res. No. 443 (Texas)—Seeks funding and staffing to open a Satellite Outpatient Clinic in the west part of Forth Worth, Texas.

Claims and Rating

Res. No. 162 (Iowa)—Sponsor and support legislation to provide for a charge in VA regulations pertaining to countable income for pension purposes where a dependent spouse and children are involved.

Res. No. 233 (Puerto Rico)—Oppose the Veterans Administration's review of certain disability cases of Puerto Rican veterans.

Res. No. 234 (Puerto Rico)—Oppose the reexamination and reevaluation of those veterans with 100 percent ratings where such ratings have been in effect for nearly 20 years.

Res. No. 445 (Texas)—Oppose cuts in burial benefits, education benefits, medical benefits and pension income limitations.

Res. No. 460 (Minnesota)—Urges the Veterans Administration to change its procedures covering examinations in those cases in which post-traumatic stress disorders are involved.

REJECTED RESOLUTIONS

Policy

Res. No. 10 (Florida)—Support legislation to provide chiropractic care in VA hospitals.

Res. No. 16 (Philippine Islands)—Seeks legislation to provide for judicial review of decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

Res. No. 123 (Massachusetts)—Urges legislation to restore certain benefits under the Social Security program.

Res. No. 177 (South Carolina)—Sponsor and support legislation to exclude all VA benefits in the determination of eligibility and entitlement to all Federal entitlement programs such as food stamps and housing subsidies.

Res. No. 217 (Illinois)—Urges the VA to use specialists in Rating Board actions.

Res. No. 258 (Pennsylvania)—Urges legislation to correct an injustice in the payment of Social Security to certain individuals.

Res. No. 385 (Pennsylvania)—Seeks legislation to provide for judicial review of decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

Claims and Rating

Res. No. 18 (Philippine Islands)—Seeks legislation to repeal the provisions of section 107 of title 38, USC, restricting benefits to Commonwealth Army, Recognized Guerrillas, and Public Law 190 Philippine Scouts.

Res. No. 38 (North Dakota)—Support legislation to provide that all Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments be paid at one standard rate.

Res. No. 100 (Montana)—Urges an increase in the income limitations that will provide fair and equitable pension payments.

Res. No. 106 (Montana)—Support legislation to provide that all Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments be paid at one standard rate.

Res. No. 109 (Montana)—Urges legislation to provide that any reduction in service-connected disability payments shall be the last day of the month following 120 days from the date of notice of such a reduction.

Res. No. 126 (Massachusetts)—Urges a change in the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities to provide a minimum 10 percent rating for five years for all postoperative malignancies.

Res. No. 128 (Massachusetts)—Urges legislation to provide for the payment of DIC to dependents of veterans who, at time of death, were entitled to compensation payments at or above the rate provided for in section 314(1) of title 38, USC.

Res. No. 176 (South Carolina)—Seeks legislation that would require a review and updating of the 1945 Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

Res. No. 188 (Ohio)—Seeks legislation to provide that an additional 10 percent of disability payments be paid to veterans for disabilities that have been combat incurred.

Res. No. 234 (Illinois)—Seeks legislation to exclude the income of a spouse and dependent children in the computation of income for pension purposes, and that dependent children's income also be excluded in the computation of a spouse's income for pension purposes.

Res. No. 225 (Illinois)—Urges that an increase in pension be granted all veterans and their dependents, with no income limitations: \$200 per month for a veteran; \$125 per month for a spouse; and, \$60 per month for each child.

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

... The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you, Mr. Lenker. I have a second. Is there any discussion?

DELEGATE JOE ADAMS, Pennsylvania: Comrade Commander, Joe Adams, Pennsylvania, Delegate, requests that Resolution No. 459 from Minnesota, 385 from Pennsylvania, and No. 16 from the Philippines be set aside.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Is there any further discussion on the motion to adopt the report with the exception of Resolution No. 459, 385 and 16?

The eyes have it, and the report is adopted with the exception of the Resolutions 459, 385 and 16 which will be taken into consideration and set aside.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: May I come to the podium, sir?

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Yes, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: Usually, it takes me several minutes to address the question, but in order to get to it before you start, what branch of service were you in, Mr. Davis?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE DAVIS: United States Army.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: He was in the Army. Now how many years have you been with The American Legion?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE DAVIS: 38.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: 38. And as Judge Advocate?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE DAVIS: 23.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: 23 years we have suffered through the toil and skirmishes of National Executive Committee, of National Conventions, and it always seemed to me that until I was able to be out with the troops and to defend their rights and privileges, that there were many erroneous rulings that came from this chair—not from you, Commander, of course, you are absolutely correct.

Now, but it seems to me as well, that you are the same Judge Advocate who has always guided The American Legion through many troublesome times, through more difficult situations than time or discretion would permit me to refer to.

He is also the same Judge Advocate who had such a strong hand in the legal briefs that led to the very significant victory in the United States Supreme Court this year.

He is the same Judge Advocate who is serving in this capacity for the last time at a National Convention.

You are leaving, aren't you?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE DAVIS: I am.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: You are sure as hell. I don't want to waste these words if you are staying.

I want to save them for somebody. But he is leaving. He is going, thank God.

But on October 31, Bert Davis will retire as our Judge Advocate.

So with the Commander's permission, I was permitted to come up here at this time and make an expression of gratitude, an expression of great affection.

You know that Bert, that you have used this on various occasions, and this should only apply to someone who actually deserves it. It is from the ancient playwright, Euripides, one of your contemporaries, I believe, but he said—

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE DAVIS: I love this.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: How do I praise this Bert—I add the word? Not overpraise, and yet, not mar the grace by stint thereof.

So I suppose one of the best ways for a Convention for its Delegates to show their true affection to a very faithful servant is to respond.

... At this time, the entire delegation stood.

All of you in the wings and on the stage, and give Bert Davis—

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE DAVIS: Well, I might have expected that from anyone but his Honor. I can't believe it. The genial giant.

I don't know when I have been so touched in my whole life by this moving and affectionate speech by Dan Foley, who is a dear and treasured friend of mine, and always will be.

I always have a great affection for The American Legion. When I came out of military service, I had that wonderful G.I. Bill which carried me through college, and carried me through law school, and helped me to raise my family. I have met many wonderful people, people from all walks of life, farmers, tradesmen, lawyers, doctors, and I can honestly say, that it's been an education. I have never regretted my years with The American Legion.

I don't think any of these young fellows up here will either. I might say that we have a wonderful new staff. They are energetic, they are bright, and they are devoted to The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Yes. I want the Chairman to read it in full now, Resolution No. 459, which you will consider at this time.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENKER: Mr. Commander, since all three resolutions consider the same judicial review, with your permission, I would like to read all three of them for the discussion and so forth, and then make a motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: If there is no objection to that, we will accept that.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENKER: Thank you.

Resolution No. 459 (Minnesota)—Oppose legislation which would authorize judicial review of the decisions of the administrator of veterans affairs

WHEREAS, The United States Senate has approved legislation providing for judicial review of the decisions rendered on claims by the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The Senate has amended a measure approved by the House of Representatives to include the language of such judicial review legislation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long believed that veterans receive excellent representation by accredited repre-

mentatives of veterans organizations who serve veterans and dependents without charge or fee; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is now and has been mandated to oppose judicial review of decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs based upon sound principle and extensive experience in the development and presentation of claims before the Veterans Administration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion shall continue to oppose the enactment of any measure that would authorize judicial review of the decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs except as currently authorized by law.

Resolution No. 385 (Pennsylvania)—Support legislation to provide for limited judicial review of decisions of the Veterans Administration adverse to claims of such veterans

WHEREAS, Under interpretation of existing law, there is no redress of claims by any veteran in the Courts of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Existing law does not afford any veteran judicial review from a decision of the Veterans Administration denying benefits to any veteran; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed that the view that veterans benefits are mere gratuities and that veterans have no interest in or right to such benefits is not a tenable position; and

WHEREAS, Justice and equity demand that veterans be served with compassion, fairness and efficiency and that every veteran is entitled to receive from his government every benefit and service to which he or she may be entitled under law; and

WHEREAS, The United States Senate has passed and sent to the House legislation which would provide limited judicial review for those veterans aggrieved by an adverse decision of the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed that the scope of review as embodied in the pending legislation will go a long way toward bringing about fundamental fairness to veteran claimants in providing limited access to Courts for judicial review and said bill fairly meets any objections expressed against the according of such rights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion support legislation in the Congress of the United States that would provide for limited judicial review of decisions of the Veterans Administration that are adverse to the claims of veterans.

Resolution No. 16 (Philippines)—Sponsor legislation to amend 38 USC, Section 211 (a), so as to allow judicial review of claims denied by the Veterans Administration

WHEREAS, Section 211(a) 38 US Code provides that decisions of the Administrator on any question of law or fact under any law administered by the Veterans Administration providing benefits for veterans and their dependents or survivors shall be final and conclusive and no other official or any court of the United States shall have power or jurisdiction to review any such action except insurance claims; and

WHEREAS, It would appear that such enormous power to decide claims being granted to one individual could lead to arbitrary unfavorable decisions that would leave thousands of veterans or their survivors with no alternative but to accept denial act-on their claims; and

WHEREAS, The Philippine Department and other American Legion Departments believe that a change in position of The American Legion on the subject of judicial review should be seriously considered to give its complete support if our or-

ganization is interested in the welfare of veterans and their dependents whose claims have been denied by the VA Regional Offices and the Board of Veterans Appeals; and

WHEREAS, The availability of U.S. District Courts to rule on decisions of the Administrator on denied claims filed with the Veterans Administration would at least give veterans and their survivors a Court of last resort; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, That legislation be sponsored in the U.S. Congress to amend Section 211(a) 38 US Code so that any claim denied by the Veterans Administration be subject to judicial review in US District Courts.

Mr. Commander, I move the approval of Resolution No. 459 from Minnesota, and the rejection of 385 from Pennsylvania and 16 from the Philippine Islands.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: You have been advised that we will take Minnesota first. Do I hear a second to the motion to approve Resolution No. 459 from Minnesota?

... The motion was seconded by Mr. Burkhardt, Maryland.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Is there any discussion? Mike 2.

DELEGATE ROBERT MCFARLAND, Maine: Mr. Commander, fellow Legionnaires, my name is Robert McFarland, Department of Maine, I am a Delegate to this Convention.

By way of credentials, I have been a Service Officer for 14 years in the Department of Maine, and I am now serving my second term on the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Many of you have seen the statement which has been circulated selectively in the past few days on the letterhead of a prestigious law firm in one of our larger Departments, which bears the name of three principals and 15 other lawyers and is a copy of the statement made by one of the principals before the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

The priorities expressed in the first paragraph of this statement, and I quote, "This statement is being presented to you on behalf of myself, in my individual capacity as a veteran, a lawyer, a citizen, and also on behalf of the Department which he represents."

This statement also implies that the veteran has nothing to lose by judicial review. Facts do not substantiate it.

What about the veteran who has had a 40 percent service-connected compensation for over 20 years. He has become older, has many other non-service problems which totally disable him. He wants a higher rate of compensation. The VA gives him an exam and finds in fact his service-connected condition is better, but the non-service-connected conditions render him unemployable. They tell him that under their regulations, since he has had 40 percent for over 20 years, they will not reduce that, that he will continue to receive his 40 percent. Will the Federal Judge go along with the VA decision, or will he decide that his service condition is better and he should receive less compensation?

In either case, the poor veteran can receive legally, a bill for up to \$750.00, which he must pay, even if the claim is disallowed.

And he would also lose, as his attorney would retain up to 25 percent of all the money the VA agree to pay him.

I would like to just summarize a case I personally handled for a veteran who had been getting a pension for a number of years, but felt that he should have had service-connected for his condition. I felt very strongly that the veteran was right, and returned the case to the VA once a year for six years in a row, with only the veteran's current medical report as evidence.

On the sixth try, I asked the Veterans Administration to send the case out for an outside medical opinion, which is under their policies now. They can do it. This was done, and the medical school agrees with me that the veteran should have been service-connected from the date of original application. The veteran got a check retroactive for \$25,000 and went from about \$250.00 monthly pension to aid and dependence to over \$1,000 monthly for compensation with aid and dependence.

I defy anyone in this hall to say that the proposed judicial review system would have reopened the case after the first denial on the very slim evidence that the VA accepted five times more. Instead, he got a retroactive check, and the service-connected rating and the veteran would have a bill of up to \$750.00 from his attorney, and the case would have been dead.

Just a word about this other flyer, which is circulating in the seats today. If you ask the right questions, you can get any answer you want. If the question was put by a group, has their own system, and non-adversarial adversary system, which you can submit third-party evidence, and it read the evidence, and who will furnish the evidence, and be bound to resolve any reasonable difference in your favor. And then have the final decision made by a group, not a single person, a group of several qualified persons, who know thoroughly, the VA rules and regulations, and a medical specialist at their disposal, and the whole process costs the veterans nothing. I think that that is a much better route, and the one which would associate us in the same system, and I open the folder here, which covers what, illegal scam, rapists, thieves, traitors, spies, arsonists, terrorists and so forth.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: You are approaching your time.

DELEGATE McFARLAND: If the question had been proposed as I stated, it would have been one yes under the VA, and the others would have been no.

In the words of the esteemed Will Rogers, if something works, don't fix it. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Microphone No. 3.

DELEGATE ED HOAK, Pennsylvania: Mr. Commander and fellow Delegates to this Convention, I am Ed Hoak, the Department Adjutant of Pennsylvania American Legion. I stand before you to oppose Resolution No. 459. I am asking you to reject this resolution which would oppose judicial review. Limited judicial review will not destroy the Department Service Officer. This is a Veterans Administration scare talk.

The VA doesn't want someone looking over their shoulder, especially the Courts of this Nation. Every American is entitled to take this case before the Courts of the land, except the real heroes of this Nation, the war veterans that fought for this Country, and for justice for all.

I ask you to reject Minnesota Resolution 459. The majority of the Departments' Service Officers who served on the Screening Committee approved the theory of judicial review.

In Pennsylvania, we had a staff of 36 paid people working in service work. They approve of judicial review. The ones that are working at the Post level, the ones at the Department level, and let's get back to the veteran's right that they deserve, the right that you fought for so that they could have their day in Court. Don't let The American Legion be out of step.

Let The American Legion be a leader in the promotion of judicial review, limited judicial review. Don't believe the scare tactics that you hear.

Comrades, please vote against Resolution 459, and approve Minnesota Resolution 385.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Mike No. 5.

DELEGATE VAL LIKENS, Iowa: Yes, it is, live. Mr. Com-

mander, and fellow Delegates to this Convention, my name, Val Likens, Department Service Officer from the great Department of Iowa.

I stand in support of Resolution 459 as an American Legion Service Officer who has served the widow and dependent children for over 30 years.

The American Legion has already by National Convention action last year on record opposed judicial review. The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission of The American Legion of this Convention has again gone on record at this Convention opposing judicial review.

The General Counsel of the Veterans Administration told the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, the reasons that we should oppose judicial review at the meeting of the Commission, and his reasons concur with the rationale which was used at the Convention last year, to oppose judicial review.

The circumstances still have not changed. He said that without a doubt, that the entry of veterans' claims into the Federal judiciary system would immediately place the veteran in an adversary relationship to the United States in seeking the approval of claims.

He said in our judicial system, the Administrators are required to defend against the complaint filed by a veteran and to do everything possible to deprive the validity of the complaint. Even though the case would be heard on the record and not by trial, the fact remains that the veteran would be pitted against the government in an effort to prove the government to be in error.

We have been advised that as soon as the veterans' claims enter the Federal judiciary system, that the rules of evidence will apply. The rules of evidence as provided in the Federal Court do not now apply in the adjudicative system. Presently the Veterans Administration will consider and often act on hearsay evidence, second, and even thirdhand evidence, none of which would be admissible in a Court of law.

Many of us Service Officers think that the VA is very conservative in the application of the realm of reasonable doubt. Let me assure you, that should judicial review be implemented, you can rest assured that there will be no reasonable doubt considered by the Veterans Administration thereafter.

Those of you that were here this morning heard Congressman Montgomery say that judicial review would possibly eliminate the Board of Veterans Appeals. It is the first thing to eliminate the Veterans Administration itself.

Mr. Commander, we in Iowa oppose judicial review in at least its present form, and urge the other Delegates to this Convention to oppose it for the good of all veterans, widows and dependent children, and support Resolution 459. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Mike No. 4.

DELEGATE JIM NALL, Wyoming: I came in a few days early, because there was a member of the Resolutions Screening Committee that was mentioned. I was honored to be elected Chairman and discussed this quite thoroughly.

We were evenly divided two to two. I was the deciding vote, and we said, let's approve judicial review. When it reached the full Committee, it was turned around.

I am glad. I have since discovered if judicial review is not to be limited to just cases of, denied by Boards of Veterans Appeals, they are going to get into our business then at the lower end. It will be complete chaos.

I earnestly recommend what the gentleman up there said, if it ain't broke, don't fix it, and our system ain't broke. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Microphone No. 5.

DELEGATE "BUBBA" AIKENS, Georgia: I am from the Department of Georgia, Department Service Officer. I too have been in service work a number of years. I have been honored to be appointed and reappointed by 25 State Commanders.

I rise to speak in support of the Committee and the adoption of Resolution 459. I would remind our Delegates that entrance into the Federal Court system practices puts our veterans and the government in an adversary relationship, which they are not in at the present time.

Under judicial review, veterans must be represented by attorneys, and these attorneys must be paid. Now these fees can only come from one of three sources, number one, from any benefits that are gained by going to Court; number two, from the veteran's own pocket, and let me remind one and all, these are often sick, indigent, and people who are unable to pay.

And number three, it would have to come from the taxpayer, from the public treasury.

I would say to you Delegates and remind you, for qualified claims assistance, from our organization, and other veterans service organizations, they cost the veteran nothing.

Many aged and ailing claimants will expire. In our particular country, the Courts are already overloaded, and many of these poor people would expire while waiting on long drawn-out appellant procedures.

I want to mention once veterans' claims become subject to Court review, there will never again be our policy on granted benefits that now is in the Veterans Administration.

We as Service Officers have a day-to-day relationship with our VA acute patient, people who we would surely sacrifice this long-established, friendly relationship, because these people will be more careful. They will be very restrictive in their decisions.

I would close, Mr. Commander, by repeating again, the words of our Honorable Congressman this morning, who I feel is about the best Congressman in Veterans Affairs in this Country, and I quote the Honorable Congressman "Sonny" Montgomery this morning when he said, "Be careful with judicial review."

I support the Committee and their adoption of 459 and the delegation from Georgia asks your support. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Mike No. 2.

DELEGATE JOHN HARRIS, Minnesota: Mr. Commander, Delegates to this Convention, my name is John Harris, delegation Chairman and a Delegate to this Convention.

I urge that everyone support Resolution 459 of Minnesota.

After having discussed this with our representative on the Screening Committee, and our accredited Service Officers, we have decided that we would support the full stand of all veterans by rejecting Resolution 459 from Minnesota. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Mike No. 1.

DELEGATE MARV CURTIS, Minnesota: Marv Curtis, Past Department Commander from Minnesota. I spent over 25 years working in Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Resolution 459 is emphasizing what The American Legion has stood for many many years, and that is opposing the enactment of any measures that would raise judicial review. We have enough veterans coming into the VA hospitals with afflictions that we do not have the care for, and I don't think that we have to put another affliction on our veterans. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Mike No. 2.

DELEGATE CHESTER STELLAR, Ohio: I support Resolution 459 from the Department of Ohio, in its entirety. The concern of mine is a concern of every veteran of America, that this would be a step in dismantling a part of the VA. We constantly must be on the alert that this great institution, where

the veterans of America may be dismantled. And I want to support the resolution in opposition to judicial review which might be that first step.

One of the previous speakers said before, why doesn't The American Legion get in step. I say to you, Mr. Commander, and every Delegate here, The American Legion was out of step, and they stood all alone for the G.I. Bill of Rights, and I hope The American Legion stands alone forever in favor of the veterans of America and opposes judicial review. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Mike No. 3.

DELEGATE BOB VALIMONT, Pennsylvania: Bob Valimont, Delegate from Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Comrade, is there a split in the Pennsylvania delegation?

DELEGATE VALIMONT: No, but we are entitled to two speakers.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: That is right.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE DAVIS: Yes, that is right.

DELEGATE VALIMONT: I speak in favor of the Pennsylvania resolution and in opposition to the Minnesota resolution.

It is time that we put the misstatements aside with regard to judicial review. Yes, we should be careful about what we do in judicial review, but the safety of the United States in unanimously passing the judicial review provisions has been careful. They have been specifically provided in it, that the non-adversarial procedure, and the no requirement for following strict rules of evidence be adopted into the legislation following the current regulations of the Veterans Administration.

They have provided further that there shall be no res judicata that, and there be no binding precedents so that you will be able to come back the same as you do now.

They do not propose to abolish the Board of Appeals. No, the legislation that they propose increases the number from 50 to 65.

The question with regard to the replacement of the Service Officers, they will be needed as much now, and in the future under judicial review, as they are without judicial review. The provisions in it, and this is not a lawyer's bill, there is a provision in the bill with regard to any representation, and the \$10.00 limit still applies unless there is a final decision of the Administrator, and then when there is an appeal to the Board of Appeals, then only fees as fixed by the Administrator of the Veterans Affairs will prevail.

With regard to any fees that go to the Court, they have to be supervised and approved by the Court, and with the limitation of \$750.00, if it is lost, with a limitation of 25 percent if it is won.

Now the Legionnaires remember that the only appeal that is going up, is the veteran who has already lost. The veteran has lost. There is no appeal by the Veterans Administration when there is a winning. There is no appeal by anybody when the veteran has won.

Therefore, how can we say that this will deny the veteran anything when all that it can possibly do is give him some rights that he does not have.

We talked yesterday about the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, that he gave accolades to the Supreme Court when he said that the Supreme Court gave preferred status to the veterans for lobbying. I say to you fellow Legionnaires, let's give equal status to the veterans in allowing them to make an appeal when they have been deprived or denied of a right before the Veterans Administration.

I ask you to vote no on the Minnesota resolution and then to vote yes on the Pennsylvania resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Mike No. 1.

DELEGATE STEWART KUNDE, Minnesota: Mr. Commander, Stewart Kunde from the Department of Minnesota. I move the question.

... The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: A motion to move the previous question has been made and has been seconded.

This motion will close all debate, and requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

However, under the Uniform Code of Procedure for the organization of the National Conventions of The American Legion, debate not be curtailed without affording the Committee Chairman an opportunity for rebuttal.

Therefore, if this motion is carried, the Chairman will be given an opportunity for rebuttal.

The motion before the house is that of the previous question. It has been seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye; those opposed, no. The ayes have it and it is so ordered.

Now Mr. Lenker will close debate.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENKER: Thank you, Mr. Commander, fellow Delegates, in casting your vote on such an important decision, please reflect back that Congress recognizes what has been happening with the VA and has not since 1923 proceeded to do anything about judicial review.

The American Legion for the last 30 years has been consistent in not accepting judicial review.

Now let's destroy one myth at the present time, and that is the Constitutional issue. Any veteran has that right to go to the Supreme Court. So about ten years ago, we understood that. And then it began to get into the law and the fact, the fact is, we said immediately, no don't put the facts, the case, don't, because we depend so much on hearsay; we depend so much on friends on what they say, and we don't want to go before a Federal Judge, because they will throw that all out.

Now the third time out, and this is a limited, limited judicial review. Let me give you a quotation on the 1979 Senate Committee, legal counsel, where they then thought it would be great to have judicial review, and then end up by saying, any lawyer can take the situation and spend two years in our Court deciding whether it was going to be facts or whether it was going to be procedure or law. It is called "lawyer's mischief."

So you say to put a step in the wrong direction, if you are going to talk to this candidate about limited review.

I might remind my friends from Pennsylvania, regarding the Senate Bill 360, it is not the Administrator of VA that sets those amounts that will be awarded. It is the Judge that does.

So I ask you to support your Convention Committee, which consisted of 120 Delegates, and there were three there that said they wanted judicial review.

I ask you now to vote and approve 459 from Minnesota.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: All right, the question before the Convention is the approval of Resolution 459. All those in favor, signify by saying aye; those opposed, no.

The ayes have it, and Resolution No. 459 is approved.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENKER: I would like to move that Resolution No. 385 from Pennsylvania and 16 from the Philippines be rejected.

... The motion was seconded by Mr. Burkhardt, Maryland.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Could we have a ruling on Resolution No. 385 and 16, Judge Davis?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE DAVIS: Now that 459 from Minnesota has been adopted, which opposed judicial re-

view, we are now going to rule that 385 from Pennsylvania and 16 from the Philippines are out of order.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Chair rules that Resolution No. 385 from Pennsylvania, and Resolution No. 16 from the Philippines are out of order.

The Chair now recognizes Mr. Frank Kelly, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Economics, for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS

Frank Kelly (Georgia) Chairman

To the 65th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983.

Seventy-eight (78) members of the Committee on Economics met at 9:00 A.M., August 21, in the Pacific Ballroom of the Seattle Hilton Hotel, and agreed upon the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Frank A. Kelly (GA) was unanimously elected Chairman, and Joseph Holzka (NY) was elected Secretary of the Convention Economic Committee.

Your Convention Economic Committee was divided into parts: Employment and Veterans Preference and Other Economic Matters. Henry Field (SC) was elected Chairman of the Committee on Employment and Veterans Preference, and Jerome Roach (MO) was elected Secretary. James Grimaldi (PA) was elected Chairman of the Committee on Other Economic Matters, and Firman Henricks (IL) was elected Secretary.

Seventy (70) resolutions were considered by your Committee. In response to a call from the National Adjutant, the Economic Screening Committee met in the Baker Room of the Westin Hotel on Friday, August 19, 1983. The Screening Committee was composed of members of the Economic Commission and affiliated Committees, who are as follows: Frank A. Kelly (GA), Chairman; Jerome Roach (MO); James Grimaldi (PA); Henry Field (SC); and James McMahon (ME).

A report of the Screening Committee's analysis with recommendations was presented to the Convention Committee for consideration.

The fine work performed by the Economic Screening Committee in analyzing and grouping the resolutions was of great assistance to the Convention Committee and is greatly appreciated. The Committee recommends that an Economic Screening Committee be appointed to serve the 66th Annual National Convention Committee on Economics.

In considering resolutions presented, the Committee took the position that the subject matter should be germane to veterans. It was the desire of the Committee to avoid putting The American Legion on record in fields unrelated to veterans affairs.

Of the seventy (70) resolutions considered, sixty-six (66) were referred by the Resolutions Assignment Committee from twenty-two (22) Departments and four (4) originated in the Convention Economic Committee.

THE FOLLOWING ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS WAS TAKEN BY THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE:

Approved, or approved as amended	18
Consolidated with resolutions approved	30
Referred to Standing Economic Commission	2
Received and Recorded	6
Rejected	12

A report of the two (2) resolutions referred to the Standing Economic Commission will be reported to the National Executive Committee and to the Adjutants of the concerned Depart-

ments, and will be contained in the National Adjutant's report to the National Executive Committee.

The subject matter of the eight (8) resolutions received and recorded is covered by recently-enacted legislation or is the policy of The American Legion.

The subject matter of the twelve (12) resolutions recommended for rejection was determined by your Convention Committee as not being germane to The American Legion's programs, contrary to established American Legion policy, or not for the best interests of veterans.

Employment and Veterans Preference

Forty (40) members of the Committee on Employment and Veterans Preference met in joint session with the Committee on Other Economic Matters and considered fifty-seven (57) resolutions, of which thirty-seven (37) were consolidated into twelve (12), which are being submitted for approval; one (1) was referred to the Standing Economic Commission, eight (8) were received and recorded; and eleven (11) were recommended for rejection.

Approved Resolutions

Resolution No. 54 (Oklahoma) consolidated with **Resolutions 246 (Pennsylvania); 408 (Texas); 450 (Minnesota); and 472 (New Mexico).**

Resolution No. 54 (Oklahoma)—Oppose any change in the Wagner-Peyser Act having adverse effect on Veterans
WHEREAS, The Congress, in the passage of the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, provided, in part, for the creation of the United States Employment Service; and

WHEREAS, The Act directly benefits veterans, who are to receive priority in the employment services provided under the Act; and

WHEREAS, Proposed amendments to the Act may cause harm to veterans services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion oppose any changes in the Wagner-Peyser Act that may adversely affect veterans.

Resolution No. 105 (Maine), and consolidated with **Resolutions 137 (Indiana); 205 (Illinois); 390 (Wisconsin); and 471 (New Mexico), Full Funding for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training.**

WHEREAS, PL 96-468 established the Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training to coordinate and direct all veterans employment/training activities within the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, In order to fully implement those pertinent sections of title 38, USC, as regard veteran employment matters, the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training must be fully funded; and

WHEREAS, Underfunding of the Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training will have a negative impact on the employment/training delivery services to all veterans, especially those of the Vietnam era; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor, be fully funded to carry out its mission as prescribed by law and regulation.

Resolution No. 407 (Texas), Seek Increase in Staff For State Employment.

WHEREAS, The Employment Service has been in existence since 1933 to provide free job assistance to unemployed persons; and

WHEREAS, One of the primary functions of the Employment Service is to provide veterans with an effective priority service; and

WHEREAS, The Employment Service budget has been severely curtailed, in spite of an increase in the size of the labor market and a substantial increase in the use of the Employment Service by employers and unemployed persons during the past several years; and

WHEREAS, This huge increase in services requires additional staff and offices throughout the United States in the Employment Service to maintain and improve employment services for veterans and all other applicants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that Congress and the Department of Labor be requested to support an increase in positions and funding therefore in the State Employment Services so that an effective employment service, including employment services to veterans, can be maintained.

Employment and Veterans Preference Committee Henry Field, Chairman

Five (5) resolutions ask for full enforcement of requirements for affirmative action for eligible veterans by Federal contractors. **Resolution No. 11 (North Carolina)** consolidated with **Resolutions numbered 53 (Oklahoma); 63 (Oklahoma); 241 (Pennsylvania); and 466 (New Mexico), Full Enforcement of Requirements For Affirmative Action For Eligible Veterans by Federal Contractors.**

WHEREAS, Section 2013 of title 38, United States Code, requires that any private contractor or subcontractor who has a government contract for the procurement of personal property and nonpersonal services of \$10,000 or more shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era; and

WHEREAS, This federal statute further requires contractors to list "immediately" with the local Job Service office all of its suitable employment openings; and

WHEREAS, Enforcement of this requirement is vested in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance of the Department of Labor, which has not, in any meaningful and substantive way, enforced the above provisions; and

WHEREAS, There has been, and is, a blatant disregard of the above provisions by both the Office of Federal Contract Compliance and private contractors, thus denying qualified veterans employment opportunities within the private sector; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the Office of Federal Contract Compliance and the office of Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor, be required to fully enforce the provisions of section 2013 of title 38, United States Code, which are intended to help eligible veterans to find employment with contractors having federal contracts.

Five (5) resolutions are directed at improving employment services for veterans. **Resolution No. 245 (Pennsylvania)** consolidated with **Resolutions numbered 30 (South**

Dakota); 59 (Oklahoma); 61 (Oklahoma); and 409 (Texas).
Veterans Employment Training Programs.

WHEREAS, Veterans of all eras are experiencing unemployment and underemployment problems of significant proportions nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Congress in enacting the Job Training Partnership Act at Title IV-C provides for a National Veterans Program; and

WHEREAS, Older generations of veterans are also in need of employment/training programs that address their economic needs and reflect their years of economic contribution and talents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion urge Congress to provide for veterans of all eras who are in need of employment/training assistance in all proposed federally funded training programs.

... National Vice Commander Leo Walker, Oklahoma, assumed the Chair.

Resolution No. 133 (Utah), consolidated with Resolution No. 893 (California), is recommended for adoption and reads as follows: Oppose the Transfer of the Office of Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training to the Veterans Administration

WHEREAS, Chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code, establishes within the Department of Labor an Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service is charged to be the principal advisor to the Secretary of Labor on veterans' employment training matters and to direct and oversee the responsibilities of its field personnel; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service must coordinate programs and responsibilities with other Department of Labor components in order to effectively and efficiently serve the employment needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, The program mission and objectives of the Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service are best served by remaining a separate and distinct component of the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, The transfer of function and responsibilities of the Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service to the Veterans Administration would be detrimental to the employment training needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration is not so structured to absorb an employment training program as the office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion oppose any Congressional initiative that would transfer the mission and responsibilities of the Office of Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Service to the Veterans Administration.

Resolution No. 109 (South Carolina) consolidated with Resolutions numbered 66 (Oklahoma); 113 (District of Columbia); and 473 (New Mexico). Promote the "Jobs For Veterans" Program.

WHEREAS, The American Legion initiated a national "Jobs for Veterans" program in mid-1970 through post and department participation in veteran job fairs, information days, Vet-A-Thons and other like programs; and

WHEREAS, All posts and departments are encouraged to appoint active Employment Chairmen to direct such programs and to disseminate available helpful economic pamphlets, brochures and manuals; and

WHEREAS, The success of the "Jobs for Veterans" program depends on the active level of participation by posts and departments working in concert with state and local officials in addressing the needs of veterans at the local levels; and

WHEREAS, This cooperative arrangement may manifest itself in mutually beneficial ways to include committees, task forces, and involvement in federal job and job training programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion urge all posts and departments to actively promote the "Jobs for Veterans" program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion take an active role in federal job and job training programs to ensure that veterans receive their rightful place and representation on all state and local job and job training committees and councils.

Resolution No. 29 (South Dakota), Support Veterans Preference in Federal Employment, consolidated with Resolution No. 412 (Texas).

WHEREAS, A grateful Nation has, following each war, indicated its thanks to those who bore the battle by providing certain rights and benefits, one of which has been a small advantage when seeking federal employment and in retention of that employment; and

WHEREAS, Absence from the highly competitive job market due to military service creates an unfair and unequal burden on veterans in competing with their nonveteran peers upon completion of military service, which this preference in federal employment is intended to partly overcome; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion strongly support veterans preference in federal employment as provided by a grateful Nation, and oppose any efforts to reduce this preference.

Resolution No. 469 (New Mexico) consolidated with resolutions numbered 67 (Oklahoma) and 410 (Texas). Promotion by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management of the Special Hiring Authority For 30 Percent Disabled Veterans.

WHEREAS, The 30 percent disabled veterans hiring program, codified in 5 USC 3312, is designed to allow federal agencies to hire disabled veterans without competitive examinations, which may lead to career appointments; and

WHEREAS, This special authority is discretionary and not mandatory on federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, Federal agencies have never fully embraced or utilized this program, thus denying many qualified disabled veterans the opportunity for federal employment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The U.S. Office of Personnel Management be urged to fully support and promote the use of the special hiring authority for veterans with 30 percent disability.

Resolution No. 411 (Texas), Promotion of the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) Authority by Federal Agencies.

WHEREAS, The Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) is a special hiring program in the federal government for

veterans of the Vietnam era, established by Executive Order in 1970 and subsequently codified by PL 96-420 (5 USC 2014(b)(3)); and

WHEREAS, Through the use of this authority over 180,000 Vietnam era veterans have been hired by the federal government, with nearly 75 percent being converted to career appointment; and

WHEREAS, Since use of this authority is not mandatory, but discretionary with federal agencies, agencies have uneven hiring records, not being fully aware of the program and/or are resistant to its use; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the U.S. Office of Personnel Management be urged to fully support and promote the use of the special hiring program for Vietnam era veterans, the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) by all federal agencies.

Resolution No. 129 (Massachusetts), Oppose Contracting Out of Federal Jobs Reserved by Law For Veterans, as amended, with Resolution No. 342 (Pennsylvania) is recommended for adoption.

WHEREAS, Title 5, United States Code, 3310 (PL 89-554) provides that the positions of guards, elevator operators, messengers and custodians in federal agencies are restricted to veterans preference eligibles; and

WHEREAS, Those positions have often been contracted out to private contractors, thus denying a preference eligible the opportunity to compete for those positions; and

WHEREAS, The federal government intends to increase contracting out these services to private contractors, thus circumventing the intent of the above provisions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion oppose contracting out of those positions as guards, elevator operators, messengers and custodians restricted to veterans preference eligibles as provided in title 5, United States Code.

Resolution No. 343 (Pennsylvania), Sponsor and Support Legislation to Extend the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) Program, as amended, is recommended for adoption.

WHEREAS, The Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) is a special hiring program in the federal government for veterans of the Vietnam era; and

WHEREAS, The VRA program was established by Executive Order in 1970 and was subsequently codified in 5 USC 2014 (PL 96-420); and

WHEREAS, Through the use of this authority nearly 200,000 Vietnam era veterans have been hired in the federal workforce; and

WHEREAS, Since its enactment Congress has provided program extensions, with the program currently due to terminate on September 30, 1984; and

WHEREAS, Such termination will have a profound negative effect on the federal hiring of Vietnam era veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, to seek legislation that would extend the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VAR) authority.

Resolution No. 489 (Economic Committee), Designation of the Second Full Week in March as "National Employ the Older Worker Week" is recommended for adoption.

WHEREAS, The American Legion for a number of years has concerned itself with the difficulty encountered by the older worker, inasmuch as many of this group are veterans; and

WHEREAS, The practice of discrimination in employment because of age for otherwise qualified persons is contrary to the American principles of liberty and equality of opportunity for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion since 1959 has promoted annually a successful program to focus public attention on the advantages of employing older people, especially veterans, under which the second full week in March is designated as "Employ the Older Worker Week," and citations are presented to employers who do not discriminate against older workers; and

WHEREAS, Department participation and interest of the Legion, employers, and the public in the program has increased each year for the past two decades, and it has been recognized throughout the Nation, and by the United States Congress as a meaningful and significant program to combat age discrimination in employment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion petition the Congress of the United States to adopt a Joint Resolution requesting the President of the United States to issue a proclamation (1) designating the second full week in March of each year as "National Employ the Older Worker Week"; and (2) calling upon employer and employee organizations, other organizations concerned with employment, and the citizens of the United States in general to observe such a week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs designed to bring about the elimination of discrimination in employment because of age.

Received and Recorded

Res. No. 55 (Oklahoma), Oppose Changes in the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978.

Res. No. 56 (Oklahoma), Enact Legislation to Amend Chapter 41, 38 USC, to Establish the Regional Veterans Employment Representatives' Positions by Law.

Res. No. 63 (Oklahoma), The Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment to Aggressively Address Employment/Training Matters.

Res. No. 122 (Massachusetts), Amending 5 USC, Section 8511, to Provide That Releases From Military Service Shall Not be Penalized for the Waiting Period to Receive Benefits.

Res. No. 200 (Virginia), Opposition to March 30, 1983 Proposal by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management Changing Regulations Governing Civil Service Workers.

Res. No. 389 (Wisconsin), Urge Congress to Reinstate Full Unemployment Compensation Benefits for Ex-military Personnel.

Res. No. 470 (New Mexico), Sponsor and Support Legislation to Amend Chapter 41, 38 USC, to Establish the Regional Veterans Employment Representatives' Position by Law.

Res. No. 474 (New Mexico), Implementation of Veterans Employment Program by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment.

... Committee Chairman Frank Kelly resumed reading the following resolutions:

Rejected Resolutions

Res. No. 53 (Oklahoma), Targeted Job Tax Credit Program.

Res. No. 80 (Oklahoma), Asking That a Medical Plan be Developed by The Office of Personnel Management for Military Retirees and Persons Eligible for Medicare Currently Employed by the Federal Government.

Res. No. 221 (Michigan), Revise the Definition of the Disabled Veteran.

Res. No. 240 (Pennsylvania), Enact Legislation to Extend the G.I. Bill for the Purpose of Retraining Veterans in a New Career.

Res. No. 244 (Pennsylvania), Job Training for Veterans.

Res. No. 300 (Maryland), LVER, (Local Veterans Employment Representative.)

Res. No. 301 (Maryland), Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program.

Res. No. 391 (Wisconsin), Sponsor and Support Legislation to Identify Veterans as a Specific Target Group in all Titles of the Job Training Partnership Act.

Res. No. 406 (Texas), Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (Funding)

Res. No. 488 (New Mexico), Include Veterans as One of the Targeted Groups in the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Programs.

Res. No. 478 (New Mexico), Urging the President of the United States to Reactivate the President's "Jobs for Veterans" Committee.

Referred Resolution

Res. No. 308 (Illinois), The Job Training and Partnership Act of 1982.

Other Economic Matters

Thirty-eight (38) members of the Committee on Other Economic Matters met in joint session with the Committee on Employment and Veterans Preference and considered thirteen (13) resolutions, of which eleven (11) were consolidated into six (6) resolutions, which are being submitted for approval; one (1) was referred to the Standing Economic Commission; and one (1) was recommended for rejection.

Approved Resolutions

Resolution No. 388 (Washington) consolidated with Resolutions numbered 180 (Ohio); 181 (Ohio); 381 (Georgia); and 449 (Minnesota). Support Veterans Administration Home Loan Program.

WHEREAS, The VA home loan program, as a benefit available to veterans who served their country honorably, has provided over 11 million veterans with the opportunity to own their own homes; and

WHEREAS, Because of changing economic conditions and the very volatile nature of the real estate market, many hundreds of thousands of Vietnam era veterans have been unable to purchase their first homes; and

WHEREAS, The home loan program has operated successfully under the Veterans Administration since its inception in 1944; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion support all legislation that will have a positive impact on the VA home loan program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any attempt to remove this home loan program for veterans from the VA.

Resolution No. 383 (Georgia), Support Legislation to Allow the Veterans Administration to Guarantee Loans for the Purchase and Renovation of Houses Needing Rehabilitation, with Res. No. 390 (Washington).

WHEREAS, The VA home loan program is a benefit available to all veterans who served their country honorably, providing over eleven million veterans with the opportunity to purchase their own homes; and

WHEREAS, Many younger veterans, particularly those of the Vietnam era, have been unable to purchase their first homes due to high mortgage principal and interest rates; and

WHEREAS, Housing needing rehabilitation, known as rehab housing, can often be purchased and renovated more cheaply than homes that already meet existing housing codes; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no provision in the VA home loan program for the purchase and renovation of this type of housing; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion support legislation that would allow the Veterans Administration to guarantee loans for the purchase and renovation of houses needing rehabilitation.

Resolution No. 401 (Economic Committee), Continued Funding for Veteran Outreach Efforts by the Small Business Administration.

WHEREAS, Congress allotted to the Small Business Administration funds to provide veterans outreach efforts in its fiscal year 1983 budget; and

WHEREAS, These funds are utilized for special veterans demonstration projects, pamphlets, brochures and other necessary and positive veterans outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, The expenditures of these funds have heightened the awareness among veterans, especially Vietnam era veterans and disabled veterans, of SBA programs; and

WHEREAS, Without such specifically earmarked funds, the SBA cannot continue its special veterans outreach efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion urge Congress and the Small Business Administration to provide continuing funds for veterans outreach efforts.

Resolution No. 490 (Economic Committee), Full Funding and Staffing for the Veterans Office of the Small Business Administration.

WHEREAS, The Veterans Office of the Small Business Administration is a permanently created Office by order of the Administrator; and

WHEREAS, That Office is to advise the Administrator on agency programs and policies that affect veterans and to provide technical guidance and conduct veterans outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, Such responsibilities cannot be accomplished unless adequate funding and staffing levels are maintained; and

WHEREAS, Reduction of funding and/or staffing levels of the Veterans Office would seriously jeopardize the efficiency and effectiveness of that Office; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion urge the Small Business Administration fully fund and staff its Veterans Office so it can accomplish its mission.

Resolution No. 488 (Economic Committee), Support the United States Savings Bond Program.

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long promoted the United States Savings Bonds Program; and

WHEREAS, United States Savings Bonds have long provided a safe opportunity for systematic investments, with a fair return, and an attractive federal income tax deferral and state and local income tax exemption; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted legislation to allow the U.S. Treasury to make U.S. Savings Bonds more attractive as an investment, competitive with other savings opportunities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1963, that The American Legion support the U.S. Savings Bonds Program, and that its individual and group effort be used to assist in effecting the success of this program.

Rejected Resolutions

Res. No. 28 (South Dakota), Enact Legislation to Identify Veterans as a Target Group in the 10% Contracting Requirements for Minority Subcontractors subletting From Contractors in Accordance with Public Law 93-237 Covering the Small Business Administration.

Referred Resolution

Res. No. 370 (Washington), Support Legislation That Would Allow the Use of Buyer-Brokers in Connection With the Purchase of Homes Under the VA's Home Loan Program. (The report was approved.)

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER WALKER: The Chair recognizes Dr. Robert P. Foster of Missouri, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Robert P. Foster (Missouri) Chairman

We will begin with the report of the General Foreign Policy Subcommittee, chaired by A. J. Forestiere, Arkansas.

General Foreign Policy Chairman A. J. Forestiere

Resolution No. 273 (Virginia)—United Nations

WHEREAS, The United Nations has frequently failed to achieve its basic purposes of maintaining international peace and security; and

WHEREAS, Politization of some functional UN activities has drastically reduced the United Nations' effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, The United States provides the greatest assessed share of the UN budget (25%) and provides an even higher percentage of voluntary contributions to some United Nations special programs; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations continues to be effective in some functional areas (such as refugee relief, meteorology and coordination of radio frequency use); and

WHEREAS, The U.S. withdrawal from the United Nations would very likely result in the United Nations becoming an unchecked anti-U.S. propaganda arena for the Soviet Union and the Third World; and

WHEREAS, Many Soviet diplomats and diplomats from Soviet-bloc nations at the UN are intelligence agents principally engaged in stealing technological secrets from the U.S., making the United Nations a base for foreign espionage; and

WHEREAS, The Administration fully realizes the necessity to forcefully stand up for U.S. interests in the United Nations, to urge the United Nations to concentrate on its original purposes, and to economize on UN expenditures consistently with U.S. domestic budgetary reductions; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick has been an able, candid, and forceful representative of U.S. national interests at the United Nations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1963, that we urge the Administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient UN operations consistent with the UN Charter's stated purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Administration to take necessary actions to eliminate espionage operations against the United States at the United Nations; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Foreign Relations Commission continue to study and evaluate U.S. participation in the United Nations and report periodically.

Resolution No. 309 (Maryland)—Foreign Aid

WHEREAS, Since World War II the United States has effectively used foreign aid as an important means of achieving national security objectives; and

WHEREAS, Economic assistance has helped improve economic growth in many lesser developed countries through such projects as improving agricultural practices and facilities, upgrading nutrition, and making education more widely available; and

WHEREAS, Security assistance has aided friendly nations in improving their military capabilities, thereby helping meet the increasing worldwide Soviet military threat; and

WHEREAS, Although the United States is the largest donor of foreign aid, our donations represent only .2% (two-thirds of one percent) of our annual gross national product. Seventeen other nations donate larger percentages of their outputs; and

WHEREAS, Compared to other types of spending, the U.S. foreign aid program is relatively modest. It represents slightly more than 1% of the federal budget. American annual per capita spending on foreign aid is about \$44, which is much less than \$104 spent annually per person for TV and radio sets; and

WHEREAS, The Congress did not pass a foreign aid bill for Fiscal Year 1963. Instead, it adopted a continuing resolution, which maintained foreign aid at existing levels but fell 9% below the Administration's request; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1963, that we urge the American people to support and the U.S. Government to continue to use foreign aid as a legitimate, effective means of achieving U.S. national security objectives through helping friendly nations achieve economic growth and military stability.

Resolution No. 364 (California)—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

WHEREAS, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe are now showing a significant new toughness and determination to tell their estimated seventy million listeners what their rulers do not want them to hear; and

WHEREAS, Under the supervision of James Buckley and his deputy, George Bailey, they are bringing a major strategic shift in western broadcasting to the Communist world, and vow to "hit it where it hurts the most"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1963, that the American Legion support Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe and their new, tougher endeavor.

Resolution No. 481 (Committee)—The Successor Generation

WHEREAS, Cooperation among Western Europe, Canada and the United States since World War II has brought about momentous changes that citizens of the Free World take for granted; and

WHEREAS, Peace, prosperity, trade, economic cooperation, and collective security in the North Atlantic region achieved since World War II have enhanced democracy throughout the region and served to exemplify democratic cooperation to many other countries; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the North Atlantic region, millions of young people, numerous teachers, and many emerging leaders lack personal experience of World War II and subsequent Soviet expansionism; therefore, the "successor generation" is not in all cases adequately informed and educated on the necessity to defend and promote Western democratic freedoms, which are threatened by Soviet military, political, psychological, and economic actions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that The American Legion should seek to increase public awareness of the "successor generation" problem; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges public and private organizations in all member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to take coordinated actions, particularly in the field of resuscitation, to assure that leaders, teachers, and citizens of their countries are given the opportunity to understand the concepts of Western political and economic freedoms, the history of how they have been promoted and defended in the past, and the current and future threats to the continuation of such freedoms.

Resolution No. 489 (Committee)—The Information War

WHEREAS, Hundreds of millions of people in many countries do not have access to objective news reports; lack accurate information about democracy, free enterprise, and American life; and are subjected to extensive communist propaganda; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union, recognizing the vital importance of the "Information War", has vastly surpassed the United States in resources devoted to the information field; and

WHEREAS, The United States has made some modest recent increases in resources for the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, etc; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that the United States Government should adopt a long-range program supported by adequate funding to provide the following to communist and communist-dominated nations: objective news reporting; information on American life; information of Western democratic and economic concepts; and accurate information on Soviet-bloc life, including suppression of freedom in communist societies and attempts to dominate other nations.

Resolution No. 488 (Committee)—The Democracy Project
WHEREAS, The United States, despite numerous individual, public and private programs, has not had a coordinated program to further democratic ideals around the world; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan proposed action in his speech to the British Parliament on June 8, 1982 "... foster the infrastructure of democracy—the system of a free press, unions, political parties, universities—which allows people to choose their own way ..." President Reagan also pointed out that the fu-

ture determinant of the world's future "... will not be bombs and rockets, but a test of wills and ideas, a trial of spiritual resolve ..."; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of State Shultz made the following statement when he explained to Congress the Administration's proposal for Project Democracy: "... We are not so naive to believe that imitations of the U.S. system will or even should spring up around the globe. Democracy is more a set of basic principles and institutions than a single, immutable model. The principles and basic institutions are valid worldwide; the overall structure has to be adapted to take into account historic, cultural, and social conditions."; and

WHEREAS, The Administration has proposed that Congress approve Project Democracy, which consists of five activities: leadership training, education, strengthening the institutions of democracy, conveying ideas and information, and development of personal and institutional ties. Most activities would be directed to Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Many activities would be coordinated with the efforts of other democracies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that the Congress be urged to approve Project Democracy and provide adequate funding for it.

Received and Recorded

Resolution 484 (TX) (Res. No. 443, 62nd Annual National Convention), World Communism.

Referred Resolutions

Resolution 384 (WV) Foreign Imports.

Rejected Resolutions

Resolution 373 (WA) Nuclear Freeze.

Resolution 373 (WA) Nuclear Freeze.

Resolution 371 (WA) Nuclear Freeze.

AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Chairman George T. Lewis, Jr.

Adopted Resolution**Resolution No. 303 (Maryland)—South Africa**

WHEREAS, South Africa possess large supplies of strategic minerals, which are vitally important to the United States and its Western allies for industrial and military uses; and

WHEREAS, South Africa occupies an important strategic location adjacent to seaways between the Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean through which pass the bulk of Western Europe's oil supplies and a significant share of U.S. oil supplies; and

WHEREAS, South African-U.S. trade is substantial and U.S. investment in South Africa is increasing and totals almost \$3 billion; and

WHEREAS, The South African policy of apartheid does not accord with American ideals of individual rights, human dignity, and democracy and consequently makes it difficult to convince Americans to recognize U.S. strategic interests in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, The South African government has recently taken actions to extend parliamentary representation to coloreds and Asians; and

WHEREAS, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker, in addressing the 63rd National Convention, stated the Administration's policy on South Africa: "In this

rich land of talented diverse peoples, important Western economic, strategic, moral, and political interest are at stake . . . We (will not) align ourselves with apartheid policies that are abhorrent to our own multiracial democracy . . . The United States . . . seeks to build a more constructive relationship with South Africa, one based on shared interests, persuasion, and improved communications;" and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union is trying to extend its influence in Southern Africa by using Cuban troops to sustain Marxist regimes in Angola and Ethiopia; supplying military arms, training, and advice to South African governments; establishing naval facilities; and supporting insurgent organizations such as the African National Congress and Southwest Africa People's Organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we support the U.S. Government's policy of constructive engagement with South Africa, promoting peaceful evolution away from apartheid, and urge all Americans to recognize the important U.S. strategic interest in South Africa stemming from its mineral wealth, key geopolitical location, developed economy, and staunch anti-communist policies.

Resolution No. 429 (Texas)-Zimbabwe

WHEREAS, Zimbabwe, a new black-ruled country, formerly the British, white-ruled colony of Rhodesia, reflects a conflicting and sometime contradictory image to the outside world; and

WHEREAS, This formerly free world and democratically oriented colony of Britain, is now definitely Marxist oriented; and

WHEREAS, Marxist Prime Minister Mugabe has made friendly gestures to the West, for economic reasons; and

WHEREAS, The free world consensus is that the country is in danger of establishing a one-party Marxist dictatorship under Mugabe; and

WHEREAS, If Zimbabwe were to become a truly leftist-Marxist state, it, together with Marxist Mozambique to its East and Angola to the West, could for all practical purposes cut off all of South Africa by Marxist states with their vast reserves in natural resources and numerous strategic minerals, diamonds, gold and agriculture, from northern Africa; and

WHEREAS, Zimbabwe, with its natural resources and agriculture and its mining and manufacturing potential, could develop into the hub of Central Africa; and

WHEREAS, Both Great Britain and the United States have taken the lead in helping this new country to develop into a viable entity; and

WHEREAS, The United States alone has given some \$193 millions; and

WHEREAS, Zimbabwe has used this aid well, having built some 9,000 miles of road, drilled over 5,000 wells and opened many previously uninhabited areas by building numerous water systems; and

WHEREAS, The government has adjusted well and effectively in the integration of blacks and whites in the government; and

WHEREAS, With Victoria Falls, one of the most spectacular tourist attractions in the world, and with more than a tenth of Zimbabwe's land set aside as national parks and wildlife preserves, tourism is one of the cornerstones of economic development in the country; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, relations with white governed South Africa have deteriorated badly, South Africa feeling threatened by the black dominated government of Zimbabwe; and

WHEREAS, Zimbabwe is almost totally dependent on South Africa for the movement of its crops and commodities into and out of the country; and

WHEREAS, South Africa has ended the favored treatment status it had formerly granted the white government of Zimbabwe and has withdrawn a fleet of locomotive leases to Zimbabwe to move its bumper crop of grain; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we urge the United States to use its good offices to resolve the controversy between Zimbabwe and South Africa, both of which have large supplies of strategic materials vital to the United States, and to do all in its power to keep Zimbabwe in the families of free nations.

Received and Recorded

Resolution 304 (MD) Namibia (Resolution 498, 64th Annual Convention.

Rejected Resolutions

Resolution 428 (TX) South Africa

FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Chairman Keith Baker,

Adopted Resolutions

Resolution 182 (OH), as amended and consolidated with Resolutions 21 (WY), 78 (NC), 121 (MA), 355 (CA), 463 (MN) POW/MIA

WHEREAS, There are currently 2,491 Americans still missing and otherwise unaccounted for in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government has collected and analyzed information which clearly establishes that the governments of Indochina possess information regarding American POWs and MIAs; and

WHEREAS, The Defense Intelligence Agency is currently investigating over 500 firsthand, live sighting reports of Americans in Southeast Asia, based on the assumption that at least some may still be held captive; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government obtained and substantiated information that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has in its possession the remains of at least 400 U.S. personnel who were killed as a result of hostilities in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, The families of those U.S. servicemen and civilians missing in Southeast Asia have suffered untold grief and uncertainty because the governments of Indochina have failed to provide an adequate accounting for those missing; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has an enduring interest in the welfare of Americans listed as missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, In a speech to the National League of Families on January 28, 1983, President Regan clearly expressed the commitment of his Administration in these words: Your government is attentive and intelligence assets of the United States are fully focused on this issue . . . we will take decisive action on any live sighting report that can be confirmed . . . there is strong bipartisan support in the Congress . . . and full resources of our government are now committed . . . now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion supports the U.S. government's cur-

rent efforts to resolve the POW/MIA issue and urges that resolution of this tragedy continue to receive the highest national priority until such time as the government has obtained the return of all U.S. personnel who may still be held captive, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and the repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our Nation.

Resolution No. 370 (Virginia) as consolidated with **Res. No. 306 (Maryland) Mainland China**

WHEREAS, Over the past decade, the United States has re-oriented its East Asia policy by recognizing Mainland China and downgrading relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

WHEREAS, Mainland China and the United States have a common interest in opposing Soviet expansionism; however, this interest must not supersede U.S. support for our valiant friends in Taiwan, who have developed a much freer, more productive country than has Mainland China; and

WHEREAS, Mainland China is a communist dictatorship, ruled by a self-appointed elite which used cruel methods to achieve and consolidate its power and still suppresses the freedom of the Chinese people; and

WHEREAS, Mainland China is a poor, backward nation having a great need for Western technology and education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that U.S. strategic cooperation with Mainland China must not be permitted to lessen U.S. cooperation with Taiwan under provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States should recognize, and take advantage of, its inherently superior bargaining position in relation to Mainland China.

Resolution No. 306 (Maryland), as consolidated with **Resolution 397 (VA) Japan**

WHEREAS, The Soviet naval, air, and ground threat in East Asia has increased greatly in the past few years and now includes modern SS-20 missiles targeted on Japan; and

WHEREAS, Japan allocates less than 1% of its gross national product to defense while the United States allocates over 6%; and

WHEREAS, Japan has the economic capacity to provide a stronger self defense because Japan has developed one of the most productive economies in the world and is a major trading partner of the United States. Serious trade problems exist between Japan and the United States, and some believe Japan unfairly restricts imports by non-tariff means, thus leading to a U.S. trade deficit with Japan of \$17 billion in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Prime Minister Nakasone has taken a strong position of Japan's defense posture by stating Japan has a "common destiny" with the United States and that he intends to make Japan "an unsinkable aircraft carrier;" and

WHEREAS, Article IX of the Japan constitution (adopted under the aegis of General MacArthur) prohibits Japan from having "land, sea, and air forces" and using military force; furthermore, Japanese public opinion is largely pacifist. In a recent poll 44% said they would surrender if a foreign power invaded Japan and only 14% thought the U.S.-Japan security treaty of 1955 had been a major factor in preserving peace; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the U.S. Government should make a determined effort to encourage Japan to contribute its fair share to its own defense

and to develop equitable trading practices between Japan and the United States.

Resolution No. 339 (Alaska)—The Republic of China (Taiwan)

WHEREAS, The Republic of China has been a reliable ally of the United States of America, having militarily and supported our country during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China occupies a strategic position in the Western Pacific, with extensive air and naval base systems available to the United States of America on request; and

WHEREAS, The political and economic stability of The Republic of China, the freedom of its 18 million people, and the military security of the United States of America would be significantly enhanced by the establishment of official diplomatic and military relations between the Republic of China and the United States of America; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we reaffirm our support for full and complete restoration of diplomatic and military relations between The Republic of China and the United States of America.

Resolution No. 338 (Alaska)—The Republic of China (Taiwan)

WHEREAS, The United States enjoys peace, prosperity, and freedom as a result of our commitment to a strong defense for both our own country and our allies; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan occupies a strategic location in the Western Pacific essential to the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The armed forces of the Republic of China have, in the past, reliably served as one of the deterrents to communist military adventures which could lead to war in the Taiwan Straits and ultimately to world war; and

WHEREAS, Section 3(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act states that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability"; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China has previously requested to purchase high performance jet fighters and Harpoon anti-ship missiles in order to maintain a sufficient self-defense capacity; and

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has, heretofore, prohibited or failed to authorize sales of these essential modern weapons, vital to the security of the Republic of China and the peace, security, and stability of the Western Pacific; and

WHEREAS, On August 17, 1982, the United States and the People's Republic of China issued a communique in which the United States enunciated a policy of limiting arms sales to the Republic of China so as not to exceed quantities, and qualities supplied in recent years, and "reduce gradually its sales of arms to Taiwan, leading over a period of time to a final resolution"; and

WHEREAS, The communique may inhibit The Republic of China from maintaining a sufficient self-defense capability, placing in jeopardy the cherished rights of freedom and self-determination of our good friends and allies in the Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, This communique violates the spirit, if not the letter, of the Taiwan Relations Act and its contrary to US national interests and long-standing American Legion policy; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion desires to reassure the Republic of China that we recognize a security commitment to that nation and that we strongly protest any policy which will diminish U.S. commitments under the Taiwan Relations Act; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we reaffirm our support for the sale, to The Republic of China, modern defense weapons, in quantities, such that The Republic of China armed forces will be able to maintain a sufficient self defense capability.

Resolution No. 340 (Alaska, as amended)—Republic of Korea

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea is politically and militarily vital to the United States and the defense and stability of Northeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous treaties in force with the Republic of Korea for eviction, defense, economic and technical cooperation, education, finance, fisheries, maritime matters, trade and commerce; and

WHEREAS, A Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea was signed at Washington, D.C., on October 1, 1953, and entered into force on November 17, 1954; and

WHEREAS, North Korea has never renounced the use of military force as a legitimate means to obtain its goal of bringing the entire Korean Peninsula under communist rule; and, in support of this goal, maintains an extremely large, modern military force capable of assuming offensive operations on short notice; the size of these forces have been recently discovered to be far larger than heretofore assumed; and

WHEREAS, North Korea has nearby allies, the Soviet Union and Communist China, capable of supporting her from just across the border, while non-communist support for the Republic of Korea would have to be mounted from the United States and come from offshore; and

WHEREAS, The presence of U.S. ground forces in the Republic of Korea serves uniquely as the real deterrent to aggression by North Korea which is inimical to U.S. interests for peace on the peninsula and overall stability in Northeast Asia, particularly in regard to Japan; and

WHEREAS, The United States maintains a major part of a combat-ready division in Korea, with training facilities and area far superior to any available elsewhere, at a cost less than would be required in the United States; and

WHEREAS, It is in the most vital interest of the United States, as the leading nation in the Free World, that the President and the Congress sustain and fulfill the treaties and agreements made by our nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we reaffirm our stand with respect to U.S. commitments to the Republic of Korea.

Resolution No. 341 (Alaska, as amended)—Republic of Korea

WHEREAS, The United States of America and the Republic of Korea are enjoying a centennial relationship as allies; and

WHEREAS, Mutual defense treaties between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea call for the military forces of the Republic of Korea to be at their fullest strength; and

WHEREAS, This can only be accomplished by the sale of state-of-the-art military arms and equipment to the Republic of Korea; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we reaffirm our stand supporting the sale of state of the art defensive military arms and equipment.

Referred Resolutions

Resolution No. 239 (Pennsylvania) Japan

Rejected Resolutions

Resolution No. 12 (North Carolina) MIA's

MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS

Chairman Edmund Zachman

Adopted Resolutions

Resolution No. 271 (Virginia)—Middle East

WHEREAS, Significant progress toward Arab-Israeli peace had been made under the Camp David agreements prior to Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a continuing national interest in creating conditions wherein Israel can exist as a recognized nation within secure borders living in peace with its Arab neighbors and acting as a democratic ally of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Europe and Japan rely on the Middle East for most of their petroleum and the U.S. imports a smaller, but significant, amount of petroleum from the area; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan's Peace Proposal of September 1982 (calling for autonomy for the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan, a freeze on new Israeli settlements, an undivided Jerusalem and an American Commitment to Israel's security) offers a sound basis to resolve the Palestinian problem; and

WHEREAS, Restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon will contribute to stability in the area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that U.S. Government should adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East to achieve the following objectives:

(1) A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arabs under the Camp David framework.

(2) A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf states to Europe, Japan, and the United States.

(3) Restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

Resolution No. 434 (Texas, as amended)—Lebanon

WHEREAS, Lebanon despite its tiny Gross Domestic Product, has for centuries acted as the influential center for trade in the entire Mideast; and

WHEREAS, In recent years Lebanon has become factionalized into private armies of Christians and Moslems and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO); and

WHEREAS, The PLO, which is dedicated to the elimination of Israel, has for years used Lebanon as a base, with the capital city of Beirut as its headquarters, from which to launch raids on Israel, as well as firing long-range artillery and mortar fire across the border into Israel; and

WHEREAS, As a direct result of repeated clashes with the PLO and with Syrian troops, Israel invaded Lebanon on June 6, 1982; and

WHEREAS, Israelis remain entrenched in the southern third of the country, the Syrians hold the north and PLO guerrillas and PLO army units are still in the Bekaa Valley and in the Northern part of Tripoli; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. is attempting to negotiate the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, Israel refuses to withdraw at all until Syria withdraws its troops, and Syria is flatly refusing to do so; and

WHEREAS, If the U.S. is not able to resolve this impasse and negotiate the peaceful withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, there is the real danger that Lebanon could end up in three parts; the northern part and the Bekaa Valley to Syria, the central portion to Lebanon, and the southern portion to Israel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we strongly support every effort by the United States government to accomplish the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and the return of the control of all of Lebanon to its own freely elected government, and that we solicit the assistance of all governments in this endeavor so vital to the peaceful coexistence in the Middle East.

Resolution No. 436 (Texas, as amended)—Libya

WHEREAS, Modern Libya under Colonel Muammar Kaddafi has made some economic and social progress; and

WHEREAS, Kaddafi's ambition to unite all Arab countries under his leadership has put him in conflict with moderate Arab leaders and with Western nations attempting to negotiate a solution to the problems of the North Africa and the Mideast; and

WHEREAS, In the mid-1970's it was widely reported that Libya had armed violent revolutionary groups in Egypt and Sudan; and

WHEREAS, In this same period Libya also supported Moslem rebels in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, Beginning about 1975 Russia established close political ties with Libya and sold her several billion dollars worth of advanced arms and equipment; and

WHEREAS, Libya and Egypt fought several air and land battles along their border in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Chad has had extensive difficulties with Libys:

a. Chad charged Libya with military occupation of its uranium-rich northern region in 1977.

b. In 1979 a Libyan offensive into Aousou strip was repulsed by Chadian troops.

c. In January, 1982, Kaddafi announced that Libya would unite with Chad. Strong protests by other African nations, in addition to those from France and the United States caused Kaddafi to back down from this takeover.

WHEREAS, On August 19, 1982, two Libyan fighters attacked two U.S. Navy fighters flying cover for a U.S. carrier task force operating to international waters off the coast of Libya; the Libyan fighters missed whereupon the U.S. fighters shot them down; and

WHEREAS, This action may have been incited by the fact that on May 6, 1981, after "a wide range of Libyan provocations and misconduct" the U.S. closed the Libyan mission in Washington; and

WHEREAS, On December 10, 1982, citing "the danger the Libyan regime poses to American citizens there", President Reagan asked the 1500 remaining citizens in Libya to leave the country and cancelled all visas for travel to Libya; and

WHEREAS, There have been recently repeated accusations of Libyan sponsorship of terrorist acts against people and orga-

nizations who opposed Libyan policies and National objectives; and

WHEREAS, There is strong evidence that Kaddafi has dispatched "hit squads" about the world to attempt to assassinate selected individuals including the U.S. President, Vice President and other persons high in the government; and

WHEREAS, As late as February, 1983, the state-run Al Ayam newspaper in Khartoum, Sudan, stated that Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiry was targeted for assassination by Libyan-backed mercenaries who were to be airlifted into Sudan for a coup; and

WHEREAS, To counter this threat the U.S. sent four Airborne Warning and Control System planes to Cairo, Egypt to monitor Libyan air activities; and

WHEREAS, The paper further stated that the Libyan plan called for the dropping of "a large number of mercenaries" around Khartoum and simultaneous air strikes against airports and political action centers in residential areas, in order to give the mercenaries a free hand to go about their work of assassination of President Numeiry, and his top aides and high-ranking officers also on their hit list for assassinating; and

WHEREAS, Pentagon sources have reported that Kaddafi had moved air units to bases in Chad; that these units appear to threaten Sudan; and that Egypt is said to have deployed air force units in southern Egypt to counter any Libyan move against Sudan; and

WHEREAS, In the past some 40% of Libya's exports have been to the United States; and

WHEREAS, This strident, megalomaniacal little man poses a real threat to the peace and tranquility of North Africa and the Middle East and indirectly to the Free World; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, (1) that the U.S. Government and its allies continue to control the export of sensitive or strategic items to Libya, (2) support Egypt in resisting and offsetting any illegal actions or incursions in Africa by Libya, (3) maintaining an eternal vigilance towards Libya, and (4) be prepared to resist promptly and effectively any overt actions or outright attacks against the United States or its allies on the part of Libya.

Referred Resolutions

Resolution No. 433 (TX) Israel

Resolution No. 436 (TX) Pakistan

TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

Chairman Donald S. Houser

Adopted Resolutions

Resolution No. 273 (Virginia)—Law of the Sea Treaty

WHEREAS, The United States has a lasting interest in use of the sea for transportation, national defense, and extraction of natural or developed resources; and

WHEREAS, Within the next decade or two, the deep seabed will very likely become one of the principal sources for mining of manganese, nickel, cobalt, and copper—all of which are vital to our continued prosperity and national security; and

WHEREAS, The recently negotiated Law of the Sea Treaty is favorable to U.S. interests in such areas as delineation of territorial seas, transit rights, establishment of economic zones, environmental controls, and marine scientific research; and

WHEREAS, The deep seabed mining provisions of the Law of the Sea Treaty are unacceptable because: they make the mineral riches of the deep seabed the common heritage of mankind, thus creating a precedent for future share-the-wealth schemes; they hinder full development of deep seabed mining; they give inadequate power to the United States and other advanced nations in decision making; and they require mandatory transfer of private technology; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we support the Administration's decision not to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Administration and Congress to take effective steps ensuring that the United States can enjoy all the rights, benefits, and responsibilities stemming from all provisions of the Law of the Sea Treaty except those relating to deep seabed mining; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge the Administration and Congress to devise unilateral or multilateral arrangements providing for U.S. companies to participate in deep seabed mining under conditions of free enterprise and outside the control of the regime specified in the Law of the Sea Treaty.

Resolution No. 427 (Texas, as amended)—Spain

WHEREAS, On the third anniversary of Spain's new democratic constitution, it was invited to become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

WHEREAS, The entry of Spain into NATO would help to fill a substantial void in the southwest corner of NATO's defenses; and

WHEREAS, In October 1962, Spain elected a Socialist Party government, headed by dynamic, 40-year old Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, with definite leftist tendencies; and

WHEREAS, Gonzalez must deal with a deeply divided country where many are highly suspicious of the left, a heritage of the 1936-39 civil war, which resulted in 36 years of dictatorship under Francisco Franco; and

WHEREAS, The Prime Minister is seeking to prevent Spain's integration into NATO; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the United States do all in its power to promote Spain's integration into NATO; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. provide advice, assistance, weapons and equipment to help in modernizing Spain's out-of-date but very substantial armed forces.

Resolution No. 374 (Virginia), as consolidated with Res. No. 302 (MD), 481 (TX). North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

WHEREAS, North American-West European cooperation within NATO has provided collective security deterring Soviet attack and providing a secure environment in which Western Europe has achieved unprecedented internal amity and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Non-defense issues such as East-West relations, trade, and technology transfer; monetary policy; and agricultural policy create division among NATO governments; and

WHEREAS, Some groups in Western Europe and the United States oppose deployment of U.S. intermediate-range missiles to offset the Soviet SS-20 threat, as requested by NATO; and

WHEREAS, Some Members of Congress recommend at least a partial reduction of U.S. support for NATO; and

WHEREAS, A continued and expanded U.S. commitment to

NATO is imperative in order to defend U.S. national security; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union seeks in every way to divide and emasculate NATO; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we urge the American people and the U.S. Government to enhance U.S. national security by improving the U.S. conventional forces committed to NATO, thereby raising the nuclear threshold; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Government to convince other members of NATO to improve their conventional forces committed to NATO and to contribute directly or indirectly to military efforts in other regions, e.g., the Persian Gulf, which benefit Western Europe.

Resolution No. 494, consolidated with Res. 31 (TN), 97 (MT) and 223 (MD) Nuclear Arms Control

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has greatly expanded its nuclear capabilities over the past decade and achieved at least rough nuclear strategic equivalence with the United States while the United States has seriously neglected modernization of its nuclear forces; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union continues to deploy SS-20 medium range missiles, which now number at least 260, most of which are targeted on Western Europe; and

WHEREAS, An immediate nuclear freeze would "lock in" the current Soviet lead in heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), which make U.S. ICBMs vulnerable to a Soviet first strike; would remove the Soviets' serious SS-20 threat; and would prevent necessary modernization of the U.S. nuclear TRIAD and supporting activities to offset the Soviet buildup; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, for many years, recognized the utility of equitable arms control measures and, accordingly, has supported arms control measures which did not place the United States at a military disadvantage but did provide for effective, unalterable guarantees for compliance, including fullest consideration of on-site inspection by both sides; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we support:

- 1) A U.S. nuclear deterrent force TRIAD at least equivalent to the Soviet nuclear forces in all respects and capable of credibly deterring Soviet attack or, if deterrence fails, achieving successful conflict resolution.
- 2) Deployment of U.S. intermediate range missiles to NATO Europe to offset the Soviet SS-20 threat unless an equitable, verifiable agreement limiting such forces is agreed upon by the United States and the Soviet Union.
- 3) Significant, mutual, verifiable reductions of nuclear forces by the Soviet Union and the U.S. to equal levels, resulting in mutual deterrence at lower levels of armaments and a lessened likelihood of nuclear war.
- 4) A verifiable freeze of equal Soviet and U.S. nuclear forces only after the above conditions have been achieved.
- 5) Maximum emphasis on the equality and verifiability of any nuclear arms control measures, including effective, unalterable verification procedures going beyond national technical means to include fullest consideration of on-site inspection by both sides.
- 6) The bipartisan report of the President's Commission on Strategic Forces (Socowcroft Commission) which developed a comprehensive, long-term program of nuclear modernization

and arms control calling for maintenance of a modernized triad, deployment of the MX missile, development of a "Midgetman" flexibly based, single warhead missile, and shifting to arms control of warheads instead of missile launchers.

Received and Recorded Resolutions

Res. No. 3 (Panama Canal) Christmas Atoll Islands

Referred Resolutions

Res. No. 430 (Texas) Nuclear Freeze

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Chairman Ernest N. Schmit

Adopted Resolutions

Resolution No. 262 (Virginia) as amended and consolidated with Res. 307 (MD), 302 (VA), 414 (TX), 415 (TX). **Caribbean Basin**

WHEREAS, Soviet-Cuban aggression continues to increase in the Caribbean Basin; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union is supporting a massive buildup of communist military forces and bases in Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, The Caribbean Basin nations continue to suffer under-development and economic chaos; and

WHEREAS, The Government of the United States now has properly recognized vital U.S. interests in the Caribbean Basin, the communist threat, and the area's serious economic plight; and

WHEREAS, The Government of the United States has started to enunciate a more comprehensive policy based on President Reagan's address to a joint session of Congress on April 27, 1983, the Caribbean Basin Initiative and increased economic and military assistance; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan wrote to the National Commander, thanking The American Legion for its support in these words: "In discharging my responsibilities to conduct America's foreign policy, it was very gratifying to receive such a strong indorsement from the nation's largest veterans' organization," now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the Administration be urged to enlarge the Caribbean Basin initiative into a true "Marshall-type Plan" for the area, including greatly increased funding over a number of years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government be urged to develop adequate military and intelligence capabilities to accomplish its objectives in the Caribbean Basin; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government be urged to support increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Caribbean Basin nations.

Resolution No. 263 (Virginia)—Cuba

WHEREAS, The Kennedy-Khrushchev understandings of 1962, which terminated the Cuban missile crisis, have proven to be a long-term strategic setback for the United States because they "legitimized" what has been a growing Soviet presence in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union continues to provide about \$4 billion worth of aid to Cuba annually and has shipped more military items to Cuba in the past two years than in the preceding eight years; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has provided military equip-

ment, e.g., nuclear capable MIG-23 fighter-bombers, missile attack boats, and attack submarines, suitable for interdicting U.S. military shipments to NATO Europe in time of crisis; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has acted as a Soviet surrogate in exporting revolution to Africa, the Middle East, and Central America; and

WHEREAS, Soviet operations based in Cuba have grown over the last decades to include a ground combat brigade, naval facilities, and the largest electronic collection facility outside the Soviet Union; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the U.S. Government should continue economic sanctions against Cuba, maintain control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, continue intelligence over-flights over Cuba, and oppose Cuban export of revolution to other countries.

Resolution No. 265 (Virginia, as amended)—Honduras

WHEREAS, Honduras recently has adopted a democratic form of government, given refuge to those fleeing suppression in Nicaragua, provided a base area to strengthen those seeking to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua, and has cooperated with U.S. efforts to oppose the export of revolution within Central America; and

WHEREAS, The Sandinista government of Nicaragua, with Cuban and Soviet assistance, is: developing armed forces far in excess of its reasonable needs; is continuing to support communist insurgencies in other Central American nations; is becoming a more thoroughly totalitarian communist dictatorship; and is persecuting its own citizens, especially the Miskito Indians; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Nicaraguan freedom fighters banded together to seek to overthrow the Sandinista government and replace it with one practicing the originally announced goals of the Sandinistas: freedom, democracy, economic pluralism, and non-intervention in other countries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the United States should encourage development of a free, democratic, more prosperous Honduras by providing economic and military assistance and cooperating with Honduras to prevent the further spread of communist insurgency in Central America.

Resolution No. 269 (Virginia)—Suriname

WHEREAS, Upon gaining independence from the Netherlands in 1975, Suriname was a prosperous, democratic country having one of the highest per capita incomes in the developing world; and

WHEREAS, Revolutionary leader Desi Bouterse overthrew the democratically elected government in 1980 and, in 1982, came under Soviet Cuban influence; and

WHEREAS, In December, 1982, Bouterse caused the execution of 16 opposition leaders without trial, closed the university, closed all the non-government press, and destroyed radio stations and trade union headquarters; and

WHEREAS, The governments of the United States and the Netherlands have signified their displeasure with these events by withdrawing planned economic aid; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has consistently supported the spread of democracy and opposed communist subversion of free societies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion condemns the police state measures taken in Suriname and its orientation toward the Soviet-Cuban

camp as steps contrary to the development of democracy, freedom, and prosperity in Latin America; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should oppose communication of Suriname by diplomatic and economic means, working through the Organization of American States if feasible.

Resolution No. 266 (Virginia, as amended)—Costa Rica

WHEREAS, Costa Rica for several decades has had a stable, democratic government providing a lift of freedom for its people; and

WHEREAS, Until recently, Costa Rica has made excellent economic progress but is now suffering a serious recession due to worldwide economic factors; and

WHEREAS, Costa Rica, by choice, does not have any military forces; and

WHEREAS, There have been indications that Marxist subversive activity could commence in Costa Rica; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the United States should provide necessary economic aid to help Costa Rica regain economic prosperity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States should provide security assistance requested by Costa Rica to defend its democratic system.

Resolution No. 267 (Virginia, as amended)—Guatemala

WHEREAS, Guatemala is the largest country in Central America and is strategically located on Mexico's southern border near the large Mexican oil fields; and

WHEREAS, Since 1962, Guatemala has virtually eliminated extra-legal killings and adopted a comprehensive counter-insurgency strategy aimed at increasing the size of the armed forces and employing them under a professional code of conduct, establishing local civilian defense forces to improve security, and instituting civic-action programs to address the people's economic and social needs; and

WHEREAS, Guatemala has recently suffered both insurgency and a failing economy, resulting from guerrilla actions and the worldwide recession; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, the United States has provided no military aid and limited economic aid to Guatemala; and

WHEREAS, Guatemalan officers trained in the United States gain both professional military knowledge and an effective understanding of democratic practices, principles, and instructions; and

WHEREAS, A study mission of The American Legion visited Guatemala from June 21-25, 1983 and concluded that the United States has a vital interest and responsibility in assisting Guatemala to maintain its independence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the U.S. Government should continue trying to influence the Guatemalan government to evolve toward a democratic orientation while providing improved political, economic, and social conditions for its people; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should increase economic aid and provide military aid and military training (including training of young Guatemalan officers in the United States) as necessary to help Guatemala defeat the insurgency and develop its economy.

Resolution No. 306, (Maryland)—as amended and consolidated with Resolutions 264 (VA), and 417 (TX). El Salvador

WHEREAS, The people of El Salvador overwhelmingly demonstrated their rejection of the communist insurgents by

the extremely large turnout for the March 28, 1982 constituent assembly election, under very difficult conditions; and

WHEREAS, The communist threat to El Salvador continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, The economic situation in El Salvador continues to deteriorate; and

WHEREAS, The Government of the United States has publicly, clearly, and repeatedly "drawn a line", and pledged to defeat communist aggression in El Salvador, thus making U.S. resolve and success absolutely imperative; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has continuously and consistently opposed worldwide communist expansion; and

WHEREAS, Since 1979, through its Western Hemisphere Task Force, The American Legion has been in the forefront of those urging strong action to save Central America. President Reagan recognized that commitment in a letter to the National Commander on July 18, 1983, by stating: "I want you to know how greatly I appreciate the outstanding job you have been doing in creating an awareness of what is at stake in Central America. The solid research that went into the material you sent me demonstrates that the leadership of The American Legion has a firm grasp of geostrategic realities. In helping to get out the message, the Legion is performing another great service to the nation its members have served with honor and pride. I am terribly proud of you all. God bless you." now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the U.S. Government be urged to provide adequate economic aid to El Salvador and furnish increased military training and equipment as necessary to defeat the guerrillas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government be urged to take whatever action is necessary to redeem its pledge to defeat communist insurgency in El Salvador.

Resolution No. 334 (New York)—Cuba

WHEREAS, The Howard F. Anderson (Havana) Post #1, The American Legion, has been forced into exile by the Castro Administration; and

WHEREAS, In 1959 an enemy of the United States and democracy took over the island of Cuba and set up an anti-American, anti-democratic regime, which the world has learned is a puppet of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, For over 20 years Fidel Castro, the head of that regime and an avowed enemy of the United States, has continued to insult our government and attack the policies of our nation throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The Castro regime uses its Soviet-equipped broadcasting system to beam propaganda in English and Spanish into Florida in furtherance of its anti-American aims; and

WHEREAS, The United States by establishing Radio Marti will be helping the oppressed people of Cuba who yearn to be free to hear the truth; and

WHEREAS, Cuban Communist foreign broadcasts are causing intolerable interferences with the daily programming of Florida radio stations; and

WHEREAS, Such foreign transmissions constitute a blatant, inexcusable interference in the domestic affairs of the government and citizens of the United States and Florida, and are objected to by the South Florida radio community and listening audiences; and

WHEREAS, At the President's urging and with his support, legislation has been introduced in Congress to establish Radio Marti, to counter aggression by the Castro regime against the free world through interference with our Nation's airwaves;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the Congress of the United States is urged to approve the proposal by the Administration for the creation of Radio Marti, and the President and Congress are urged to take all other appropriate measures to stop interference by the Castro regime with the United States domestic radio programming.

Resolution No. 400 (MX) as amended and consolidated with Resolutions 268 (VA), 419 (TX). Mexico-U.S. Cooperative Endeavors

WHEREAS, The United States and Mexico are historic neighbors with a common Christian heritage and thousands of miles of common boundary; and

WHEREAS, Mexico is in the process of developing her mineral, fishing and agricultural industries as well as the tourism industry to meet the requirements of a rapidly expanding population; and

WHEREAS, The economic situation in Mexico requires financial cooperation from all sources to enable her to overcome her crisis; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a natural interest in Mexico's development and progress due to our common border; and

WHEREAS, Mexico leads all nations in the percentage of its trade with the United States, with some of Mexico's billion total foreign trade being with the United States; now, be it hereby

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the U.S. Government be urged to increase its emphasis on Mexico-U.S. Cooperative Endeavors both politically and economically to enhance the prosperity and security of both nations as well as that of the Western Hemisphere; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in all of our economic transactions with our friendly neighboring nations, with particular emphasis on procurement of petroleum products and other sources of energy, we provide them equal or greater considerations as compared to other nations supplying the same products; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should seek to develop a common approach to Central America and to encourage an awareness on the part of the government of Mexico as to the ultimate security threat to Mexico.

Resolution No. 413 (Texas)-Brazil

WHEREAS, Brazil is a keystone country whose actions are based to influence the entire world to our south; and

WHEREAS, Brazil is Latin America's biggest and most populous country, being almost as large as the United States and with a heterogeneous society of 128 million comprised of European, Indian and African peoples virtually free of racism; and

WHEREAS, This vast country is rich in natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Wherein in 1981 Brazil was the 10th largest economy in the world; and

WHEREAS, Brazil is second only to the United States as the biggest food producer and exporter; and

WHEREAS, The United States is Brazil's most important trading partner; and

WHEREAS, The United States has investments in Brazil to the tune of some 6 billions of dollars, almost double that of any other nation; and

WHEREAS, Brazil must "export or die"; and

WHEREAS, Last year's \$41 billion in U.S. exports to the-

tion are as much as we sell to the entire European Common Market, and more than we sell to the entire other developing countries put together; and

WHEREAS, Brazil has consistently refused to recognize Castro's regime and has no official relations with Cuba; and

WHEREAS, In WWII Brazil declared war against the Axis and was the only South American nation to field troops in Europe (where they fought with distinction) and now maintains the largest military force in South America; and

WHEREAS, Brazil's national debt rivals Mexico's as the world's largest; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. has just (Dec. 1982) made a loan of 1.2 billion dollars to Brazil; and

WHEREAS, Brazil has the potential to become one of the major powers of the 21st century and is expected to become the sixth largest economic power in the free world by the year 2,000; and

WHEREAS, Current U.S.-Brazilian relations are considered to be solid and correct, if not particularly warm; and

WHEREAS, Brazil considers itself a major ally of the U.S. and the Western World and seeks to restore a special relationship with the United States, and wherein it is to our mutual best interest to do so; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the U.S. foster and perpetuate and seek to extend a continuing harmonious relationship with this vast and rapidly developing country as a matter of mutual economic benefit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. extend to Brazil significant economic aid and military hardware and equipment as needed.

Resolution No. 416 (Texas)-Cuba

WHEREAS, Cuba, a surrogate nation of Russia, is located only 90 miles off the coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Cuba is supported economically and militarily by the USSR; in 1981 the Soviet provided at least \$500 million in military assistance, which was triple that provided in 1980, and some 3 billion in economic aid (1/3 of Cuba's gross national product); and

WHEREAS, Cuba maintains the proportionately largest armed forces in Latin America, second only to Brazil, including 37 infantry divisions (3 more than the U.S. total army), 650 tanks, 3 submarines, 11 large patrol craft, 70 other patrol vessels, 175 combat aircraft and 24 battalions of Surface-to-Air missiles; and

WHEREAS, Russia maintains in Cuba a Soviet brigade, a major intelligence collecting agency, which monitors U.S. communications, substantial naval and air support facilities and 6-8000 advisory personnel and at least 2000 other military personnel in country; and

WHEREAS, Since 1978 Russia, through Cuba, continues to accelerate operations in the Caribbean Basin, including:

- a. Domination of the Nicaraguan revolution
- b. A huge buildup of Nicaragua's military forces and base structure
- c. Active support for insurgency in El Salvador
- d. Commencement of support for future large-scale insurgencies in Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala; and

WHEREAS, Cuba is fomenting trouble elsewhere in the world as in Africa, Ethiopia and other countries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the United States recognize the serious threat to the U.S. by Russia through Cuba and that we urge the U.S. to take

whatever steps that are necessary to halt aggression and Communist incursion into the Caribbean Basin and Latin America through coordination and cooperation with our affected neighbor; be they diplomatic, economic, or, as a last resort, military in nature.

Resolution No. 420 (Texas, as amended)—Nicaragua

WHEREAS, The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), with full support and assistance from Cuba, has established a totalitarian, Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, In 1981 Nicaragua received about 28 million dollars worth of military equipment from the USSR, Eastern Europe and Cuba; and

WHEREAS, About 2,000 Cuban military advisors are providing military instruction and combat training; and

WHEREAS, There are also some 3,000 Cuban teachers, medical advisors, and government advisors operating in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, About 750 Cuban engineers are participating in airfield and military facility types of construction in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, Recent U.S. intelligence estimates has raised the estimate of Cuban troops in Nicaragua to 10,000; and

WHEREAS, Cuba uses Nicaragua as a base for training guerrillas for operation elsewhere in Central America; and

WHEREAS, Cuba also extensive economic assistance to Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, Nicaragua, with Soviet and Cuban help, has launched the most massive arms buildup in Central America; and

WHEREAS, The Nicaraguan armed forces are the largest in Central America, with about 25,000 men and a 50,000-man militia as well; and

WHEREAS, Nicaragua is receiving enough military equipment to support two armored battalions, with three M4 and 30 T64/55 tanks, ten infantry battalions, two artillery batteries; an air force of 1,500 men with eight combat aircraft and air defense units armed with 90 anti-aircraft guns; and a Navy with 14 patrol craft; and

WHEREAS, Nicaraguans are being trained in Cuba and Eastern Europe to pilot MIG-13 aircraft and several airfields in the country have been improved to accommodate high performance aircraft; and

WHEREAS, The Sandinistas have announced their intention to expand their total force to 250,000, a force greater than total capabilities of all other Central American nations combined; and

WHEREAS, Nicaragua is the primary transit point for arms and ammunition being provided by the Soviet bloc to guerrillas in Guatemala and in El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, About 2,000 Salvadoran guerrillas have received military training in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. suspended its aid to Nicaragua in April 1981 because of her escalating interference in El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, The Sandinistas, who had promised free elections, have postponed them until 1985; and

WHEREAS, Nicaragua's economic problems are developing faster than they can be coped with without massive Soviet aid, inflation having reached 35-percent last year and the gross national product having fallen below the 1978 level; and

WHEREAS, The Sandinistas disaffected the largely Catholic population when they launched a campaign to discredit Roman Catholic Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo in August, 1982; and

WHEREAS, The Sandinistas are being strongly opposed by the Democratic Force of Nicaragua (FDN), whose combat forces are led mainly by former members of the National Guard of ousted dictator Anastasio Somoza, and by the Miskitos Indians who have been regimented and forcibly resettled by the thousands; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has shown its recognition of the very real strategic threat to our security by appropriating 30 million dollars to help train, arm and equip the rebel forces that have struck into Nicaragua from Sanctuaries in Honduras, and by indicating their willingness to provide more funds to this cause; and

WHEREAS, The Sandinistas having turned Nicaragua into a mini-Cuba which now epitomizes the worst threat seen to be facing all Latin America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that

1. The United States openly and adamantly continue our policy of opposing the Marxist/Leninist type government being imposed on the people of Nicaragua, with a view to replacing it with one chosen by the people, through free elections, according to democratic principles.

2. That we provide whatever means necessary to achieve this end.

3. The United States should seek to isolate the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and should aid the Nicaraguan freedom fighters in their struggle against tyranny, without directly committing U.S. personnel to combat.

4. The U.S. invite the other free nations of the Americas to join us in this effort through the Organization of American States (OAS), or individually, as a matter vital to their survival as free and independent nations.

Resolution No. 421 (Texas, as amended)—Panama

WHEREAS, The government of Panama has been under the control of the National Guard for the past 16 years and for the most of which time under strongman Omar Torrijos; and

WHEREAS, Torrijos died in a plane crash in 1981, leaving a power vacuum; and

WHEREAS, There is some question as to who will become President of Panama when elections are held in 1984; and

WHEREAS, The current front runner, who assumed command of the National Guard after Torrijos' death appears to have some leftist tendencies; and

WHEREAS, The people of Panama are adamantly opposed to communism; and

WHEREAS, Panama has difficulty in finding work for its young who are not satisfied to perform menial jobs; and

WHEREAS, Panama has become an international banking center; and

WHEREAS, The economic future of the country is hopeful; and

WHEREAS, The United States has been operating the Panama Canal continuously since the passage of the first ship through the locks on August 8, 1914; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. has agreed by treaty of turnover of the management of the Canal of Panama, and the transition has already begun; and

WHEREAS, The Panama Canal is showing signs of old age and the cost of operation and maintenance is escalating rapidly; and

WHEREAS, The locks of the Canal are only 110 feet wide and 1,000 feet long and can no longer accommodate our larger aircraft carriers and many larger ships of recent vintage; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. may wish to build a new interoceanic

canal in Panama, or convert the Canal to a sea-level waterway—this matter already having been studied by a Congressional Commission; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. has currently the Headquarters of the Southern Command, with military responsibility for all of Latin America, in the Canal area; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. has for over 40 years sponsored a Latin America Regional Training Program in Panama which has been outstandingly successful and beneficial; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Army maintains its only Jungle Operations Training Center in Panama; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Army has taken over the hospital formerly operated by the Panama Canal Company; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. operates a complete Post in Panama; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. has a large logistics base in Panama; and

WHEREAS, Through intermarriage, family and business connections a large segment of Panamanians are Pro-American, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the U.S. government do everything in its power to insure that Panama conduct free elections in 1984 to choose and install the governmental leadership for its country in accord with democratic principles; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That, through consultation and agreement with Panama that the U.S. arrange to maintain and operate in Panama:

1. Headquarters U.S. Southern Command
2. The U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy Latin American Regional Training school and facilities
3. The U.S. Army Jungle Warfare School
4. The U.S. Army Hospital
5. The U.S. Logistics Base and its port facility
6. The U.S. Army Ordnance Shops and Combat Support repair facilities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the United States support the Panama National Guard by advice, weapons, equipment and training assistance as a final bastion against Communism in Panama.

Received and Recorded Resolution

Res. No. 4 (Panama Canal) Western Hemisphere

Referred Resolutions

Res. No. 418 (Texas) Grenada

Rejected Resolution

Res. No. 9 (Florida) Cuba
(The report was approved.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Chair recognizes Mr. William W. Greeman of Indiana, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments, for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS William W. Greeman (Indiana) Chairman

This Committee on Constitutional Amendments met at 9:00 A.M., Sunday, August 21, and Monday, August 22, in the Ad-

ams Room, Mezzanine Level, of the Westin Hotel. Forty-one members of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments were present. The following report was agreed upon by the members and is submitted for your consideration as Delegates to this Convention.

The meeting was opened by National Judge Advocate Bertram G. Davis (N.Y.), who acted as Temporary Chairman. The roll call indicated that a quorum was present. Judge Advocate Davis then proceeded to the first order of business which was the election of a Permanent Chairman and Secretary. William W. Greeman (Ind.), was elected Chairman and Coleman Nolen (Oks.), was duly elected Secretary; thereupon they assumed their respective places.

A motion was made by Milton Applebaum (Ill.), that members of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws be allowed voice but no vote in the Constitutional Amendments Committee meeting in accordance with the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion. The motion was seconded by Charles Hodson (N.C.), and adopted.

The Chair announced that it had ruled out of order Resolutions Nos. 111 (D.C.), 134 (Minn.), 80 (Mont.), 23 (N.H.), and 383 (Wis.), due to their being in improper form. All of these resolutions alluded to changes in the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion.

A motion was then made by the Delegate from Minnesota, Eugene Shiek, that the action of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws with respect to these resolutions be the action of the Convention Committee. This had the effect of supporting the Chair and ruling Resolutions 111, 134, 80, 23 and 383 out of order. The motion was seconded by Milton Applebaum (Ill.), and the motion was unanimously carried.

The Chair then called for consideration of Resolution No. 331 (N.Y.) which referred to related membership. John A. Barnaba (N.Y.), made a motion to withdraw the resolution since there was a conflict as to whether the entire resolution was received by National Headquarters. The motion was seconded by Eugene Shiek (Minn.), and unanimously carried that John A. Barnaba (N.Y.), be allowed to withdraw the resolution.

A motion was made by Milton Applebaum (Ill.), to reject Resolution No. 237 (Pa.), and seconded by Alfred Harwood (Mass.). This resolution was in reference to a change in eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion so that any person could become a member of The American Legion if they served between the dates of April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 and from December 7, 1941 to May 7, 1975. Edward T. Hoak (Pa.), spoke in favor of the resolution and recommended that the Delegates defeat the motion to reject the resolution. After further discussion by other members of the Convention Committee, both for and against the resolution, the Chairman took a vote by a show of hands. The outcome of the vote was thirty-three (33) for rejection of the resolution and six (6) opposed to the rejection. Two Delegates arrived too late to participate in the vote. The motion to reject the resolution was adopted.

A motion was made by Alfred Harwood (Mass.), seconded by Charles Hodson (N.C.), to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned subject to recall by the Chairman.

(The report was approved.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Is there any discussion? Microphone No. 3.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT EDWARD T. HOAK, Pennsylvania: Ed Hoak, the Adjutant of the Department of Pennsylvania. I speak against the report which recommends rejection of Resolution 237, Pennsylvania. The adoption of this

resolution, if they would adopt Pennsylvania's resolution, gives the Legionnaires the opportunity to correct an injustice against our fellow veterans.

Did you Legionnaires know that 1,300 Americans lost their lives in Vietnam between July 1, 1968, and January 21, 1961? They would not have been eligible for The American Legion. Did you know that July 1, 1968, is the date for eligibility in another veterans organization as a result of a proclamation by the President of the United States?

Old established eligibility dates are a thing of the past, for since December 7, 1941, to May 7, 1975, our veterans have put their lives on the line just as you and I did when we served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Since December 7, 1941, and to this day, the United States has been involved in wars, police actions or some type of action involving the Armed Forces. Even as recently as the attempt of members of the Armed Forces to rescue the 50 Americans held hostage by the Iranians and in which action eight American servicemen lost their lives.

My fellow comrades, I ask you to vote no on this report which would mean that you would support a change in eligibility.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Any further discussion? If not, all those in favor of adopting the report of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it, the report of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments is approved.

Is there any further business to come before this session of the Convention?

If not, the Delegates will stand. There being no further business, please join me in saluting the Flag of the United States.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Convention will stand in recess until 9:00 A.M. tomorrow morning, thank you one and all.

... At 2:33 P.M., the Convention was recessed, to reconvene the following day, Thursday, August 25, 1983, at 9:00 A.M.

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY SESSION—AUGUST 25, 1983

The National Convention was called to order by National Commander Keller at 9:00 A.M.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Convention will come to order.

The Colors of the United States being in place, the Delegates will stand and hand salute.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Please uncover with me as the National Chaplain, Father John Kempf, offers the Invocation.

INVOCATION

**Rev. Father John D. Kempf, Ohio
National Chaplain**

Let us pray. We thank You Father for this silence and this time to pray.

Heavenly Father, we pray to You for to whom else can we turn? You have the power to save us, guide us and direct us.

As we gather here to formulate the policies and guidance of The American Legion to elect Officers, we pray to remove our mask of pretence, take away our independence, overcome our differences, remove our preoccupations, and dispel our fears.

We ask You, Heavenly Father, that during this day You will lead us in Your way, You will teach us Your truth, and You will share with us Your very life, so that Your Name may be honored, and our lives may be enriched, and our Organization through You be blessed.

I would like to leave you with a thought for today. God is not only present to help when we are in trouble, but He is a great help in keeping us out of trouble. If we believe in the sun when it is hidden behind the clouds so too lest we continue to believe in the goodness of God when trouble seems to hide His face from us. If our circumstances find us in God, we shall find God in our circumstances. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Chair recognizes Roger Munson of Ohio, Chairman of the Convention Committee on National Security.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Roger A. Munson (Ohio) Chairman:

At 9:00 A.M. Sunday August 21, 1983, 253 Delegates and Alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on National Security met initially in the Courtyard Ballroom of the Madison Hotel in Seattle, Washington. Mr. Roger A. Munson, Ohio, was elected Chairman and Mr. Frank J. D'Amico, New York, was appointed Secretary.

The six authorized Convention Committees (Aerospace, Defense Civil Preparedness, Law and Order, Merchant Marine, Military Affairs and Naval Affairs) met in separate meeting rooms. An additional Ad Hoc Committee was appointed for general Security resolutions which required special attention. The following were elected Chairmen and Secretaries of the Convention Security Committees:

Aerospace Committee

Chairman: James E. Starr (Minnesota)
Secretary: Henry G. Jacoby (Nebraska)

Defense Civil Preparedness Committee

Chairman: Frank D. Riccardi (New Jersey)
Secretary: Ray C. Stiles (Iowa)

Law and Order Committee

Chairman: W. Dudley Robbins (North Carolina)
Secretary: Jack M. Rainey (Virginia)

Merchant Marine Committee

Chairman: William D. Horan (New York)
Secretary: Thomas Doyle (Louisiana)

Military Affairs Committee

Chairman: Donald D. Hildebrand (Tennessee)
Secretary: Paul E. Heckman (Iowa)

Naval Affairs Committee

Chairman: John J. Wrenn (Massachusetts)
Secretary: Stewart R. Kunde (Minnesota)

General Security Ad Hoc Committee

Chairman: David E. Munter (Illinois)

On Monday, August 22, 1983, at 10:00 A.M., the Delegates again assembled in the Courtyard Ballroom of the Madison Hotel for a final meeting of the Convention Committee on Security. Reports of all Convention Committees were read and their recommended action on resolutions considered. A total of 140 resolutions were assigned to the Convention Committee on Security or prepared by the Committees to meet problems which were held to be of concern to The American Legion and germane to its principles and objectives.

Without the excellent work of the Committees and their Chairmen, the following reports could not have been prepared. To all of them, as well as to the Staff of the National Security-Foreign Relations Division; G. Michael Schlee, Director; James B. Hubbard, Deputy Director; Spencer H. Leopard, Research Analyst; Harry E. B. Sullivan, Assistant Director for Foreign Relations; June Bancroft, executive secretary, and Bonnie Johnson, secretary, we extend our sincere thanks.

General Security Ad Hoc Committee

Chairman: David E. Munter (Illinois)

Because many of the resolutions addressed major defense issues which affected all of the military departments and the future of the United States in the world, a special Subcommittee was appointed to consider those resolutions; David E. Munter, Illinois, was appointed Chairman. The following is a summary of their action.

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 3 (Panama Canal)—Support of the Latin American Regional Training Program in Panama

WHEREAS, For over 40 years the United States has sponsored a Latin American Regional Training Program in Panama that primarily is embodied in the U.S. Army School of the Americas, the Inter-American Air Forces Academy and the U.S. Navy's Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School, and

WHEREAS, These schools have provided training for some 80,000 students, significantly improving their military skills and making it possible for life-long friendships among military and political leaders as well as heads of Latin American nations to be acquired through this training and in this United States/Latin American school environment, and

WHEREAS, The three Service schools in Panama now have an FY83 allocation of approximately \$4.8 million, which covers some 40 Latin American guest instructors, U.S. staff, facilities, and teaching equipment/materials, and

WHEREAS, This unique and lucrative program will require a substantial increase in annual budget to respond to urgent regional training needs and to preclude being weakened by cut-backs in staff and other essential resources, and

WHEREAS, To counter increased threats to this Hemisphere, the Secretary of State has proposed a 1984 budget of \$5.5 million for these three schools, and

WHEREAS, The Caribbean Basin and other Latin American nations are singularly important to the immediate as well as to the strategic interests of the United States; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983 that the U.S. Congress fund this Latin American Regional Training Program at least at a \$5.5 million level to allow it to continue to bring significant dividends to our country in the crucial decade of the 1980s and beyond.

Resolution No. 96 (Montana, as consolidated with Res. 145 (IN), 209 (VA) and 230 (MD))—Modernization of the National Defense Industrial Base

WHEREAS, A productive industrial base is an important part of our national security posture and is a vital deterrent to conflict, just as are competent personnel armed with superior weapons, and

WHEREAS, Without a responsive industrial base forging the weapons required by our Armed Forces at a high level, our national security interests are handicapped severely, and

WHEREAS, The U.S. defense industry is hard-pressed to meet even the current relatively modest procurement goals of the military services, and

WHEREAS, The ability of America's defense industries to arm U.S. forces and those of our allies in time of conflict has been a major factor in preserving the Nation's independence, and

WHEREAS, In recent years many subcontractors and producers of military hardware have been forced out of the defense business because of on-again procurement policies, impairing the National readiness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we urge the Congress to aid in the modernization of the nation's industrial base, including shipbuilding facilities, to strengthen our defense capabilities and insure national security.

Resolution No. 115 (District of Columbia)—ROTC Curriculum

WHEREAS, Our members who visit cadets and midshipmen in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) have observed that many of them are not receiving adequate education in the role of the military services in world affairs, and

WHEREAS, Cadets and midshipmen express interest and concern about the rapidly changing world situation, and

WHEREAS, Additional courses are needed on the world security situation, the USA-USSR military balance, determination of national security policy and strategy, and related subjects to strengthen the professional education program of future officers of the Armed Forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The National American Legion urge the Department of Defense and the respective military departments to include courses to increase understanding of the current world situation in the curriculum for ROTC cadets and midshipmen.

Resolution No. 173 (South Carolina, as amended and consolidated with Res. 5 (Panama Canal); 66 (OK); 264 (PA); 422 (TX) and 483 (MN))—Support of a Strong National Defense

WHEREAS, We, The American Legion, as indicated in the first lines of our Preamble to the Constitution, are dedicated to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports a bipartisan effort on behalf of our government to guarantee, as so directed by the Constitution of this great nation, that we have beyond question the best national security program known to the world; and

WHEREAS, We will make any sacrifice necessary to this end; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we commend those Members of Congress who are attempting to improve our military preparedness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to continue their efforts to bring our national military strength, and hardware of men and materials to the position that our nation will be number one, and that our people will not have to live in fear of any sudden attack without the ability to retaliate.

Resolution No. 322 (Maryland, as consolidated with Res. 82 (Montana); 146 (IN); 255 (PA); 286 (VA); 293 (VA) and 335 (NY))—Strategic Nuclear Policy

WHEREAS, The United States has considered that nuclear war would essentially spell the destruction of civilization, a view which led us in the 1960s and 1970s to accept a steady erosion of our military strategic strength through successive enunciated policies which only confirmed our diminishing relative strength, and

WHEREAS, The continued acceptance of such a policy would lead us to a position of inferior strategic strength, vis-a-vis the Soviet Union, by the mid-80s, and

WHEREAS, A strategic policy which would hold our own citizens hostage to nuclear exchange in order to deter aggression lacks credibility because of the Soviet's recently developed more accurate and more powerful MIRVed ICBMs having first strike capability, and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union strategists have long developed their military war machine from the concept of "winning" a nuclear war, and

WHEREAS, In developing their strategic nuclear offensive capability, the Soviets have emphasized their Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), and have been modernizing that force, stressing improved readiness, greater throw-weight, increased accuracy, better command and control, and

WHEREAS, They have also increased the number of re-entry vehicles and provided hardened silos to improve survivability, and

WHEREAS, There is evidence from the budgets submitted to the Congress that the Administration is attempting to provide our Armed Forces with improved strategic capabilities to counter the Soviet advances, and

WHEREAS, The development of new capabilities and rapid deployment of Anti-Ballistic Missiles (ABMs) including laser and other scientific break throughs, would enhance the survivability of our ICBMs, strategic bomber bases, defense communication sites, military facilities and the civilian population, and

WHEREAS, At the present time, the U.S. has no effective defense against an attack by Soviet strategic aircraft, and

WHEREAS, The improvement of our manned and unmanned capability to intercept and destroy Soviet aircraft and cruise missiles would appreciably add to the deterrence of enemy attack; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we pursue a new strategic nuclear policy which will lead the U.S. to develop the needed strength to destroy Soviet strategic offensive capabilities, rather than the destruction of soft targets, and be it further

RESOLVED, That together with the development of these new capabilities that the U.S. develop the force structure necessary to defeat the Soviet Union, while minimizing destruction to the United States.

The Convention Committee on Security was asked to review the resolution on Nuclear Arms Control adopted by the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations. We were pleased to concur in their action.

REFERRED TO STANDING COMMISSION ON NATIONAL SECURITY:

Resolution No. 114 (District of Columbia)—Support legislation expediting the return of the remains of the crew of Navy Bomber P2U-Z, #33393, for internment in the United States

Resolution No. 116 (District of Columbia)—Visitor Center at Arlington National Cemetery

Resolution No. 148 (Indiana)—Strategic Mobility Improvements

Resolution No. 356 (California)—Support legislation to erect a suitable memorial on the entranceway to Arlington National Cemetery to the memory of the glider pilots of World War II

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON AEROSPACE

Chairman James E. Starr, Minnesota

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 83 (Montana, as consolidated with Res. 138 (IN); 247 (PA); 276 (VA) and 310 (MD))—Modernization of U.S. Air Force

WHEREAS, Every major conflict since World War I has demonstrated the need for air superiority in order to conduct successful ground combat against an armed hostile force; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union now possesses the requisite number of aircraft to potentially deny air superiority to the United States in an armed conflict involving those two nations; and

WHEREAS, Soviet use of air power has allowed them to challenge U.S. influence in areas of the world most critical to the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, our national survival and the security of our allies depend on the ability of the U.S. to maintain air superiority in order to foster the strategic airlift capability, the close air support capability, and the strategic combat capability of the U.S. Air Force; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we urge the Administration and the Congress to act immediately to provide the necessary funding to modernize the U.S. Air Force in order to maintain the most up-to-date equipment available for close air support capability, strategic airlift and air superiority roles assigned as the Air Force mission.

Resolution No. 139 (Indiana, as consolidated with Res. 84 (Montana); 262 (PA); 276 (VA) and 311 (MD))—Tactical Aircraft

WHEREAS, For the United States to be capable of protecting its world-wide interests, we must be able to respond with military power when our interests, or those of our allies, are threatened and military force is deemed appropriate; and

WHEREAS, The erosion of our strategic nuclear superiority has reduced the deterrent value of the nuclear umbrella as well as increased the reliance upon and the contribution of conventional forces in our over-all deterrent strength; and

WHEREAS, The primary threat to our general purpose forces continues to be the Soviet Union Warsaw Pact; and

WHEREAS, The continued rapid introduction and production by the Soviets of new, more modern and sophisticated tactical systems may soon have us facing a force that is not only vastly superior numerically, but one that is comparable qualitatively; and

WHEREAS, The most demanding conventional threat facing the United States is an armored attack on Western Europe by the Warsaw Pact; and

WHEREAS, NATO plans rely heavily on the flexibility of tactical air power to be able to shift combat power rapidly to threatened sectors; and

WHEREAS, Our tactical Air Force must not only aid in blunting an attack along the forward line, but must provide the capability to delay, disrupt and destroy enemy reinforcements and resupply; and

WHEREAS, Since only a limited number of tactical aircraft may be deployed during nearly critical phases of a contingency, it is essential that they represent the best our country can field in order to signal our determined resolve to end the conflict on terms favorable to the United States; and

WHEREAS, The national requirement demands the flexibility and capabilities provided only by tactical fighters possessing superior performance, fire control systems, and armaments; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that the United States maximize the capabilities of the forces that are programmed and to build upon those forces to deter a present, ever-growing threat; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we strongly urge the Administration and the Congress to fully support the Air Force efforts to increase the production rates and capabilities of our tactical aircraft, so that older, less capable aircraft in our Active and Reserve units may be replaced as quickly as possible.

Resolution No. 281 (Virginia, as amended and consolidated with Res. 86 (Montana); 143 (IN) and 318 (MD))—Space

Based Ballistic Missile Defense System

WHEREAS, The American Legion has urged the Administration and the Congress to conduct a comprehensive review of the defense program of the United States and develop and implement a program with significant real annual budget increases to assure the security of the nation and the support of its foreign policy; and

WHEREAS, The President has announced a comprehensive plan for the modernization of U.S. strategic weapons, making clear what the United States will do to strengthen its strategic posture if fair and equitable agreements for arms reduction cannot be reached; and

WHEREAS, The comprehensive plan includes a commitment to upgrade our electronic command and control systems and to accelerate research and development aimed at devising an effective anti-ballistic missile defense system; and

WHEREAS, It has been reported that the Soviet Union may be prepared to deploy laser beam type weapons in space in this decade and to have a large, permanent, manned orbital space complex capable of attacking land, sea and air targets operational in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, The United States currently has a technological lead over the Soviet Union, especially in space as demonstrated by the Space Shuttle, and should be making much greater use of the opportunities open to us for peaceful scientific, industrial and commercial applications of space as well as harnessing its military potential; and

WHEREAS, It may not be possible for the U.S. to continue to budget unlimited amounts in an effort to match the enemy's capabilities in all types of forces and weapons, and because there is a growing popular demand for a reduction in strategic nuclear weapons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we urge the President and Congress to adopt a new military strategy which would take advantage of available and developing space technology to assure that the United States maintains the lead in such technology, and to provide for developing a space-based ballistic missile defense system.

Resolution No. 283 (Pennsylvania)—Strategy for Peaceful and Military use of Space

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has announced a National Space Policy as the result of an inter-agency review which began in August, 1981 and which review included a comprehensive analysis of all segments of the National Space Program; and

WHEREAS, This policy reaffirms the National commitment to the exploration and use of space in support of our national well-being and establishes the basic goals of the United States policy to strengthen the security of the United States, maintain United States space leadership, obtain economic and scientific benefits through the exploration of space, expend United States private sector investment and involvement in civil space and space related activities, promote international cooperative activities in the national interest, and cooperate with other nations in maintaining the freedom of space for activities which enhance the security and welfare of mankind; and

WHEREAS, A Senior Inter-Agency Group on Space has been established to provide a forum to all Federal Agencies for their policy views, to review and advise on proposed changes to national space policy and to provide for the orderly and rapid referral of space policy issues to the President for decisions as necessary; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed that the national security of the

United States requires the maintenance of space leadership in the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, urge the Administration and the Congress to reaffirm the national commitment to the exploration of space in support of our national security and national well-being and that the United States conduct activities in space necessary to its national security including such functions as command and control, communications, navigation, environmental monitoring, warning, surveillance and space defense.

Resolution No. 87 (Montana, as consolidated with Res. 140 (IN); 260 (PA); 280 (VA); 316 (MD); 387 (CA) and 437 (TX))—M-X Missile

WHEREAS, The land-based intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) is a cornerstone of our national strategic deterrent; and

WHEREAS, Under the provisions of the interim SALT agreement, Soviet strategic forces are numerically superior to those of the United States and the Soviets deploy three times the missile throw-weight of comparable U.S. forces; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has initiated new ICBM programs representing a massive effort in the form of new missiles, new bus-type dispensing systems, new Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) payloads, new guidance systems, new type silos, new launch techniques and probably new warheads; and

WHEREAS, All available evidence suggests that targeting our ICBM silos continues to be high priority for the Soviet ICBM force; and

WHEREAS, In first strike capability by the Soviet Union would destroy the balance of strategic weapons between us; and

WHEREAS, A Secretary of Defense has stated that "reducing the vulnerability of the land-based ICBM force is the highest priority strategic initiative in the Department of Defense five-year program"; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force has undertaken programs to improve the accuracy yield and survivability of its Minuteman missiles including improved guidance and propulsion, Mark 12A increase the Warhead yield and hardening of the silos; and

WHEREAS, In the long run, the MX missile provides the most promising ICBM initiative for preserving essential equivalence and fostering arms reductions talks; and

WHEREAS, Survivability is a dominant concern in the update of our intercontinental Ballistic Missile program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the Administration and the Congress be urged to provide full support to Defense Department efforts to develop and deploy the MX (Peacekeeper) missile as expeditiously as possible to ensure that the U.S. does not allow the Soviet Union to achieve a position of strategic superiority inimical to our national security interests.

Resolution No. 141 (Indiana, as consolidated with Res. 86 (Montana), 279 (VA) and 313 (MD))—B-1 Bomber and Advanced Technology Bomber (ATB)

WHEREAS, Over the past several decades, the modernization of U.S. strategic forces has not kept pace with the relentless growth of Soviet nuclear capabilities, our deterrent posture has eroded so that we now face a formidable challenge; and

WHEREAS, An announced comprehensive plan for modernizing our strategic forces includes production of the B-1B

bomber in the 1980s while we pursue vigorous development of an advanced technology bomber (ATB) Stealth aircraft for deployment during the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, The cost of maintaining the aging B-52s through the 1990s to the year 2000, including the modifications and essential improvements, would exceed the entire cost of the B-1B program; and

WHEREAS, The B-1B bomber is strategically not just an interim bomber, but a highly versatile aircraft that can function well into the 21st century, and when the Stealth is deployed, can then serve as cruise missile carriers, replacing the B-52s; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense stated that the B-1B can be built for the projected cost of \$21.5 billion because the engineering is complete, the design is mature and tested, and the basic plane has undergone almost 2000 hours of highly successful flight testing; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we support the President's decision to produce the B-1B bomber now, followed by eventual introduction of the ATB because it is a militarily sound and cost-effective contribution to our nation's strategic force modernization program to improve our nuclear deterrent posture.

Resolution No. 246 (Pennsylvania, as amended)—Aerial Refueling Capability/KC 135 Tanker Aircraft

WHEREAS, Various Air Force analyses show that additional aerial refueling capability is needed for optimum bomber penetration routes to support the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP); and

WHEREAS, The requirement for tanker support will increase when the B-53G's begin to carry Air Launched Cruise Missiles (ALCMs) externally; and

WHEREAS, This strategic planning problem is compounded by the requirement to refuel airlift and tactical aircraft for contingency operations; i.e. NATO, Mid-East; and

WHEREAS, Present aerial refueling requirements for combined SIOP and contingency missions exceed the current capabilities to such an extent that during simultaneous operations these missions would be seriously degraded due to tanker deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, There are various operational and environmental problems with the KC-135A as currently engine, including limited thrust and fuel offload capabilities excessive engine noise, chronic take-off thrust problems and gaseous emissions; and

WHEREAS, Recent evidence also shows water requirements would be a problem for those KC-135s involved with operations in scarce water areas such as the Mid-East; and

WHEREAS, Re-engining the KC-135 with the CFM-56 engine will increase fuel offload capabilities at all refueling ranges, improve engine thrust, reduce basing constraints, and save 180,000 gallons of fuel per aircraft per year; and

WHEREAS, The re-engined KC-135 is six times quieter and substantially less polluting than the current KC-135A; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force objective is to provide an acceptable level of refueling support to strategic bombers, tactical fighters and long range strategic transports across a range of possible scenarios and, in view of political realities and uncertainties, plans must be made to provide this refueling support without en-route basing; and

WHEREAS, Our air refueling force must be able to respond to Administration concerns for a global response capability and the ability to support a protracted conflict; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we urge the Administration and the Congress to support the Air Force program to re-engine its KC-135 tanker force with new, quieter, fuel efficient engines which will provide the capability in the years ahead to meet the refueling requirements of our strategic, tactical and airlift forces.

Resolution No. 251 (Pennsylvania, as consolidated) with Res. 89 (Montana); 142 (IN); 278 (VA) and 313 (MD)—Triad Concept and Stealth Aircraft

WHEREAS, The American Legion has consistently supported the TRIAD concept of strategic deterrence which is based upon the mutual support provided each of the three elements thereof, i.e., submarine launched ballistic missiles, intercontinental land based ballistic missiles, and penetrating strategic bombers, by the other elements; and

WHEREAS, For several years The American Legion has supported Air Force efforts to develop and deploy new long-range combat aircraft to replace part of the B-52 force which is 20-30 years old which will be incapable of penetrating the sophisticated defenses expected to be in place in the Soviet Union in future years; and

WHEREAS, Congress has directed the Department of Defense to vigorously pursue full scale engineering development of a long-range combat aircraft maximizing range, payload and the ability to perform the missions of a conventional bomber, cruise missile launch platform, and nuclear weapons delivery system in both the tactical and strategic role, with an initial operational capability of not later than 1987; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force has recommended that B-1B aircraft be procured to fulfill this requirement in the near-term, followed by a second bomber force of advanced technology bombers in the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, The strength of a long-range combat aircraft lies in its inherent flexibility, being much more than a penetrating aircraft in the traditional single integrated operational plan role, possessing in addition through its on-board offensive systems, the capability of detecting, identifying and attacking mobile targets as well as imprecisely located targets; and

WHEREAS, The aircraft's range, payload, and advanced avionics would also substantially enhance collateral support for the U.S. Navy in sea surveillance and surface attack; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we urge the Administration and Congress to act as expeditiously as possible to provide full support to the Air Force in its effort to develop and deploy modern long-range combat aircraft in sufficient numbers at an early date so as to insure the effectiveness of the bomber element of the TRIAD; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we also urge the Administration and the Congress to act as expeditiously as possible to support the development and deployment of advanced technology bombers to meet our defense requirements.

Resolution No. 314 (Maryland, as amended and consolidated) with Res. 88 (Montana); 249 (PA) and 277 (VA)—Airlift Capability

WHEREAS, Rapid reinforcement and world-wide mobility are major elements of the defense policy of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Rapid mobility is essential to deterrence and it is imperative that the total mobilization airlift capability of the United States be maintained at a level to allow for rapid de-

ployment of the armed forces of the United States in a time of need; and

WHEREAS, Current airlift deficiency is judged to be the greatest problem the U.S. Air Force faces in executing national military strategy; and

WHEREAS, Both the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force have testified that the procurement of additional out-size cargo airlift capability is a top priority of the Air Force in the mobility area and is essential to their needs; and

WHEREAS, The availability of such additional capability is essential to rapid reinforcement and world-wide mobility of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Congressionally mandated Mobility Study affirmed this short-fall in airlift capability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we urge the Congress of the United States to authorize funds to insure that sufficient airlift capability will be available in future years to provide for rapid deployment of the armed forces of the United States if it becomes necessary to prevent infringement upon the vital interests of the United States anywhere in the world by any potential aggressor.

Resolution No. 316 (Maryland)—Heavy Vertical Airlift
WHEREAS, Container ships can become more productive by reducing the time of loading and unloading. Use of heavy vertical airlift can unload/load containers before or without docking, while the vessel is enroute saving turn around time, and allowing the cargo to be delivered directly to its end user, not a dock; and

WHEREAS, The Forest Service is sponsoring an increase in timber harvesting heavy vertical airlift tonnage capacity beyond the current capability of the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Productivity is the resupply of military and civilian material can be improved by the application of heavy vertical airlift technology which will also reduce our dependence on host country facilities; and

WHEREAS, The movement of ship transported equipment to inland locations and return to ship can be effected at the least cost and maximum independence of harbor and port conditions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion support research and development of heavy vertical airlift technology to place the U.S. military in a superior position and to allow the maximum mobility for the rapid application of force, not limited to geographic or political constraints.

Resolution No. 317 (Maryland)—Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense

WHEREAS, Our strategic defense strategy for decades has rested on mutual-assured-destruction (MAD); and

WHEREAS, This defense philosophy has manifestly failed in that the Soviets have continued to increase their nuclear advantage with the obvious intent to arrive at a level where nuclear blackmail is inevitable; and

WHEREAS, A new nuclear strategy is long overdue that does not hold our people hostage in case of nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan, in his historic address to the nation on March 23, 1983, announced a national commitment to the development of defensive air defense and anti-ballistic missile system to end the age of thermo-nuclear terror; and

WHEREAS, Under existing treaties the Soviets have built an extensive air defense and anti-ballistic missile system, the so-called Moscow ABM System, providing protection to substantial portions of Western USSR containing about 75% of the

Soviet population and industry and a substantial portion of Soviet military capabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have used the period since the ABM treaty to greatly increase their ABM capabilities by an all-out research and development program which might or might not violate the aforementioned treaty; and

WHEREAS, We have dismantled our system and an adequate latitude exists for substantial ABM effort utilizing present and readily foreseeable technologies; and

WHEREAS, A continued effort in this area is feasible and practical extending into space as visualized by the President in the future; and

WHEREAS, The President's Commission on strategic forces stated that "Vigorous research and development on ABM technologies — including, in particular, ways to sharpen the effectiveness of treaty-limited ABM systems with new types of nuclear systems and also ways to use non-nuclear systems — are imperative to avoid technological surprise from the Soviets;" and

WHEREAS, All efforts toward strengthening our defense will continue to be challenged by those who promote a posture of unilateral disarmament orchestrated wittingly or unwittingly by the intelligence activities of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, The results of our efforts are plainly understood by the Soviets in that Soviet Premier Andropov said in *Izvestia* (March 27) and *Pravda* (March 28) that he would rely on the "peace movement" — the nuclear freeze movement — in the West to sabotage President Reagan's noble initiative; and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we applaud the President's change in the national strategy of deterrence from one of mutually assured destruction wherein populations are held hostage to the threat of destruction from nuclear weapons, to a strategy of protecting our population through defensive measures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Congress to support the President's initiatives in re-establishing our anti-missile system effort using all latitudes available including the existing ABM treaties; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all-out research and development be undertaken to increase our anti-ballistic missile capability using all techniques, including space, as these techniques can be developed; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we in The American Legion initiate an all-out effort to counter the propaganda efforts of those who promote unilateral disarmament.

Resolution No. 436 (Texas)—Support of the National Space Program

WHEREAS, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration was created by the 85th Congress by passage of the National Aeronautics and Space Act in October 1958; and

WHEREAS, Since that date NASA has spurred spectacular advances in propulsion, aerodynamics, space navigation, communications, systems reliability, planetary science, material processing, computation, and a host of others; its most crowning achievements being the landing of humans on another planetary surface and their safe return to Earth together with priceless samples; and

WHEREAS, The study of our own planet from space has already brought us immeasurable wealth in the form of more precise and accurate surveying and mapping, more timely and accurate weather forecasting, more effective utilization of natural resources; and much faster and more meaningful diagnosis of agricultural diseases and infestations; and

WHEREAS, The placing of artificial satellites in orbit around the Earth has already contributed to the common good by providing for easier and more accurate communication, quicker and more effective location of lost or disabled aircraft, vehicles and persons; and more thorough, detailed and accurate reconnaissance of armed forces and their intentions; and

WHEREAS, The study of other planets in the solar system through the Explorer, Mariner, Pioneer, Viking and Voyager space craft, among others, has already increased the general welfare by adding to the understanding of our own planet and its origins, history, behavior and ultimate destiny; and

WHEREAS, The study of Sun has enriched our lives by increasing our knowledge of its effects on our weather, climate, communications and navigation; and

WHEREAS, The space age gave birth to the micro-miniaturized solid-state electronics which now affects us every hour of our lives; and

WHEREAS, In the health care field, new equipment and techniques developed from space research is bringing significant changes to health care in almost every kind of diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Other spinoffs directly attributable to the space programs have given birth to a long list of mundane items beneficial to us all; and

WHEREAS, Various space systems have become critical to our armed forces, especially for reconnaissance and surveillance (a major break-through having been made in reconnaissance data gathering), and for command and control and battle management; and

WHEREAS, Defense systems in space are developing rapidly and consequently increased military reliance on space will require that future space systems have greater capabilities, flexibility and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, It is becoming axiomatic among government leaders that full exploitation of space for defense systems is necessary for continued national security; and

WHEREAS, In view of the predictable growth of defense space systems and the capabilities and economies and benefits offered by utilization of the Space Shuttle, the Department of Defense is better able to plan its own use of space in coordination with NASA; and

WHEREAS, Man's presence in space through the Space Shuttle will provide the capability for fabricating, operating, and maintaining equipment in orbit — in the future there will be no limit on size for on-orbit assembly; and

WHEREAS, A major opportunity now exists for private industry to utilize the space environment as an important technological benefit in their business plans which at the same time offers great potential returns, revenues and profits from future space products and services; and

WHEREAS, Entrepreneurial activities in space must be stimulated at first by government participating, followed by a period of partnership between government and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, Finally, the Space Transportation System is providing the United States a unique opportunity to regain leadership in space — effectively and economically — while at the same time offering us opportunity to enhance our national security, international prestige, revitalize our technological leadership, stimulate economic growth, and substantially further our knowledge through scientific research; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we strongly urge the Congress to continue to support and

fund the National Space Program in order to continue the exploration and exploitation of space — including funds for full cooperation with the Department of Defense, and specifically, to ensure the next logical and necessary step after the Space Shuttle, the construction of a space station in permanent Earth orbit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Congress encourage and stimulate the participation of private industry in the space program through initial cooperative endeavor and through tax credits and other incentives for the ultimate benefit of ourselves and for all mankind.

Resolution No. 436 (Texas, as amended)—Cruise Missile

WHEREAS, The cruise missile is one of the United States newest and most sophisticated weapons system; and

WHEREAS, The CM is deployable on land, sea or air; and

WHEREAS, The CM can carry either a conventional or a nuclear warhead; and

WHEREAS, The CM can hit targets up to 1,500 miles away; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear-tipped CMs are virtually indistinguishable from battle field models with conventional warheads; and

WHEREAS, The CM also is economical, being relatively inexpensive (about 1 million); and

WHEREAS, The CM does not require a new and fixed platform, though they may be used; and

WHEREAS, Due to its small size and the trestop altitude at which it flies, the cruise missile is virtually indistinguishable by radar; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we strongly recommend that the Congress fully fund the production and fielding of the cruise missiles determined to be essential to the defense of the nation, after complete testing and proven reliability.

REFERRED TO STANDING COMMISSION ON NATIONAL SECURITY:

Resolution No. 184 (Ohio)—Project High Frontier

Resolution No. 209 (Illinois)—Cruise Missile

Resolution No. 358 (California)—Beam Weapons

Resolution No. 442 (Texas)—Beam Weapons

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CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS

Chairman Frank D. Riocardi, New Jersey

Resolution No. 6 (Panama Canal, as amended and consolidated with Res. 378 (WA))—Civil Defense Program

WHEREAS, We recognize that hurricanes, tornados, floods, earthquakes, fires and other natural disasters are inevitable; and

WHEREAS, Protecting lives and valuable resources in peacetime through a comprehensive civil defense system that will also function in time of war is a reasonable, sensible, and cost-effective approach that merits our full support; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear parity and disparity exists between the Soviet Union and the United States: parity in nuclear weapons and active defenses, and disparity in active air defenses and passive defense to include civil defense; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union and the Communist Party recognize people as the most valued resource of their nation and give undivided attention to the task of protecting the population under conditions of modern warfare and recognize civil defense as a vital part of military strategy; and

WHEREAS, Outside the Soviet Union their officials "advise" Americans and others that civil defense, which they develop assiduously at home, is useless; and

WHEREAS, Our determination to survive as a nation deserves a positive pursuit and implementing of a civil defense system that would affect the survival of individuals and as a nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we strongly recommend that the President, Congress, and the Department of the United States:

1. Recognize that civil defense in this nuclear age is as important as the weapons of war and that failure of the United States to have a credible civil defense program could lead to a miscalculation by any potential adversary;
2. Give increased funds, support, and assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
3. Restock shelters and warehouses with survival food, and rotate those stocks when responding to requests for assistance from natural disasters around the world;
4. Reinitiate public and private works programs that will provide jobs while providing civilian protection to include underground and in mountain facilities; and
5. Support the President's revitalized civil defense program to improve our total defense posture.

Resolution No. 178 (South Carolina, as amended)—Civil Defense Program

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to the defense and survival of our nation in the event of attack or natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, Civil defense is an integral part of the survival of our nation's populace in the event of an enemy attack or natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, The key to a successful civil defense program rests with the quality of Operations Centers (EOC), communication and warning systems in order to properly alert the public and direct them during an attack as well as instructions after an attack or natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, Civil defense is a vital part of our nation's security program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we support immediate legislation to change the grant system from the current 50/50 basis between the Federal Government and local governments to a greater ratio for Federal to local government.

REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY:

Resolution No. 207 (Illinois)—American Legion Blood Donor Program

Resolution No. 319 (Maryland)—Fire Prevention/Protection Program

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CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON LAW & ORDER

Chairman W. Dudley Robbins, North Carolina

The Delegates to the Law and Order Committee expressed concern on air piracy and hijacking. We are asking the National Security staff in Washington, D.C., to research this matter and report to the Law and Order Committee at the NEC meeting in October 1983. The Delegates also expressed their desire to recommend a junior law persons program to each Department.

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 26 (New Hampshire)—American Legion Reaffirms its Opposition to the Compulsory Registration of Firearms

WHEREAS, The right to own and possess arms has always been the right of every American citizen; and

WHEREAS, There is a concerted effort in this country and in the Congress of the United States to pass laws to make the registration of all firearms compulsory; and

WHEREAS, The criminal element in this country will always find ways to obtain guns; and

WHEREAS, It is a known fact that it is not the gun that kills but the men who use them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we reaffirm our unaltered opposition to the compulsory registration of firearms.

REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY:

Resolution No. 359 (California)—Police and Fire Department Funding and Staffing

RECEIVED AND RECORDED:

Resolution No. 183 (Ohio)—Law and Order

Resolution No. 208 (Illinois)—Gun Control Legislation

REJECTED RESOLUTION:

Resolution No. 47 (Arizona)—Recognition of a Law Enforcement Officer in Arizona

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CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE Chairman William D. Horan, New York.

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 376 (Washington)—Modernize the U.S. Merchant Marine Fleet

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been aware of the urgency to rebuild and modernize the United States privately owned and operated merchant marine; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. imports and exports more goods than any other nation in the world, twice that of Japan, and more than three times the Soviet volume, yet carries less than 4% on U.S. ships; Russia carries nearly 60% of its own trade, Japan 40%, and Germany and France each 30%; and

WHEREAS, Of the 575 U.S. flag privately owned vessels only a third are considered useful for carrying basic provisions and military supplies; and

WHEREAS, We cannot depend on the 350 U.S. owned ships registered with foreign countries and manned by foreign crews, to come to our aid in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Our ability to supply distant defense needs that brought victory in World War II has withered away, while Russia's merchant fleet has been growing dramatically; and

WHEREAS, By taxing, regulating and pricing, the American ocean transportation industry is seriously handicapped in meeting foreign competition in commercial trade; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we urge the United States Government to work with mari-

time labor and management to rebuild the U.S. merchant marine to a position second to none in the world, under the guidance of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970.

Resolution No. 484 (Convention Committee on Merchant Marine)—Competitive Shipping and Shipbuilding Revitalization Act

WHEREAS, 30 years ago, the U.S. Merchant Fleet carried some 35% of our export-import cargo and today carries less than 4%; and

WHEREAS, 30 years ago, there existed some 70,000 seagoing jobs, and today there are approximately only 18,000; and

WHEREAS, On June 29, 1983, the House Merchant Marine Subcommittee, approved legislation on cargo performance to remedy these problems; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we urge Congress to approve legislation which would require that a certain percentage of bulk imports and exports move on U.S.-flag vessels.

Resolution No. 485 (Convention Committee on Merchant Marine)—Merchant Marine and Defense Commission

WHEREAS, The U.S. Merchant Fleet has steadily declined since World War II; and

WHEREAS, In a time of emergency would be unable to properly respond; and

WHEREAS, Legislation establishing a Commission on Merchant Marine to examine and recommend a solution to these problems has been introduced; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983 that we urge Congress to approve and implement legislation establishing a Commission on Merchant Marine and Defense which would be directed to study problems related to transportation of cargo for national defense purposes, and make specific recommendations which it considers appropriate to foster and maintain a U.S. Merchant Marine capable of meeting national security requirements.

Resolution No. 486 (Convention Committee on Merchant Marine)—Arapaho Project

WHEREAS, The conflict involving the Falkland Islands prove the value of the ARAPAHO program; and

WHEREAS, The deployment of vertical takeoff/landing (VTOL) fighter attack aircraft by the British Royal Navy aboard a commercial container ship underscores the importance of this emergency technique in time of crisis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that the current ARAPAHO feasibility testing be quickly and thoroughly expanded to address the tactical and operations applications of ARAPAHO in simulated wartime missions and underway conditions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage the U.S. Government to further develop and evaluate similar approaches in particularly the present ARAPAHO project for the use of the U.S. Armed Forces and its allies.

REJECTED RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 377 (Washington)—Strengthening the American Merchant Fleet

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CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

Chairman Donald D. Hildebrand, Tennessee

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 64 (Oklahoma, as consolidated with Res. 476 (NM))—Military Retirees

WHEREAS, There are laws pertaining to the operation of the Department of Defense and the Department of Defense policy of advising members of the Armed Forces of their entitlement to retirement pay following the required period of active duty; and

WHEREAS, Many of the 1,288,962 military retirees in receipt of retirement pay are of the opinion their benefits based on active military service are authorized by law without restrictions or reductions or reductions by reason of subsequent employment; and

WHEREAS, The Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1982 has broken faith with military retirees by causing their earned military retirement benefits to be reduced; and

WHEREAS, Current law reducing the cost of living increase for retirees under age 62 is a violation of the Age Discrimination Act and the reduction of civil service pay by an amount equal to the cost of living increase on retirement pay is in violation of Chapter 51 and Subchapter 111 of Chapter 53 of Title 5, U.S. Code, and Para. 2301 of Chapter 23 of Title 5, U.S. Code; and

WHEREAS, Military retirees working for the federal government are treated as second class citizens by causing a reduction in their C.O.L.A. on retirement pay and a reduction in civil service pay equal to the amount of cost of living benefits on military retirement pay; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that it does hereby go on record:

- 1) Requesting Congress repeal current laws that discriminate in granting cost of living increases on retirement pay based on age.
- 2) Requesting Congress repeal such laws that discriminate against military retirees working for the federal government by reducing their civil service pay by an equal amount of the cost of living granted on retirement pay.

Resolution No. 91 (Montana, as consolidated with Res. 150 (IN); 290 (VA) and 441 (TX))—Support Total Force Policy

WHEREAS, The Reserve components account for more than 40% of the Army's total military strength, the Army's National Guard provides one-third of the total number of Army combat divisions and two-thirds of the Army's combat service support capability is found in the Army Reserve; and

WHEREAS, The ultimate goal is to have sufficient personnel to man Reserve and National Guard and sufficient equipment for these units at authorized wartime levels; and

WHEREAS, The DOD Reserve Forces Policy Board has issued a report entitled "The Reserve Forces in the 1990's" which concluded that equipment needs in the Reserve and National Guard are serious and that if the Reserve and National Guard are to continue as a viable part of the Total Force, ready for early deployment in both combat and support roles, then the concept of unitary equipment buys including sufficient spares, mirror image organization and identical equipment must be expanded and accelerated; and

WHEREAS, The National Guard and Reserve strength during the 1980-1990s is predicted to increase the force to authorized levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Con-

tion assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we support the policy of the Total Force and urge the Congress to authorize and fund the National Guard and Reserve Forces to provide sufficient recruiting incentives so as to man units at authorized wartime levels; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to authorize and fund the Guard-Reserve so that they may fully accomplish their mission in the event of war.

Resolution No. 92 (Montana, as consolidated with Res. 152 (IN) and 287 (VA))—**Support of the Army 86 studies and 90 transition**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Army must be able to fight in varying climates and terrain and against opponents capable of operating at varying levels of conflict; and

WHEREAS, While the U.S. Army now retains 24 combat divisions, Army 86 studies leads to an assessment that 26 divisions and many other small units to deal with the broad spectrum of threats to our national interests by the late 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Some battalions in armored and mechanized infantry divisions will transition to Division 86 designs during Fiscal Year '83 using personnel and equipment assigned to the division of the time of transition and within these divisions, remaining battalions will continue their transition to the more effective Division 86 structure as new systems are fielded; and

WHEREAS, The conversions will require authorization and funding for military construction, personnel moves, acquisition of supporting equipment, and one-time operational costs which will result in divisions being better able to support themselves and far more capable than current divisions; and

WHEREAS, The Army's High Technology Test Bed (HTTB) project involving the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington, is proceeding on schedule and will help to develop a lean, hard hitting force—a new high technology light division (HTLD) that exploits technology and human effectiveness training and that will be rapidly deployable, tactically mobile, highly lethal, and considerably self-sustainable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we support the Army 86 studies, the Army 90 transition plan, and the initiative underway at Fort Lewis as essential to the development and adoption of dynamic force structures capable of defeating any threat; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we strongly urge the Department of Defense and the U.S. Congress to support the aforementioned initiatives by authorizing and funding the necessary equipment and other requirements to recognize the Army's force structure of the 1980s and beyond.

Resolution No. 96 (Montana, as consolidated with Res. 147 (IN) and 294 (VA))—**Education incentives for active and reserve forces**

WHEREAS, Congress has terminated the education program under Chapter 34, Title 38, U.S. Code, for those persons enlisting in the Armed Forces of the United States on or after January 1, 1977; and

WHEREAS, Congress replaced this educational assistance program with a less generous experimental contributory program under Chapter 32, Title 38, which is known as the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educations Assistance Program, or "VEAP", wherein the Federal Government matches on a two-to-one basis the deposits by the individual military member to VEAP; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Defense is authorized under this program to contribute additional unspecified amounts to

an individual's VEAP account above that level as a recruiting or retention incentive; and

WHEREAS, The Armed Services have testified that the VEAP program is not effective as a recruiting and retention tool and

WHEREAS, All military services are currently experiencing great success in recruiting and retaining military personnel due to adverse economic conditions but it is apparent that this problem will worsen in the 1980s as the number of 18 year old personnel decline to 1.7 million in the latter part of the decade, thus requiring the services to recruit 50% of all military age males who are physically and mentally qualified and who are not enrolled in college in order to meet the manpower needs of the services; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that education incentives play an important part in the recruitment and retention of personnel, and any attempt to restrict or delete such benefits as a cost-saving measure would adversely affect the military services ability to meet their accession and retention goals, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we urge Congress to enact legislation which would authorize and fund an education incentive program to support retention and recruiting for Active and Reserve Forces; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion recommend to Congress that any such educational incentive program be funded as a Department of Defense function but be administered by the Veterans Administration since the VA currently has staff and expertise to administer such a program.

Resolution No. 124 (Massachusetts, as consolidated with Res. 163 (IN))—**Selective Service System**

WHEREAS, Section 1113 (a), Section 12 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 USC App. 462) was amended by Public Law signed by the President of the United States, September 8, 1982, Section 1113 (a) of the Military Selective Service Act (50 USC, App. 462), after subsection (e), the following subsection was added, "Any person who is required under Section 3 to present himself for and submit to, registration under such section, and fails to do so in accordance with any proclamation under such section and fails to do so in accordance with any other rule or regulation issued under such section, shall be ineligible for any form of assistance or benefit under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, A U.S. District Court Judge in St. Paul, Minnesota issued a preliminary injunction, barring the government from enforcing a law that would deny education loans to students who have not registered for selective service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, to support legislation that would deny United States government funds to students who have not submitted evidence of being registered for the Selective Service, in compliance with the September 8, 1982 Public Law that became effective October 1, 1983.

Resolution No. 144 (Indiana, as consolidated with Res. 90 (Montana); 210 (IL); 291 (VA) and 379 (WA))—**Support for a strong National Guard**

WHEREAS, In all our years, the American people have found it necessary to rely extensively on citizen-soldiers; and

WHEREAS, We have never been able to maintain a suffi-

cient military establishment in time of peace to meet the total national defense needs; and

WHEREAS, The employers and citizens of our communities have reason to trust and support a civilian-soldier defense program; and

WHEREAS, An incentive compensation plan for National Guard members should attract superior men and women to assure adequate force levels; and

WHEREAS, Accreditation of National Guard training courses by state higher education institutions should assist recruitment efforts; and

WHEREAS, A modern fully equipped National Guard is able to serve the nation and states in time of emergency, national disaster, or civil disorder; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we call upon the Congress and the various State Legislatures to provide for the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard the necessary legislation and resources to insure effective personnel strength and equipment levels compatible with the regular Army and Air Force, thereby guaranteeing fulfillment of their obligations to the United States of America.

Resolution No. 161 (Indiana, as consolidated with Res. 94 (Montana)—Military Draft

WHEREAS, Nine years have elapsed since the United States initiated the effort to meet its military manpower requirements through the concept of an All Volunteer Force (AVF) with a standby Selective Service System theoretically capable of quick reactivation to provide draftees in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Several underlying assumptions on which those manpower policies were based have changed since the AVF began in 1973; i.e., as stated by the Senate Armed Services Committee; of manpower; quantity and sophistication of material; command, control, communications and intelligence capability; and

WHEREAS, All Services are, at the moment, reaching their active duty manpower quotas due to a declining economy; and

WHEREAS, The costs associated with keeping people in uniforms have continued to rise in spite of the increased monetary support for active duty people; and

WHEREAS, We Americans find it difficult to believe that the problem can be resolved simply by throwing more money at it; and

WHEREAS, Frequent overseas deployments and non-competitive compensation have brought pressures on career personnel that continue to drive them from the ranks in substantial numbers seriously depleting the level of professionalism through all the Services; and

WHEREAS, The time has come for us to acknowledge the failure of the All-Volunteer Force and we must find other ways to build the capable, credible military forces that are essential to our national policy and interests; and

WHEREAS, The only obvious system is a form of Selective Service that brings service to the country back into proper national perspective as history shows no successful substitute for the citizen's direct involvement in his destiny; and

WHEREAS, Any operative Selective Service plan must be completely fair and equitable selection system under which 96% of our young physically qualified men have an equal opportunity to be considered for military service through a lottery system with stringent controls over deferments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we support a return to a military draft program as the pri-

mary source of personnel to meet the manpower requirements of our Armed Forces, including the Reserve components thereof.

Resolution No. 170 (South Carolina)—Sponsor legislation to repeal PL 96-30 as it pertains to military retirees

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to the men and women who valiantly served their country's call and the FAIR and EQUAL treatment of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Recent actions of The Congress, unopposed by veteran's organizations, have passed legislation that only penalize CERTAIN veterans, military retirees in particular; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always resisted any effort to allow veterans compensation paid for a disability incurred in service to be considered by any Court and so garnished; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 96-30, DVB Cir 20-62-38, and Sec 6 Code Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 581, does direct disability compensation of a military retiree be so garnished in accordance with court order issued, thereby establishing the military retiree as the only recipient of VA compensation so identified as to have service connected disability compensation garnished; and

WHEREAS, This constitutes UNFAIR and DISCRIMINATORY treatment of a disabled veteran and is wrong; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion shall sponsor immediate legislation to repeal PL 96-30, and subsequent regulations, to insure service connected disabled veterans are treated equally, without regard to years of service, by the same consideration and enumeration for disabilities, or, immediate laws be passed to apply the same rule to ALL VETERANS equally.

Resolution No. 171 (South Carolina, as amended)—Sponsor legislation to repeal PL 97-252 as it pertains to military retirees

WHEREAS, The American Legion is devoted to men and women that have served their country during a war; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to FAIR and EQUAL treatment to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, The agreement and commitment between a military retiree and the government is a solemn agreement that should only be changed by mutual agreement and consent of both parties concerned; and

WHEREAS, The military retiree was the only one placed in danger while serving his country, not the spouse; and

WHEREAS, As an example of UNFAIR and UNEQUAL treatment, Public Law 97-252, Former Spouses' Protection Law, places the military retiree as the only resident of South Carolina whose EARNED income can be garnished, if only by default; and

WHEREAS, The current Former Spouse' Protection Law, does not give the military retiree equal treatment under the law and does not apply to all citizens of the land; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion shall sponsor immediate legislation to repeal PL 97-252.

Resolution No. 174 (South Carolina, as amended)—Military Draft

WHEREAS, More and more reports come from Washington, D.C. that Draft Legislation is being contemplated by both Congress and the Administration; and

WHEREAS, Preliminary interviews of sponsors of such leg-

isolation indicated that a concerted effort will be made by pacifist groups to include so-called alternative service, i.e. Peace Corps and Community Service, for those who object to such service in the military (any military unit) on religious or moral grounds; and

WHEREAS, Such proposed service would add absolutely nothing to our military program, but indeed, would adversely affect the morale of those who answer their country's call; and

WHEREAS, Our experience in World War II clearly showed that true and sincere Conscientious objectors could wear the uniform, and provide a service, without adversely affecting the morale of others; and

WHEREAS, Proposed alternative service would prove to be nothing more than a haven for future draft dodgers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion vigorously protest the inclusion of alternatives to military service provisions in any future draft legislation.

Resolution No. 187 (Ohio)—Military Retirees Widows' Benefits

WHEREAS, Under current laws widows of military retirees suffer a reduction in their Survivors Benefit Plan annuity equal to 40% of the amount which they receive in Social Security benefits; and

WHEREAS, Widows of the military retirees have paid into Social Security as members of the work force and their husbands paid Survivors Benefit Plan premiums to ensure that their widows would be eligible to receive survivor benefits upon their deaths; and

WHEREAS, As a result of these facts that widows of military retirees have every right to collect both entitlements simultaneously; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that The American Legion seek by legislative action that the widows of military retirees be permitted to collect Social Security benefits based on their earnings without losing a portion of their Survivors Benefit Plan entitlements.

Resolution No. 211 (Illinois, as amended)—National Guard (Incentive Bonus)

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Year 1983 Appropriations Act extended the authority for payment of enlistment/re-enlistment bonuses and educational assistance to National Guard personnel to September 30, 1985; and

WHEREAS, Additional funding is needed for the Army National Guard and additional funds for incentives to attract critical skill personnel are needed for the National Guard; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we support a proposal to continue, and to improve incentive bonuses for the National Guard; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we support this resolution be forwarded to the Congress, and to the National Guard Association of the United States.

Resolution No. 214 (Illinois)—National Guard (Full-Time Support Force)

WHEREAS, The need for an adequate full-time force continues to grow as the Active Forces initiate new, readiness related systems, programs and procedures that require additional National Guard technicians and/or full-time military personnel; and

WHEREAS, The current full-time support force is funded at

63.9% for the Army National Guard and 91.4% for the Air National Guard of the validated requirement and is constrained by ceilings and funding limitation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we support this proposal to obtain authorization and funding to increase the size of the full-time support force.

Resolution No. 218 (Illinois, as consolidated with Res. 379 (WA)—National Guard and Reserve Forces (Medical Legislation)

WHEREAS, HR 1497 being considered by the House of Representatives would provide medical care for illness and disease incurred during Inactive Duty Training, and HR 1495 would provide benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve who are injured en route to or from Inactive Duty Training; and

WHEREAS, HR 1497 is designed to provide for medical care for illness and disease incurred during Inactive Duty Training in the same manner as those members who contract a disease or become ill while performing Inactive Duty Training as they are currently eligible for during full-time training duty for 30 days or less, and for medical care, pay and allowances while hospitalized for not more than six months; and

WHEREAS, HR 1495 provides that members of the National Guard and Reserve who are injured en route to or from Inactive Duty Training be given the same benefits as are now provided for injuries actually sustained during Inactive Duty Training, to include medical care and hospitalization, pay and allowances while incapacitated, and for physical disability retirement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we support the Omnibus Medical Legislation.

Resolution No. 288 (Virginia)—Rapid Deployment Forces

WHEREAS, U.S. strategic mobility forces are currently unable to meet NATO reinforcement objectives or to project credible United States forces to areas where our national interests may be threatened; and

WHEREAS, The Army's prepositioned equipment and war reserve stocks are inadequate for many contingencies; therefore, mobility forces, both air and sea, must be increased to provide flexible power projection; and

WHEREAS, The planned conversion of eight Navy SL-7 container ships to roll-on, roll-off (RO/RO) configuration is essential and a high priority must be given to research and development programs for surface effect ships, which will project forces rapidly and compliment air-lifted forces in the future; and

WHEREAS, Prepositioning material configured to unit sets (POMCUS) remains a key part of the strategic mobility picture, critical shortages still exist in this area; and

WHEREAS, The development of two intermediate staging sites in the Persian Gulf region is essential to improve the infrastructure for the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force because our combat force can perform its mission if it is not at the right place, at the right time, with the right material; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we strongly urge the Congress to authorize and appropriate sufficient funds to provide the U.S. Army strategic mobility improvements.

Resolution No. 292 (Virginia, as consolidated with Res. 321 (Maryland))—Military Draft

WHEREAS, Nine years have elapsed since the United States

initiated the effort to meet its military manpower requirements through the concept of an all Volunteer Force (AVF) with a standby Selective Service System theoretically capable of quick reactivation to provide draftees in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Several underlying assumptions on which those manpower policies were based have changed since the AVF began in 1973; i.e., as stated by the Senate Armed Services Committee; "Soviet military capabilities have increased substantially in terms of quantity and quality of manpower; quantity and sophistication of material; command, control, communications and intelligence capability"; and

WHEREAS, All Services are, at the moment, reaching their active duty manpower quotas due to a declining economy; and

WHEREAS, The costs associated with keeping people in uniform have continued to rise in spite of the increased monetary support for active duty service people; and

WHEREAS, We Americans find it difficult to believe that the problem can be resolved simply by throwing more money at it; and

WHEREAS, Frequent overseas deployments and non-competitive compensation have brought pressures on career personnel that continue to drive them from the ranks in substantial numbers seriously depleting the level of professionalism through all the Services; and

WHEREAS, The time has come for us to acknowledge the failure of the All-Volunteer Force and we must find other ways to build the capable, credible military forces that are essential to our national policy and interests; and

WHEREAS, The only obvious system is a form of Selective Service that brings service to the country back into proper national perspective as history shows no successful substitute for the citizen's direct involvement in his destiny; and

WHEREAS, Any operative Selective Service plan must be completely fair and equitable for all concerned; and

WHEREAS, The Military Selective Service Act, as amended, provides a fair and equitable selection system under which 96% of our young physically qualified men have an equal opportunity to be considered for military service through a lottery system with stringent controls over deferments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1963, that we support a return to a military draft program as the primary source of personnel to meet the manpower requirements of our armed forces; including the Reserve components thereof.

Resolution 212 (Illinois, as consolidated with Res. 380 (WA))—National Guard and Reserve Forces (Medical Personnel Incentive Pay)

WHEREAS, Legislation is proposed in the Congress to provide incentive pay for National Guard and Reserve medical officers; and

WHEREAS, There is a shortage of medical officers in the National Guard and Reserve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1963, that we support this proposal to provide incentive pay for National Guard and Reserve medical personnel.

Resolution No. 439 (Texas)—Support for a strong U.S. Army Reserve

WHEREAS, United States Army Reserve units are indispensable essential to the wartime operation of the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, Units of the USAR are predominantly of the combat support, combat service support and general support units required to sustain our 24 division army; and

WHEREAS, The USAR provides:

(a) All of Army's training divisions Judge Advocate General detachments and railroad transportation units; and

(b) Nearly all of the civil affairs units and most of Army's psychological operations, petroleum and terminal service units; and

(c) 62% of the Army's hospital units; and

WHEREAS, The 200,000 plus, strong Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force (RDJTF) depends upon the USAR for a major portion of its transportation, fuel and civil affairs support; and

WHEREAS, In the event of mobilization of the USAR: (1) one-fifth of the Army's reserve units would be committed within 30 days of mobilization; (2) 57% of USAR units are scheduled to deploy between 30 and 60 days after mobilization, and (3) virtually all units would be deployed within 90 days of mobilization, and (4) some mobilization units have deployment times so short that they would move directly to their ports of embarkment upon call to active duty; and

WHEREAS, The need for immediate combat readiness is mandatory, the overall training needs of the Army Reserve are not fully funded; and

WHEREAS, The USAR is understrength and is not projected to reach its authorized strength of 296,582 until Fiscal Year 1968; and

WHEREAS, There is a shortage of trained soldiers in the Individual Ready Reserve with a current strength of 202,000 against the desired level for Fiscal Year 1963 of 458,000; and

WHEREAS, The USAR has on hand only 40% of its required wartime assets, these shortages including 1200 tanks, 2100 five-ton trucks, 210 aircraft and 230 artillery pieces and others; and

WHEREAS, There are 1075 Army Reserve Centers and 181 maintenance facilities owned or leased by the Army Reserve, only 45% of these facilities are considered adequate; and

WHEREAS, Due to changes in national security objectives and the appearance of new equipment, plans call for the activation of more than 400 USAR Units over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, The USAR is the Army's Reserves, but in name only; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1963, that we go on record as urging that the Congress authorize the necessary funds to:

1. Expeditiously reorganize, man, fully arm, and equip the U.S. Army Reserve;
2. Provide the required support for the large number of new organizations and systems planned for and coming into being; and
3. Ensure that the USAR is ready to deploy to battle instantly in support of the Army.

Resolution No. 440 (Texas)—Support for a strong National Guard

WHEREAS, The Army National Guard comprises 46% of the Total Army's combat forces, included: 33% of combat divisions; nearly 60% of the infantry, armor and field artillery battalions; 57% of the armored cavalry regiments, and nearly 30% of the combat support units; and

WHEREAS, The Army National Guard represents approximately 60% of the strength of the Reserve force; and

WHEREAS, The ARNG is understrength but programmed to achieve its authorized paid strength (417,019) by the end of Fiscal Year 1963, but is not projected to reach its wartime strength until Fiscal Year 1966; and

WHEREAS, Much of the ARNG equipment is not modern, for example: a) some of the ARNG communication equipment will not interface with the newer Army systems; b) the only air defense capabilities of the 8 ARNG divisions is the 30 year old M42A1, "Duster," 40mm gun, which is frequently supported through cannibalization; and c) test, diagnostic and maintenance equipment in the ARNG maintenance units is mostly for older systems and cannot support new equipment; and d) older communication equipment is still standing in for modern items and much of it is not compatible with the newer equipment of the Army and Air Force; and

WHEREAS, In addition to age and obsolescent, shortages of equipment is one of the ARNG's major problems, amounting to a \$4 billion shortfall price tag; and

WHEREAS, The Regular Army cannot function effectively in wartime without augmentation from the ARNG; and

WHEREAS, The ARNG will continue to expand the program that adds ARNG roundout units to active Army Divisions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we urge the Congress to authorize the necessary funds for the ARNG to reorganize, rearm and fully equip its units in consequence with the Regular Army, with the same priority to its roundout units as the Regular Army; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the necessary funds be provided to expedite bringing the ARNG to full wartime strength as soon as possible.

Resolution No. 454 (Minnesota)—Oppose abolition of the corps of chaplains in the U.S. military services

WHEREAS, The freedom has been provided to our military personnel since the signing of the Constitution, by a Chaplaincy Corps, even in time of battle; and

WHEREAS, This Chaplaincy Corps has provided invaluable guidance and leadership to our Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, There is now a movement to abolish the Chaplaincy Corps by a group of people opposed to the principle of religious freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we oppose any action that would abolish the Chaplaincy Corps or limit the freedom of religious practice.

Resolution No. 486 (Convention Committee on Military Affairs)—Chemical Warfare Defense

WHEREAS, Soviet military doctrine envisages the use of chemical weapons, and acknowledges their value, particularly when used in massive quantities and in surprise attacks, they also possess a wide variety of lethal and incapacitation chemical agents and the means to deliver them. Also, they have invested heavily in individual and collective protection and decontamination equipment, and they train with actual chemical agents; and

WHEREAS, In contrast with the Soviet Union during most of the 1970s, the U.S. allowed its retaliatory capability to decline and has done little to improve defense against the use of chemicals in wartime; and

WHEREAS, The ultimate goal in the area of chemical warfare is a complete and verifiable ban on the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, until such a ban can be obtained, the U.S. objective should be consistent with existing treaties and international law, to deter the use of chemical weapons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983,

that we call upon the Congress to authorize and appropriate the necessary funds to support the U.S. Army's efforts, as the DOD executive agent in matters of chemical warfare defense, to embark on a realistic research, development and acquisition program to deter the Soviet Union's use of chemical weapons; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we believe this program, which has at its core the production of binary munitions, will improve our chemical defensive ability while providing an incentive for meaningful arms control efforts.

Resolution No. 487 (Convention Committee on Military Affairs)—Military Commissaries Operations

WHEREAS, The President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control has recommended that the Department of Defense should terminate the operation of the commissaries in the continental United States except in areas where adequate commercial food stores are not available; and

WHEREAS, The continued need for the military commissary system has been reaffirmed by eminent study groups on numerous occasions; and

WHEREAS, The DOD Third Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (1978) indicated that the value perceived by the service member substantially outweigh the government costs; therefore, commissaries provide psychic income that far exceeds the costs; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, the President's Commission on Military Compensation endorsed the position that the commissary be preserved as an institutional support; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Chiefs of Staff on January 13, 1983 recommended that the President resist any attempt to alter military retirement to include benefits; and

WHEREAS, Reduced commissary support would undermine the morale of over 951,000 married careerists which is a key element of military preparedness, it would be devastating to (1) junior enlisted families; (2) the 39,270 widows, and (3) the 139,755 totally disabled veterans eligible for commissary patronage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we strongly support retention of the military commissary system and urge the Administration and Congress to provide necessary authorization and funding to allow the system to be preserved as an institutional support for our active duty military, military retirees, 100% service-connected disabled veterans, and widows authorized commissary privileges.

Resolution No. 492 (Convention Committee on Military Affairs)—Military Retirement System

WHEREAS, The Military Retirement System is linked with both the force management requirements and the compensation system for the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, The Military Retirement System exists to serve the following vital needs:

- a) To provide for a uniform flow of personnel through the personnel structure in order to maintain a young, vigorous and effective force capable of operating both in times of peace and war;
- b) To recognize the long-term voluntary acceptance of a highly restricted, disciplined and controlled career in a society where others enjoy greater individual freedoms, and to recognize the arduous nature of duty in the uniformed services;
- c) To maintain a mobilization base of experienced personnel who can be rapidly recalled to active duty;

- d) To provide for the long-term financial security of career military members; and
- e) To recognize that the personnel system is a closed entry system where mid and senior grade careerists leaving the system is normally can only be replaced by new, entry level accessions; and

WHEREAS, The military retirement system is realized to other retirement systems only to the extent that each is structured to meet the objectives of an institutional or corporate entity; and

WHEREAS, The recent piecemeal alteration of the military retirement system by Congress has begun to create a perception by careerists that the retirement system will be of little worth when they reach their retirement date; and

WHEREAS, In the period of 1980-82, Congress without benefit of public hearings or consideration of the impact on the active force, escalated the rapidity with which piecemeal changes to the retirement system were made - all apparently driven by budgetary concerns; and

WHEREAS, The President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control has recommended radical changes to the military retirement system which if enacted would severely impact on retention of skilled and experienced personnel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we believe the current retirement pay system is adequate, provided the temporary changes made by Public Law 97-253 are allowed to expire at the end of Fiscal Year 1985, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion insists that any contemplated changes in the retirement system must adhere to the following principles:

- a) The retirement system must be fair to both the service members and the taxpayer. It must be adequate to attract but primarily to retain the number of quality and experienced personnel required to perform the Services' missions.
- b) The system must be stable to permit the individual service member to satisfactorily plan for the future. However, recognizing that future changes may be necessary, these changes should apply to new service entrants while at the same time honoring commitments to those already retired.
- c) The retirement annuity should be indexed to protect its future purchasing power. The same index should apply to all forms of service retirement and the survivor benefits based on the retired annuity.
- d) The retirement system must include an optional method for a retiree to provide for survivors.
- e) The retirement system must provide for equitable treatment for all service members entitled to the retirement benefit.

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON NATIONAL SAFETY

Resolution No. 14 (Philippines)—Enact legislation for the restoration of recognition of Filipino veterans who were inadvertently dropped from the U.S. Army revised reconstructed guerrilla roster in 1948

Resolution No. 93 (Montana)—Opposition to erosion of benefits for members of armed forces

Resolution No. 149 (Indiana)—Erosion of benefits for members of U.S. Armed Forces

Resolution No. 185 (Ohio)—Afford members of the U.S. Armed Forces to receive the same entitlements for unemployment compensation currently allowed other citizens

Resolution No. 213 (Illinois)—National Guard & Reserve Forces (Technician Retirement Program)

Resolution No. 216 (Illinois)—Military Draft

Resolution No. 285 (Virginia)—Opposition to erosion of benefits for members of the U.S. Armed Forces

Resolution No. 363 (California)—Support legislation to extend the G.I. Bill to a time of 10 years after honorable separation from the U.S. Armed Forces

Resolution No. 379 (Washington)—Military Pay

Resolution No. 13 (Philippines)—Requesting the department of army to issue discharge certificates to Philippine commonwealth army and recognized guerrilla veterans upon request of the veteran or his dependents

Resolution No. 267 (Pennsylvania)—Military Pay

Resolution No. 438 (Texas)—Perishing II Missile

REJECTED RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 228 —Issuance of Expeditionary forces medal to U.S. military personnel

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

Chairman JOHN J. Wren, Massachusetts

Resolution No. 98 (Montana, as consolidated with Res. 154 (IN) and 282 (VA))—Support for a strong U.S. Naval Reserve and U.S. Marine Corps

WHEREAS, The U.S. Naval Reserve and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve have been essential arms of the United States military for many years; and

WHEREAS, In recent directives of various administration these Reserve forces have been reduced to a small pool of officers and enlisted personnel used to fill gaps in the regular forces of their respective services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that the U.S. Naval Reserve - air, surface and sub-surface elements, and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, be expanded in direct proportion to increases in the regular forces; that the Reserves current mission statements be reviewed and upgrade to reflect new wartime demands and new global responsibilities; that emphasis be placed on integral unit activation and deployment rather than piecemeal use to fill attrition deficits in regular forces; that wholly new mission area be explored, especially where rapid employment of a "surge" capability is essential.

Resolution No. 283 (Virginia, as amended and consolidated with Res. 99 (Montana) and 155 (IN))—Modernize the U.S. Coast Guard

WHEREAS, The United States Coast Guard is the oldest continuous sea service in America, beginning as the Revenue Cutter Service under Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, and participating in all of America's military crises from the Revolution through Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, The United States Coast Guard is internationally recognized and respected as a humanitarian, law enforcement agency, conducting numerous search and rescue missions, saving thousands of lives and millions of dollars of property at sea each year; and

WHEREAS, The United States Coast Guard provides a major deterrent to the importation of illegal drugs into America by intercepting over a billion dollars worth annually; and

WHEREAS, The United States Coast Guard, unlike the other members of the armed forces community, is suffering rapid deterioration of its vessels, aircraft and physical plants due to a series of grossly inadequate budgets and continued increases in missions which have produced severe strains on equipment and over-worked personnel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23-25, 1983, that we call upon the President and Congress to recognize the contributions of the United States Coast Guard to refurbish its vessels, aircraft and physical plants, strengthen its Reserve, and continue to provide the full range of its services to the United States of America.

Resolution No. 374 (Washington)—P-3C Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Aircraft

WHEREAS, The procurement of new P-3C Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) aircraft for naval reserve will maintain the desired level of cost-effective Reserve contribution to the Maritime Patrol; and

WHEREAS, It will commence Reserve equipment modernization which is essential for long-term mission effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, It will provide necessary training for Reserve flight crew and maintenance personnel who mobilize to active P-3C squadrons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Seattle, Washington, August 23, 24, 25, 1983, that we recommend the procurement of three new P-3C aircraft (a detachment) for the Naval Reserve in FY 84 with additional procurement in FY 85 and FY 86.

The report was approved.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Ladies and gentlemen, with us this morning is a man who is intimately involved in a region of the world that has captured intense interest recently. Just last month he was sworn in to his present position as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Ambassador Langhorne Motley.

THE HONORABLE LANGHORNE A. MOTLEY

**Ambassador, Assistant Secretary of State
For Inter-American Affairs**

After a five-hour trip, I was pleased to see those welcome Blue Hats waiting for me, to take me out and bring me over to the hotel, in spite of the fact that they wanted to insure that I got the full warm hospitality of the Legionnaires, I figured that if I was going to stand up on my feet and chat with you this morning, seeing it is 7:00 in the morning, I had better go to bed.

Also, I noticed that although the weather is cooler here, it was a warm reception, and I really appreciate that, because where I started from, in Washington, it was still very hot.

I know from my past experience with American Legion outfits in different places, including my State of Alaska and in Washington, that you are known to appreciate straight talk, and hopefully that is what I am here to give you today, and straight talk about Central America means stating the facts.

The most important fact is that our country today faces a troubling situation both in national security interests of the United States, and our fundamental American principles are being challenged. In this case, with professional military forces closer to this country's heartland than the distance between our East and West Coasts.

I don't question the sincerity of those who oppose the United States providing resources necessary to meet the challenge, but I question their judgment. They are proposing that the United States Government ignore the facts, ignore the admissions of those who wish us ill, ignore the appeals of our friends in the area; in short, ignore this nation's moral and strategic responsibility to work for freedom.

As President Reagan asked you two days ago, "Would America be America if, in their hour of need, we abandoned our nearest neighbors?" The only possible answer is, No, because whatever the United States does in Central America, and as many of you know, there is an involvement in Central America over a long period of time, our actions, or our non-actions will decisively affect the future of those nations. And what that future will look like will be a direct reflection on us.

The fact is that the Central Americans are engaged right now in a struggle that would be impossibly unequal if our support were undercut.

We look back a couple of years, in July 1979, as they came to power, the Sandinistas pledged to the world, a peaceful, democratic, non-aligned Nicaragua. There was some skepticism even then, but Nicaragua was given the benefit of the doubt. \$1.6 billion in economic assistance was provided by the democracies and multilateral agencies of the world, and nearly \$120 million of that money came from the United States alone. The theory was that economic cooperation would help prevent the radicalization of that regime.

The record shows, unfortunately, that helping and being nice, did not work. Who today believes that the Sandinistas have kept any of their promises which they made? The Nicaraguan people certainly do not. How could they? They are living with the evidence. So let's separate the myths from the facts.

La Prensa, the courageous anti-Somosa newspaper, which has won many awards throughout the world, censored and nearly out of business.

The Miskito and other Indian peoples, driven from their homes, forced into internment camps or exile. The Catholic Church, denied the right to broadcast Mass during Holy Week. The Pope insulted, the only country that he was ever insulted in. The Mormons and other Protestants persecuted, their Churches driven shut. The Jewish community driven from the country, reminiscent of another effort some years ago.

The democratic opposition, the trade unions, the private sector slandered, harassed, their assets taken away or nationalized. Their influence attacked, elections which they promised when they first came to office now postponed until some time in 1985. And how about the democrats who fought to make their revolution? How about Eden Pastora, ('Commander Zero'), Alfonso Robelo, Adolfo Calero, all the others betrayed in their own words, by a revolution gone wrong, and now in active opposition to the Sandinistas.

That is just scratching the surface of a litany of repressive acts that we have seen over the years.

Nor do Nicaragua's neighbors believe that the promises of peace, non-alignment, and non-intervention have been kept. They do not, because they too are suffering with the facts.

Nicaragua's new "Popular Army" is the largest in Central America, equipped with sophisticated weaponry. In Nicaragua, there are 9,000 advisors from Cuba, the Soviet Union, East Germany, Libya and the PLO, a real cast of nice characters. And some 2,000 of those are military and police specialists.

"Non-aligned" Nicaragua has become a dependable base for Soviet and Cuban subversion in Central America. Now you take Costa Rica, here is a democracy that doesn't even have an army. It has been the target of terrorism directed from the Nic-

raguan Embassy in San Jose, invaded by Nicaraguan agents leading fraudulent peasant squatters, its legal river traffic intercepted by Nicaraguan patrol boats. Honduras and Guatemala have come under repeated attack from terrorists organized and supplied from Managua.

Of course, El Salvador, its guerrilla factions united, organized, trained and supplied by Cuba through Nicaragua, and the ongoing guerrilla warfare is directed from a joint command and control center just outside downtown Managua, the headquarters of Nicaragua.

And what do the leaders of this new Nicaragua say when confronted by the evidence or challenged by revolt? They call everyone who opposes them "Somocistas" and "lackeys of the Yankee Imperialists" in an effort to cover up what they are doing at home and abroad.

Many people in this country, though they sometimes seem to acknowledge the facts, are talking and writing as if there were no such evidence and no Central Americans genuinely frightened about what is happening.

Those who are not convinced should listen to the testimony of the guerrilla leaders themselves in Nicaragua. They should listen to Nicaragua's Borge or the Ortega brothers, or to the late suicide victim, the Salvadoran Cayetano Carpio. These men boast freely of revolutionary solidarity, for the single struggle throughout Central America, of material support from Nicaragua to the guerrillas in El Salvador to bring about a revolution without frontiers, or of how the Communist alliance will "eat Costa Rica for dessert."

And there is more. Consider the testimony of those who, like the Archbishop of San Salvador, explain that the Salvadoran guerrillas have lost popular support, and keep going because of their military power. Or how about the public opinion polls and editorials in democratic Costa Rica which show that those brave people are convinced that Sandinista Nicaragua is a greater menace to democracy and freedom than was the Nicaragua of Somoza. Or, as a Brazilian newspaper put it, referring to the arms shipments to Nicaragua labeled "Medical Supplies" consider the Libyan miracle of transforming "aspirins into armaments in mid-air." They were labeled medical supplies. And so they talked about this, and tongue in cheek about "the Libyan miracle of transforming aspirin into armaments in mid-air."

Just what else has to happen to our friends and to the principles we defend before the skeptics will admit that the U.S. interests are threatened in Central America?

Just the actual overthrow of another friendly government? Or the completion of more airfields allowing our enemies to base MIG fighters and bombers within the range of the southern U.S. and enabling Libyan cargo planes bearing arms to refuel and fly undetected to Central America? Or Fidel Castro sending not just guns and advisors, but thousands of troops to Central America is a carbon copy of his performance in Africa? Or must we wait until the Soviets and Nicaraguans act on their hints at placing in Central America missiles aimed at the United States?

What is it that we have to do? What is it that we have to say to wake up America as to the problems that we are facing?

The Reagan Administration has made its own judgment. We are determined not to let Cuba and Nicaragua eat any neighbor for dessert.

And we have elaborated, in direct consultation with the concerned governments of the area, a balanced four-part program designed to meet the multiple challenges the United States and its friends face in Central America, and the problem is not an

over-simple problem. It is a, to a certain degree, a sophisticated policy, and sophistication can sometimes be twisted or criticized or even be confusing in their implementation. But the policy is working. It is built around what the phrase-makers in Washington are calling "the four D's" — democracy, development, dialogue and defense.

Let's take these one at a time:

First, the support for democracy, reform and human freedom, this means the constructive pragmatic use of U.S. influence to help build democracy. There are those who say that democracy can't be done in Central America. But the evidence says it can. Braving gunfire and death threats, more than 80% of El Salvador's voting age population turned out for last year's Constituent Assembly Elections.

Now we in a tranquil society here in the United States, in a good year sometimes get 50%. I think that shows to us the thirst for democratic representation that those people, the ends they will go to in order to establish a democratic process of government. And their government has successfully defended itself against extremists of right and left, rescuing the land reform program from determined attempts to destroy it, and giving amnesty to former guerrillas. Democratic politics may not be easy, but they clearly offer the best hope for peaceful reconciliation, in El Salvador and elsewhere.

Second, support for economic development — I don't know how many times the President, Secretary Shultz and I have said it, but I am going to say it one more time. Three-quarters of the funds being spent in support of Central American policy go to economic assistance. How can you have hope if you can't support your family? That is why we have over 120 development projects underway, why our economic aid is three times larger than our military aid, and why we are increasing Central America's trading opportunities through the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

The third point is, support for dialogue for negotiations, among the countries of the region to deal with inter-related problems of Central America. And within each country to expand participation in the democratic process. We can stand tough and we must, for we must stop people who think they can shoot their way into power. We must reject power-sharing negotiations, treating a legitimate government on an equal basis with forces devoted to its violent overthrow. But the only lasting solutions are political, so we want to help opposition groups to join the political process in all countries, so that they can compete with ballots instead of bullets.

And the fourth point of the President's program is support for a defensive shield for El Salvador and the other threatened nations of the region. This means training, material assistance, and, yes, the demonstration of deterrent commitment and committed strength embodied in naval exercises and joint naval and military maneuvers.

Now I want to comment further about the fourth element, the policy of the defensive shield. The President stated just about as many times as he has stated about the ratio of economic policy to military aid, that the purpose of the military element is to make certain that the rest of the policy is given a fair chance to work. And that is a fundamental underlying principle in it. How can elections take place if an army is too weak to defend citizens against guerrillas who threaten death to all voters?

How can economic assistance produce real development and improved standards of living if these same guerrillas find it easy to blow up hydroelectric plants and destroy 55 bridges in El Salvador and burn crops? And how can anybody who has

read history believe that negotiations can be successful if one side believes that it can get everything it wants through armed terrorism?

Let me try to put you in perspective here very quickly. With the challenge of trying to nurture this democracy in a climate that we find in El Salvador and for us that enjoy the out of doors and camping, let me see if I can draw a parallel.

It is like you starting a fire with a few twigs and a bit of dry leaves, trying to build a campfire, and the wind is blowing and it is raining. And some way you carefully try to shield around it to keep the wind out so you can get the little twigs and the leaves going. So you get a little piece of wood on fire, and the rest of it, and about the time it starts going, here comes the rain and it stops it, and the wind and the rain puts your fire out. And this is what we are saying, and this is what we are trying to do with military defense, to provide the climate, the atmosphere in which this country, in which it already had an election, built on these democratic problems, and that is what the President's program is all about.

So let's talk straight. The United States is giving military aid, and training soldiers and showing the fleet, so that this flame of freedom we talked about and democracy can be nurtured.

I have to be proud that the United States is using this power in this way, and I think that Americans are beginning to realize that the policy is in fact balanced; that you just have these elements to fuel the inspiration and the hopes of a people from a democratic point of view, as well as helping to provide with that defense field.

Just as important a realization is growing in this country that the policy is showing results, that the elements are working together in our interest and in the interest of our friends, and that we are backing winners in Central America, who can do the job themselves, and provide some of the help in the background.

Now the road ahead is a long one. Building democracy takes time. This problem in Central America did not come up yesterday. It is not going to go away tomorrow. But the signs of progress are there. Nicaragua is not going to change overnight. We know that. But pressure is increasing on Nicaragua to fulfill its original commitments made by the people in the OAS. The message is being sent by Nicaragua's internal opposition, and frustrated and embarrassed countries and people that once backed the Sandinistas without question, without looking at the facts, by Nicaragua's neighbors, and by the United States. Negotiations have gone a long way, and they still have a long way to go. Both firmness and flexibility will be needed before they succeed. But the window of opportunity seems a crack wider today than it did a few months ago. And I believe that as we continue in this way, pride and bipartisan cooperation will increasingly replace doubt and division within this country.

There will be, of course, always some who will not accept the evidence, who just refuse to face the facts or understand the strategic argument or acknowledge the fitness of the policy or the challenges.

I am reminded of a story, and I am sure you heard this story they say about children's books. They say, what can I do with my children, I buy them books, and books, and books, and all they do is eat the covers. There are always some that refuse to want to face up to the facts we face.

I wish you to consider the moral and practical implications of that position and not undermine the faith of those who believe that the U.S. is serious in its championship of democracy and peace.

As the President said, the day before yesterday, human rights means working at problems, not walking away from them. But then, the United States has never been a mere observer, free to walk away. It is part of our system. We have a stake in Central America's democracy, and if we do not back them today in Nicaragua and El Salvador, where their lives are on the line, the problems will only grow. And if we do not meet our responsibilities, I believe that our hands will not ever be clean.

I promised you straight talk, and I hope that I have delivered it to you.

If I can just finish up by telling you, that the President's program as he outlined it with these four elements does in one element go forward for a bit, and then another. But they are inter-related, and they all address the overall long-range and short-range problems.

Some of the problems underlying problems in Central America were not caused by Marxist-Leninist and were not caused by Cuba, or the Russians. But what they do to a certain degree is, given these underlying social and economic problems, which we are trying to address — and I think we have some reason to be successful — given these underlying problems, that what you get from the Cubans and the Russians is, they are like breeding mosquitoes. Breeding mosquitoes like to breed in dark places like old tires, where there is standing water, and it is this kind of an atmosphere where you have the inability, political and economic and social instability in which they like to breed. And so what we have to do, in popular terms, and I am just a country boy, is we have to take care of the underlying stability problems, flick the mosquitoes away, and let this flame of democracy grow in Central America.

It has been my pleasure to come here and talk to you today, and I really appreciate the opportunity. Thank you very much.

FOURTH ESTATE AWARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: This year's recipient undertook a 16-part investigative series that exposed a government-imposed "confidentiality curtain" that shielded from police thousands of known felons who were listed on various welfare rolls in California.

Ladies and gentlemen, at this time I would like to present the 1983 Fourth Estate Award for excellence in journalism to the Vice President and Publisher of the Sacramento Union, Mr. Peter J. Hayes, and have him recognize the two reporters responsible for the series, "Odd Partners in Crime."

MR. PETER J. HAYES: K. W. Lee and Dave Miller and I accept the Legion's Fourth Estate Award with rich pleasure and appreciation. Like many newspapers, we are not satisfied with merely printing the news, but are committed to reporting every form of wrong in our society, that is what prompted Mr. Lee and Mr. Miller to dig into the disgraceful Odd Partners in Crime situation, the story of how confidentiality and privacy often hides criminals from the public eyes and from just authority.

By offering the Fourth Estate Award, The American Legion encourages the press of America to pursue the same principles for which the Legion stands, public service, justice, and true Americanism. Thank you very much.

I would like to introduce Mr. Lee and Mr. Miller, reporters from the Sacramento Union.

MR. K. W. LEE: I thank you very much, standing before you who have served our Country to protect the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. More than 30 years ago I came to

America. Things have changed in this great land, and life has become more complex with the passage of time. Most American people feel that they have lost their rights under the Constitution which was supposed to protect them and instead they feel more dependent upon themselves and the local community, and as pointed out by our Editor, I want to do a little of my share in keeping that life, liberty and pursuit of happiness alive. Thank you.

MR. DAVE MILLER: I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for giving us the Fourth Estate Award. It was a lot of hard work. It is very gratifying to be honored by your peers in journalism, but I think it is more gratifying to be honored by an organization such as yours. It really shows that you think our work had an impact, and we really appreciate it. Thank you very much.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Before we go into the next order of business there are several people who I want you to meet, although you have had the opportunity on many occasions during the year of 1982-83 to have met them as they traveled around the various parts of the country and attended functions of The American Legion at which you were present.

In order for our Organization and National Commander to have a successful year it takes many people, of course, to accomplish the mandates that you present to them at the conclusion of a National Convention, and this past year was no exception. To get the job done properly, of course, as I said so many times, it takes all of the Staff both in Washington and in Indianapolis to do that. But it takes some other elected Officials and appointed Officials who play a large part in the success of your programs.

I would first like to recognize the lady of our group, one who has worked very hard all year long and has constantly kept me posted as to what is happening in her particular area, and because of the good driving ability of her husband, should I say, or the time that he was able to spend with her in traveling, perhaps Margaret Malone covered more area than even the National Commander in some parts of this country. So, I want you to greet now your National Vice Commander from the Department of New Jersey, Margaret Malone.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MARGARET MALONE, New Jersey: Commander Al, ladies and gentlemen. To be a first in any position carries with it a great responsibility, as you must perform your duties in such a manner as to insure that you will not be the last. I have tried very hard these past months to do just that. It was my personal honor to serve as your National Vice Commander but I sincerely feel that my election to this Office was a tribute to all of the women Legionnaires who have worked so well and so long for this Organization.

My thanks to all of you who elected me to serve on the team of our great Commander Al Keller. It was a pleasure to work with my fellow Vice Commanders, the other National Officers and a most cooperative National Staff. To all the Commanders, the NECmen, the Adjutants, the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members and my assigned Department, thank you all for your kindnesses and courtesies. It was a joy to be associated with all of you this past year. The accomplishments of the last few months would have been more difficult to achieve without the fallow who went with me everywhere — many of you met him — he got me safely there and always on schedule, my husband Ray.

We speak of The American Legion as a family organization,

and I think he and I alone are proof of that. We had only 12 months to enjoy so many wonderful experiences, but the memories of that time and the friendships that we have made will last us the rest of our lives. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Next from the neighboring state our Vice Commander from this particular area Jack Plato from the Department of Oregon. Jack lives on the other side of the mountain, so to speak, when it comes to finding the National Commander on occasion, and although I have only had the opportunity to be at the same locations that he has been a very few times this year, I am well aware of his many accomplishments and the time he spent in the areas that he represented. I am mighty proud of him and I want you to meet him now, Jack Plato.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER JACK C. PLATO, Oregon: I do welcome this opportunity to thank Commander Al Keller, Jr., for being my Commander this year. He is an extremely dedicated and talented individual. He represents the true meaning of a Legionnaire. He has been sincere in all that he has attempted to do this year.

I mentioned to him the other day that I was a little sorry that we didn't attain all of our objectives this year, and I think he has a beautiful outlook when he says, "Jack, we have to save something for the incoming Officers to do."

That got me off the hook immediately.

I would want to thank the Departments in the Western Division for their many courtesies and their hospitality that they extended to me in my visitations throughout the Western Division. They are truly dedicated Legionnaires.

Again thanks to the Departments in the Western Division for their continued dedication and efforts in their service to the veterans, their God and their Country. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: From South Dakota, an area in which he has not spent much time this year because he has been on the road for The American Legion all the time, and the reports that we received on him were very outstanding too. I had the opportunity of probably meeting him before some of the other National Vice Commanders in some of my work in The American Legion. The books show the name R. C. Gabrielson, we know him better as Bob, and Bob, I will give you the microphone at this point.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER R. C. GABRIELSON, South Dakota: Commander Keller, Delegates to this Convention. I have considered it a distinct and unique honor to have served on your team this year. It has been my pleasure to work with, for instance, the Department of Canada. Not very large in numbers, but there are some fine projects going on within that Department and I am confident that in the very near future you will hear some great things from them. Those people in that Department are a leading example of the fact that you don't have to be large to be big.

It has been my pleasure, too, to work with eight grand Departments in the Midwest, in the heartland of America, and I can assure you, Mr. Commander, that it is also the heartland of The American Legion, and that our Organization and our programs in that area are alive and well.

Mr. Commander, your aggressive and your effective leadership this year has taken us through a number of crises. That leadership has enhanced not only the image but the quality of our great Organization, and most certainly has touched every member of the military service, every veteran, every young person, and, yes, every citizen of this great Country of ours.

Commander Keller, thank you so much for giving us the most grand year that we have ever had. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: From my neighbor-

ing state, the great State of Indiana, is the home of our next National Vice Commander Mel Napier. I think I was impressed most by watching Mel operate throughout the Midwest area and at the National Headquarters, fortunately because he had a little closer distance to come than did the others to the Indianapolis office, and when I say to you that watching his operation at the National Headquarters during that period of the MAP Program it is a carbon copy of what the rest of these National Vice Commanders accomplished during that time when we were all a little bit concerned about the loss of membership of the Organization. It was because of the effort of them and the effort of our Staff that we recovered from what could have been a disaster, in my opinion, at that point.

This National Vice Commander is from the State of Indiana, as I mentioned earlier. I look at him this morning sitting up here on this rostrum and he has got on a pair of boots. They are not Texas boots but they are Idaho boots — which one are they? They are Idaho boots, because Mel is going to become the Adjutant of that great Department, and I am sure that that Department will benefit by Mel being their Adjutant, and, sorry, Indiana, you just happened to lose a real good guy in your Department. Mel Napier from Indiana.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER H. MELVIN NAPIER, Indiana: Thank you, Commander Keller. First of all, I would compliment you on a very fine and most successful year. Your success could be very much attributed, as you have mentioned, to the years at Indianapolis and our National Headquarters, which gave me the opportunity to realize and understand how efficient the Headquarters Staff in Indianapolis most certainly is.

We all should be proud of that fact.

I would like to thank the Department of Indiana for the splendid support that they have given to me for many, many years, and finally this year to have the opportunity to serve as your National Vice Commander. Thank you, Indiana.

I would also like to thank the other Departments that I had the pleasure to represent. It was quite an opportunity to meet such fine and distinguished Legionnaires. I would thank them for their cooperation; I would thank them for their dedication; I would thank them for their hospitality; but, above all, I would thank them for the memories that Emily, my wife, and I have enjoyed and shall remember forever. I salute all of you Legionnaires and God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I think we all referred to this next National Vice Commander as a Mighty Might, small in size but certainly a giant in stature in The American Legion. Our next National Vice Commander comes from the great State of Oklahoma. He has an area that requires cross-crossing from East to West, from North to South, to cover probably more miles than any of the rest of us in our area because he represents an area where there are so many states and such large square areas in each one of them.

Besides doing all of the things that a National Vice Commander does Lee Walker takes care of everything in Oklahoma in his particular area, and I am sure the one thing that he would want me to tell you is that if you are ever over in his area stop by and have a cup of coffee with Lee, because he always wants to see new Legionnaires and new ladies of the Auxiliary.

So, I give you our Mighty Might Lee O. Walker of the great State of Oklahoma.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER LEE O. WALKER, Oklahoma: Thank you, Commander. I would like to first tell you, in case there is any doubt, those of you who might have been confused by the Program, that if you see us walking down the street you will know which one is Lee and which one is Bob.

To all the Legionnaires may I express my very deep appreciation for allowing me the opportunity to serve as one of your Vice Commanders, and to those members of the Southern Caucus appreciation for your outstanding courtesies and your hospitality when I was with you and visited in your various Departments. It just couldn't have been better. It has made an impression that I will remember and carry with me hereafter.

And a little bit of a thank you to my wife. She kept the laundry done and she was my telephone answering service. I was gone a lot and she couldn't go with me, but I guess the only regret that I had that I was out and back soon enough that I never did get her to the point where she kept the lawn mowed while I was gone, but, everything else she did and I appreciate it.

And to Commander Keller. I had a great respect for this gentleman when I started this job. As time grew and I worked with this fine man my respect has grown. I only hope that those Vice Commanders who follow us will have the privilege and will have the opportunity to work with a Commander who is as gracious, who is as nice a fellow to work for as you will ever want to see. Our undying thanks to him for being a great leader. Thank you. God bless you all.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER LEE O. WALKER: Now, if we may. As you know, Margaret is a young lady and we always put her in the middle of the picture, and when we have a spokesman there are four hands shoving her forward, at this time five.

National Commander, we have a little presentation to make and Margaret is going to make it on our behalf.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MARGARET MALONE, Commander AI, it was a pleasure and an honor for your five Vice Commanders to serve with you this year. We have for you this morning a token of our appreciation for your many kindnesses and courtesies that you extended not only to us but to our spouses.

It was not only what you said to them but also Gen. This is also an expression of our admiration, our respect, and, yes, our love for you.

I was selected as the spokesperson this morning not because I was always the one in the middle but simple because I am the only one of the five who can make the presentation this way.

... Vice Commander Malone then kissed National Commander Keller.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you so much, Margaret. I appreciate especially the last part of that presentation. That is great. People, I appreciate that. It is so nice.

... National Vice Commander Malone presented National Commander Keller a painted self-portrait.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I can assure you Vice Commanders that will find the number one spot in my house. I want to look at that mainly because it has a plate at the bottom of the presenters, and I appreciate it and thank you all so very much for it. There is sure a lot of change between this one and that one.

I have one more Officer I would like to recognize at this time, a man who has kept track of where we have been all year and what we have done, and that is our National Historian Jim Conway from Massachusetts. Jim, come on up. You have done a fine job for us this year and we appreciate very much all of your efforts.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN JAMES W. CONWAY, Maine: Thank you, Mr. Commander. That came as a surprise. I want to thank Commander Al Keller for my appointment as your National Historian. It certainly has been a wonderful year. There have been some very historic events that have happened this year, one of which you are all, of course, very well aware, the one of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I would like to reiterate at this time what has been said. Though Al Keller might only be approximately five-eleven in stature, to us and the National Officers and the people on the National Executive Committee he is ten-feet tall. He has not only been a dedicated and tireless worker for you and The American Legion and for the veterans out there who are not members of our Organization, he has had class, education, courtesy, and really also extended himself with that warmth and personal touch that is so important to those of us that didn't know him before he became National Commander.

Knowing that I had a presentation to make here at the stage, but not wanting to take your time and not knowing I was going to be on the program I took the Commander off to the side of the stage and made a presentation to him to be put in your National Library, and that is the Department of Massachusetts American Legion newspapers from 1975 to 1963, which again would be a bit of history so that you and other Departments and those from Massachusetts when they go to the National Library can see what has happened in our Department.

Again, my personal thanks, Mr. Commander to both you and Gen for all the courtesies you have extended to us.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Our next guest for this 66th National Convention of The American Legion holds one of the most responsible positions in the Department of Defense, that of Chief of Staff of his Armed Service.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, General Charles A. Gabriel.

GENERAL CHARLES A. GABRIEL, USAF
Chief of Staff of United States Air Force

Thank you very much, Al. I understand that before I got here that you already sorted out who runs this club, the Air Force or somebody else. I understand there was some slight debate.

Distinguished Delegates, members and guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is a real pleasure to be here today to talk to a group like this, people that make such a fine contribution toward helping to keep America strong and free. With over two and a half million members, The American Legion can be justly proud.

You have always believed that military preparedness deters aggression, and appeasement leads only to war. Since its founding following World War I, the Legion has served America well. Dedicated to "Peace and Freedom Through Strength," as your motto declares, you have always spoken out forcefully on defense issues, testifying before Congress in support of strong and ready forces, and urging the Nation to keep up its guard.

You have also supported grass roots programs to help young people better understand our free form of government and to develop their leadership abilities. Testimony to your success is found in the many leaders of our society who fondly recall the value of their experience at Boys' and Girls' State, and who gained important insights into their personal character and leadership talents while competing on a Legion baseball team. I had the pleasure of playing four years Legion baseball myself.

Not quite the North Carolina State Champions but very close, we were next to the winner. And you have always taken

care of your comrades by ensuring that the government and people they served so well always give them a fair shake. I salute you in all you have done and continue to do.

In preparing my speech for today, I came across a resolution adopted by the Legion in 1931. At that time, the Depression had already begun and the Nation's attention was directed toward domestic problems. The Legion clearly recognized though that the first responsibility of government is the security of its people, keeping them alive and free.

You decided that: "The American Legion is opposed to the disarmament of the United States either for economy, or as a claimed means to bring about world peace, or as an example which, it is hoped by some, other nations will follow."

That was a courageous statement, far different from the popular spirit of the day supported by isolationists and pacifists.

Time has changed the actors and the script a bit, but the problems we faced in the 1930's are a lot like those we are struggling with now. The Legion had the right answer then and it is still the right answer today.

We have to maintain strong forces to deter war and to deny aggressors the hope of victory should deterrence fail. The common values we stand for — the freedom we enjoy — are ours because we have chosen to keep our Country strong. We must continue to do this, and I believe we will. The majority of Americans, especially those who have experienced war, know that the alternative cannot be tolerated.

This morning I want to talk to you about the importance of military capability. My message is straightforward, peace can only be maintained through strength. Fortunately, as a result of increased defense efforts in the last few years we are strong now and we are getting stronger. I understand our President just told you we are standing taller today. We are. However, because the Soviet threat continues to grow, adding more and better quality weapons to their already massive military power, we have to keep up the momentum.

You have heard a lot about the Soviet threat. Seems like arguments about it are always reduced to "us versus them" terms. In reality, maintaining the balance of power between East and West is a very complex job. Because of this complexity, our actions are sometimes misread as we implement policies designed to further the causes of security and freedom. Modern communications make a flood of information available offering widely divergent points of view. We wouldn't want it any other way in our free society, but sometimes confusion does result. The Legion has done an excellent job of exerting its positive and knowledgeable influence to correct misconceptions.

There is a widespread misconception about the current defense buildup we all need to work very hard to set right. The buildup does not make conflict more likely, as some have charged. No one wants war, least of all the military, who bear a heavy burden in risking their lives for freedom. We all know the terrible toll of war in blood and sacrifice. As California Congresswoman Florence Kahn rightly pointed out in the 1930's, preparedness never caused a war, and unpreparedness never prevented one. In a democracy, armed forces are not mercenaries but fellow citizens bearing arms by the will of the people. The defense of the Nation belongs to everyone.

Concerned citizens should, and do, keep a critical eye on just how much and what kind of military strength our Nation needs. I don't need to tell you there are skeptics out there, but the truth is, for most of our history we have been reluctant to maintain strong military forces in peacetime. In fact, we have gotten by with only small, active military forces, backed by reserves.

We had the luxury of time, along with two oceans, friendly

neighbors, and a vast land, that gave us breathing room to get ready for war when it became necessary. We spent three years preparing before World War I, and two years before World War II. But things have changed and we would not have such time again.

Modern technology has greatly increased the speed and violence of war. Nuclear weapons can traverse intercontinental distances in less than half an hour. Modern airliners can move people and equipment to any point on the globe in hours rather than days, and modern armies supported by advanced aircraft can accomplish much more in much less time than their World War II counterparts. Given the increased tempo that results from these improved capabilities, we will have to fight with what we have should war become necessary, there wouldn't be time to gear up after things get going.

Some 24 centuries ago Plato said, "Only the dead have seen the end of war." The post World War II era has unfortunately borne this out. Even as we meet today, 15 or more wars are being waged around the globe. Since World War II there have been 150 or more wars with casualties exceeding 25 million. This is not the way we want the world to be, but unfortunately that is the way it is.

And I don't have to tell you that a conflict between the super powers today would be much more devastating than anything seen before. We should not underestimate the task of trying to maintain peace, it is awesome. As Pope John Paul II warned in the World Day of Peace Address in January 1982: "In this world a totally and permanently peaceful human society is unfortunately a Utopia, and . . . ideologies that hold up that prospect as easily attainable are based on hopes that cannot be realized . . . Christians are convinced, if only because they have learned from experience, that these deceptive hopes lead straight to the false peace of totalitarian regimes."

The world has learned through experience the false peace of totalitarian nations. In the 1930's, peace movements in Europe and isolationism in this country led to complacency, military unpreparedness and shameful, step-by-step concessions to Hitler.

Of course, the result was the bloody and costly experience of World War II. We deceived ourselves into thinking that peace could be had easily and without sacrifice.

Winston Churchill reflected on this deception after the war. He said, "Sometimes in the past we have committed the folly of throwing away our arms. Under the mercy of providence, and at great cost and sacrifice, we have been able to recreate them when the need arose."

This deception permanently changed the history of the world, and, in the end, the cost was much higher than if we had chosen to stand firm in the beginning. We and our allies will not be deceived again.

As the President said Tuesday, those who want to keep our Nation strong are the real peacemovers. The way to peace is not through appeasement and weakness, not through unilateral disarmament, not through military forces too weak to deter an enemy. The way to peace is to maintain our strength while searching for ways to make the world a better and more secure place to live, to ensure that the peoples of the world know that there is an alternative to the oppression many of them now endure under harsh totalitarian regimes. This is a long and difficult process. We Americans often want fast solutions. We try to trim the time on everything from breakfast cereals to drive-up banking to condensed novels. But peace is not a product we can obtain instantly and keep forever. Peace is a never-ending process, always in the making. It is hard work. It requires sacrifice. It requires dedication. You need no courage simply to vote for

peace. You do need courage and patience to work for peace over the long run.

Thirty-nine years ago today Paris was liberated and less than a year later Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally. In looking back over the years since World War II, I am struck by how little we as a Nation realized about the struggles we would face in the post-war world.

After our victory, we implemented the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe. We fed the hungry, housed the homeless, healed the wounds of war, and offered a vision of hope for the future. At the close of World War II, we were the most powerful nation on earth. Yet we, as well as our allies, demobilized our forces quickly. We took no land. We subjugated no peoples, and we sought no vengeance. The only land we occupy after the great wars are the graves of our fallen comrades-in-arms in the Argonne Forest, near Cherbourg, at Normandy, and elsewhere in Europe and the Pacific Theater. Can there be any question about our intentions?

In stark contrast, after World War II the Soviet Union crushed internal opponents, established control over the peoples of Eastern Europe, squeezed other nations in its iron grip, formed buffer states and alliances, and steadily built up its military power. I don't have to describe for this audience the massive Soviet military buildup since World War II. In brief, it has been long on guns, short on butter. As a result of this growth, and the failure of the U.S. and its allies to keep pace during the 1970's the global military balance shifted against us.

The Soviets have used their military strength to occupy Afghanistan with well over 100,000 troops; have tried to stamp out the sparks of freedom in Poland; and have continued to support proxy forces and to foment subversion and revolution in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and closer to home, in Central America.

The steady growth in Soviet military investment is of great concern to me, and I am sure to you as well. We are now seeing the results as new Soviet missiles, aircraft, ships, and tanks take the field. We have to see the Soviet threat for what it is, a serious challenge to peace that must be met with the same resolve Americans have shown throughout our history.

Over the past three years we have made great strides in regaining our strength. With the commitment of the Administration, Congress, and the American public to increased funding for defense, we are taking a number of steps to provide our Nation the forces we need — the well-trained people and the right equipment — to help ensure our security for years to come.

Just as this security is largely dependent on an adequate commitment of resources, so the capability of America's Armed Forces ultimately depends on the quality of our people. Last year's combat in Lebanon and in the South Atlantic showed once again that well-trained, well-led, and highly motivated people are the key to success in battle. We have top-notch people in uniform today, the best I think we have ever had, and we are keeping them now. It is a far cry from the conditions we saw in the late 1970's, when pay and benefits failed to keep up with inflation, we were indeed hurt a lot when many of our experienced people were leaving us, in those days.

Because of a renewed sense of patriotism, increased public support, and well-deserved pay raises, there has been a dramatic turnaround. Last year was the best recruiting and retention year ever for the Air Force, and 1983 looks even better.

That is true of all services. This may not last forever because of economic conditions and the fact that we draw from the 18-year-olds which will be going down. We have got to maintain that momentum. To show you the difference, in 1979 we lost

nearly three out of every four pilots after their initial tours, but now we have reversed this trend and nearly three out of four are staying with us.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is real combat veterans. When you lose somebody you are losing many years of experience so that it is going to take six people to come in the gate in order to get to the point where the person was when they left. So, you lose all kinds of strength. I am not just talking about pilots, but crew chiefs, scientists, engineers, and that is also true for all the services. And the way we do it is to keep faith with our people, pay them fairly and prevent the erosion of entitlements, such as retirement, they have earned and deserve.

We are also providing our people with the best equipment possible. The President has set in motion the first comprehensive modernization of our strategic forces since they were first built in the 1950's and 1960's. They were getting pretty old and tired. Modernization of our strategic forces was deferred over the years even though the Soviets worked relentlessly to improve their strategic arsenal.

Secretary Harold Brown said, "We build, they build. We stop building they continue and build." That is the way it went. Today this dangerous situation is being corrected. We are making substantial improvements to our strategic communications systems. We have begun production of the B-1B, America's first new heavy bomber in more than three decades — you know, the pilots that are flying, the B-52 is older than they are — and the first squadron of B-52 bombers, equipped with air-launched cruise missiles became operational last December.

We are also modernizing our air defense forces. And, finally, thanks to the work of the Scowcroft Commission on strategic forces, we are moving ahead with a comprehensive program to upgrade our land-based ICBM's. The program has received bipartisan support, and is tied in closely with the President's objective of reducing nuclear arms.

We are also making substantial improvements in our conventional forces. Our highest priority here is to upgrade readiness. We have to get the most out of what we have got. During the last two years funding has been doubled for readiness and sustainability, and we are seeing positive results.

Our crews are flying more, training more effectively, and our stocks of munitions and spare parts have increased. This has led to more proficient tactical aircrews. These crews now fly nearly 50% more than they did a couple of years ago. We train as we intend to fight. Aggressive, realistic training contributes greatly to readiness and to the development of successful tactics. Worldwide deployments and exercises with our sister services and allies are frequent and improve our ability to work as a team. Yet, even with the rigors of tough training, 1982 was the safest year on record in the United States Air Force and we are really proud of that.

You can only look over your shoulder and say, "If that is the best it has only got to get worse." But, right now we are tracking even better than we did last year. No matter how good our equipment, tactics, and training, our forces are of little value if we can't get them where they are needed in time. We are starting to correct serious deficiencies in airlifts and sealifts. I speak just of airlifts.

In the last 30 months we have increased our capacity to move things by 25%, and we will more than double our ability to deliver combat units by the end of the decade.

The total force, active, guard, and reserve, is a way of life in the Air Force. Guard and reserve tankers routinely refuel B-52 bombers; half of the crews who fly the giant C-5 Galaxies and C-141 Starlifters are Reservists; and guard interceptor airplanes provide two-thirds of the air defense forces of the con-

tinental United States. I could go on and on. We depend on the Reserves very heavily. Reserve forces are flying modern first-line equipment such as our F-16 and A-10 fighters, and the new KC-10 tankers. In exercises and competitions, the Guard and Reserve do a great job. They are, you know, every bit as capable as our active forces. I can't emphasize enough the vital importance of continued strong industry support of employees who serve in our Reserve forces. I appreciate that.

We have come a long way in the past couple of years, but we still have a long way to go. We can't slacken our efforts now. The Legion has done an outstanding job in keeping our Nation aware of the threat and in reminding citizens that America must never be unprepared. You truly understand the value of freedom and will not tolerate the alternative. Preparedness is what the American public wants, and it is what we will ensure. Nothing less is enough. As Omar Bradley once remarked, "In war, there is no second prize for the runner up."

Thanks again for the honor of being with you today.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you so very much, General Gabriel, for your most delightful message. I am sure all our Delegates appreciate your comments.

* * *

At this time National Vice Commander Jack Plato will preside over the next order of business.

... National Vice Commander Plato assumed the Chair.

PRESENTATION PLAQUE AND COLORS OUTGOING NATIONAL COMMANDER

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PLATO: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to preside over a very special moment in this National Convention; the point at which we pause to present to our National Commander a plaque and the Colors of his year in office.

I will now call on Past National Commander John Geiger of the Department of Illinois to do the honors.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOHN GEIGER, Illinois: Commander Keller, Officers and members of this great Convention, this is an important moment in the life of this Convention, and in the experience of the Keller family. Our host Department of Washington's Color Guard under the command of Randy Yeates will now present the Colors of the National Commander.

You will please rise as the Color Guard prepares to retrieve the Colors of the National Commander.

Right hand salute.

... The delegation stood and saluted the Colors as they were removed.

Commander Keller, one year ago, the Illinois delegation shared in the excitement of your election as the National Commander of The American Legion at the Chicago Convention. We have been rewarded this entire year as we observed the skilled leadership you have given to The American Legion.

These beautiful Colors, the Flag of the United States, and the standard of the National Commander have been ably represented by you. Your steady dedication, your constant enthusiasm, and your professional management have strengthened the Office of the Commander.

In behalf of all the Officers and members of The American Legion, I am pleased to present these Colors to you. We know that they will be proudly displayed in your new office as the County Clerk of Kankakee County, Illinois.

We also wish to present this splendid bronze plaque certifying your service as National Commander to you. Your new re-

sponsibilities as a Past National Commander can now commence, Al.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thank you, John.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GEIGER: Congratulations, Al, and with our thanks and our love.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Thanks, John, I appreciate that.

... National Commander assumed the Chair.

The Color Guard will retire my Colors.

Hand salute.

... The Delegates stood and saluted the Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: My fellow Legionnaires, these Colors will hold a most honored place in my heart for the rest of my life. They not only represent a year as your National Commander, they most importantly represent all that I hold dear, God, my Country, and the family I was able to have around me while living in the greatest Nation on this earth.

Commander John Geiger, these wonderful Colors and plaque also represent all the help you have given me through the years we have served together as brothers in The American Legion.

There are many others who have had personal involvement with my year as National Commander, friends from the Department of Illinois, the National Headquarters Staff, the rest of the National Officers, and most importantly, those Legionnaires in all the Departments I visited in this country and throughout the world.

You all have my pledge that I will guard them - I will honor them - and I will use them to remind myself and others of the love, and dedication and commitment of the greatest veterans organization in this country, The American Legion.

I will cherish them and protect them for you and for all the citizens of this great land. Thank you for having given me the privilege of serving you as the National Commander of The American Legion.

I salute you.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: As Chairman of this Convention, I now appoint as Judge of the Election, Mr. Vincent A. Sanzotta, the Adjutant of the Department of Illinois.

As Tellers of the election, Mr. Robert N. Ford, III, Adjutant of Maryland; Mr. Robert E. Vass, Sr.; and Mr. Rick Barnett, Adjutant of Wisconsin.

... Keith A. Kreul of Wisconsin was nominated and elected to the office of National Commander.

National Judge Advocate B.G. Davis administered the Oath of Office to Keith A. Kreul.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: This is your new National Commander and his charming wife. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you for the first time the 1983-1984 National Commander of The American Legion, Keith A. Kreul of Wisconsin.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Keith A. Kreul, (Wisconsin) National Commander

National Commander Keller, distinguished National Officers of The American Legion, distinguished guests and Delegates to this 65th Annual American Legion Convention. This moment is one that will remain with me for a lifetime. When I joined The American Legion 28 years ago I never believed I would have the opportunity, much less the realization of becoming your National Commander. But, by dreaming of the future, setting goals, and getting involved, this great land of ours, the United

States of America, has prospered, just as its people have prospered.

At this time I would like to recognize some people that have been with me down the long path and we have worked together many, many hours. Would the delegation and representatives of the Auxiliary all please stand from the Department of Wisconsin.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for recognizing Wisconsin, and to Wisconsin, I must leave for now. I am a part of you all. Would you all please stand so I can salute you.

Thank you. In every person's life there are aspirations, there are dreams. Today, a dream, a goal, has been realized, and, without my family, I would not be standing before you today. I would like to introduce my family formally to you.

My number one lady and charming wife, Dolores.

... Applause.

She is down here trying to get my grandson off of my foot. My elder son Jeff and his wife Lori and my grandson Jason.

My second son John and his wife Beth and our grandson Josh. Incidentally, two weeks ago they gave us another grandson Dustin, who, of course, isn't with us today.

The only eligible bachelor in the family my son Jim.

My daughter Kim and her husband Steve.

I want them to know how much I appreciate their help, and I want to thank them for joining their Dad during this moment. I will let them be seated.

There is also a Legionnaire I would like to recognize at this time that served as well and did an outstanding job. I would like to recognize your National Commander for 1983 our own Al Keller.

Before I begin my message there is another Legionnaire I must recognize today. He was a Charter Member of my Post and passed away some three years ago. I wish he could join us in person today, but I know he is here in spirit. God bless your soul, Dad, and thank you for giving me the values that have guided me here today.

It is ironic, in a way, that this great Organization has been woven from the same fabric as that from which individual lives are built. The American Legion, as well as our great Nation, has been built on dreams and high ideals, and it is from those aspirations that we must continue to build the structure with which we climb together the mountain of success.

But, as in every life, there comes a time to turn dreams into reality. To dream of high goals is fine, but the time arrives when you have to consider where you are going and just how you are going to get there.

We did that 66 years ago and haven't stopped since. We were founded on dreams, yes. Our dreams of Americanism Programs that would make every citizen in this great land proud of our Flag and for all that the Stars and Stripes stands for. Our dreams, activities and programs for the children and youth of America.

Our dreams of a Nation secure from the threat of war so that we could pursue our great ambitions in the sanctity of peace.

We did not arbitrarily enter into these areas. We did not rush without consideration into establishing the greatest veterans organization ever created.

In addition to idealism, vision, and hopes, our founders had a sense of direction. They knew what they wanted to do and they gathered not once, but several times, to chart a course that has guided this Organization to the greatness it holds today.

They knew there would be challenges. They knew there would be obstacles. They knew they would prevail.

And our founders, in their quest for excellence, organized and planned. They knew the very core of the Organization would be

at the grass roots level and it would be the effort of the individual Legionnaire that would make the Organization's programs and activities succeed. In order for that Legionnaire to accomplish his goals, a framework was put in place. The American Legion is a structure through which the actions and the successes of the individual can be enjoyed by the whole. Without the energy generated by the enthusiasm of each and every Legionnaire, there would be no electricity, there would be no power to propel this Organization.

I have strong feelings about this. When I was a youngster my family was an active Legion family. Our American Legion Post was founded by my father. My parents and American Legion activities in our community taught me the worth of a good education, industriousness, integrity, and patriotism.

And that American Legion legacy must be carried forward today and tomorrow.

When you stop to think about it, community involvement begins with a voluntary step. That step is to join The American Legion. No one forced, no one ordered, no one threatened us to join The American Legion.

My fellow Legionnaires, we volunteered to join The American Legion. We took that first step in volunteerism when we put on that blue cap and said to ourselves, "I want to join an organization that is good for my community, good for my fellow veteran, good for my Nation."

By taking that step we joined the team of the greatest volunteer organization this Nation has ever seen. And when we joined that team we began providing that power, that electricity, that energy, to our National Organization. We drew them, and are drawing today, upon the vigor and vitality of every Legionnaire to propel The American Legion up that mountain for the good of all Americans. That is what makes this Organization the respected power that it is, being a team of more than two and a half million veterans, each dedicated to the ideals that were first espoused by our founders in 1919.

We have always operated as a team. We have always been "one for all and all for one." And do you know who that "one" is? It is the veteran, it is the veteran's child, or spouse, or any individual in our community who needs help.

Now, that help does not come from a ragged group that has nothing better to do. Our American Legion has been blessed with perceptiveness, intuition, and the foresight of our founders.

They had a plan; we have a plan; just as every successful team has a plan. It doesn't make any difference what kind of team you are talking about, a successful team has a plan.

You can accept the challenge of community involvement, or coach an athletic team, or you can be on a team challenging a mountain. But, for your team to succeed, a plan has to be in place.

The plan includes the kind of tools that are best suited for the job at hand. It occurs to me that, no matter what challenge we care to tackle, if you don't have the right tools you can't do the job properly. One of the many tools we have available to us, as Legionnaires, is our Regional Leadership Conferences. They provide skill and direction for the tasks we have at hand.

My friends, we can do the job well because we know where we are going, we know what we have to do, and we know what tools we need to conquer the challenges that face us.

Let's take the mountain climbing team, for example. Here is a group of volunteers who have chosen to climb the highest peak possible. They have mapped a route, they have chosen their tools, and they have a magnificent desire.

As they begin their journey up that mountain, they are sustained by their vigor, their dedication to the task, just as we

have been sustained. They successfully reach a plateau that offers refuge, a feeling of satisfaction, and a haven, temporarily, from the huge task that they have undertaken.

Fellow Legionnaires, that plateau is deceptive. It is a hidden challenge because it offers a comfortable rest. The challenge of that plateau is to face a decision. Do we congratulate ourselves on our accomplishment or do we press on to our original goal?

My fellow Legionnaires, we are climbing that mountain working together within our framework of energy, excitement, and commitment. We will climb that mountain with enthusiasm, confidence, and the conviction that our voluntary service to our communities, our fellow veterans, our Nation, will stand as a monument to all those things this Organization holds so dear.

I am a Blue Cap Legionnaire. When I look in the mirror tomorrow morning I will see only the chief volunteer of this Nation's greatest team of volunteers, The American Legion.

You have placed in my hands a great responsibility. I accept it willingly. You have my admiration and my support, most of all, you have my thanks for entrusting your faith in me. As we climb together other veterans will get involved by our example and we will help America work. Thank you so very much.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS

The following were elected National Vice Commanders by acclamation and without opposition: John Lockhart, Hawaii; J. Leslie Brown, Kentucky; Robert W. Grocia, Massachusetts; Charles R. Green, Ohio; and Roberto Gonzalez, Puerto Rico.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Chair recognizes Judge Dan Foley, Past National Commander from the Department of Minnesota, for the purpose of presenting the Colors of the National Commander to Commander Keith Kreul.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS Incoming National Commander

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DANIEL FOLEY: Color Guard present the Colors to the incoming National Commander of The American Legion. The members will please stand. Hand salute.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: Commander Keith, it is a great personal privilege for me and an honor for the Department of Minnesota, your neighbor across the Mighty Mississippi to the west, for inviting me to present these Colors to you as you assume your duties of Office, the first Badger Legionnaire to serve as National Commander.

It is a day of great pride and achievement and a significant challenge. Your predecessors in the Office of National Commander, each in their own term have experienced the thrill of election and the sense of accomplishment, even as you feel the new surge throughout every vein in your body. Your predecessors shared with their families and their home Departments, and even as you do now, the joy of this hour and the happiness of the election today.

But as the Convention adjourns, and Legionnaires return to their respective homes in all parts of this country and elsewhere, there will come to you the full realization that the full trust and confidence of The American Legion is in your hands, trust and confidence, not just of a National Commander, each and all of whom wish you well that you have a successful year of service, but even more importantly, a long blue line of Legionnaires, who carry on the work of The American Legion throughout the length and breadth of this land and in other

places around this world, who place their trust in you, and are looking to you for leadership at a troubled time in history, a trust and confidence of the sick and disabled, and of the indigents which is placed in your hands.

The Pride of The American Legion is placed in your hands. This trust and confidence, the sense of pride is symbolized by the National Colors of The American Legion and the Flag of our Country unveiled here, guarded here and honored here.

These Colors presented here today and the fullest meaning that all that each represent will be a constant reminder to you throughout this coming year of service, of the pride, honor and sense of tradition you are charged to protect.

Your voice, The American Legion voice will be heard on vital issues and even a casual glance at these Colors and our Country's Flag as you carry out your duties will remind you that love of God, love of Country, and service to the high cause of peace and freedom in the fullest meaning of those terms are yours to protect.

We are fully confident that in your hands, the Flag of our Country and the Colors of The American Legion will wave ever so gently, yet proudly from your year of service.

Commander Keith, take with you our heartfelt good wishes for God's blessing and protection as you move out to answer the summons of the high calling of service which is yours to perform.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: The Color Guard will now retire the Colors.

(... The Delegates stood and saluted the Colors as they were retired.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: It is now my privilege to present to this Convention, the newly elected President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Tommy Gear, better known as Anna Gear from the great State of Virginia.

**ANNA GEAR, Virginia National President,
American Legion Auxiliary**

Thank you, Mr. Commander, distinguished guests and Delegates. If I appear a little hesitant and confused, it is because I am not used to talking as National President of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is like getting married, it takes a while to get accustomed to a new title.

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary are certainly married, and we are like one big family.

Once upon a time an old carpenter described a marriage, or partnership in construction terms. He explained to a young couple about to be married, if you join two board ends, end to end, that is not much strength. If you overlap those boards just a little, the strength is greatly increased. If you overlap the boards by half, each side giving 50%, it is so strong, so solid, that nothing can break it apart.

That is what makes a marriage a partnership, the giving of each other for a common purpose.

I believe that The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have a strong relationship, similar to that of a marriage. We are all partners together, partners in patriotism working for God and Country combining together to create a big 100% American family.

Our theme this year will be "Hats Off To America."

At this time, if I had a hat on, I would like to take it off to you, Commander Keller, for your outstanding service you have given to both of our Organizations. Al has truly been a most gracious and kind gentleman of the highest order. He is an outstanding credit to The American Legion and has done much to further the strong bonds between two Organizations.

Al, I wish for you continued success in your future endeavors. And you know your family and friends in Kankakee will be happy to have you back home.

To you, Commander Keith, would you join me here at the microphone here, please.

To you and your newly elected Officers, we pledge our loyal support in all of your goals for the year, and to be reunited as leaders of our families as we are looking forward to that large family reunion, we are going to have in Salt Lake City, and enjoy this next year together working for our goals.

Now to you great Legionnaires out there, my hat is off to you. You are the finest in the world. Thank you.

Mr. Commander, I have several other ladies with me that I would like to present at this time.

National Vice President from the Department of Florida, Helen Adams.

Our most capable Secretary, Mrs. Miriam Junge from the Department of Ohio.

Thanks so much again, and I am looking forward to working with each one of you in the furtherance of our programs each year. My love to you, Department of Virginia.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: The Post Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee will be held on this stage at the call of the National Commander immediately upon the adjournment of this Convention.

INTRODUCTIONS

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: There are two people who I did not have the opportunity to introduce when I introduced my National Vice Commanders and the other Officers, and one is our National Sergeant-at-Arms, along with his fine crew of Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms who have kept this Convention in order and done an outstanding job, Gary Walling.

The other Officer who I did not introduce, at this time I would like to present him before you go home, and he is our outgoing National Chaplain, Reverend Father John D. Kempf of Ohio for the Benediction.

BENEDICTION

**Rev. Father John D. Kempf, Ohio
National Chaplain**

Now Father, as we part from one another to go our separate ways, we pause to worship the memory of those of our Organization who have answered the final call and have been received into Your Kingdom.

We are thankful for their lives, the remembrance of them is an inspiration to us. They teach us to dedicate ourselves to the things for which they served and died.

Bless all of our loved ones living and dead, and all those still striving to live Your message of love and peace to love the world.

We thank You, and we ask Your blessing upon all the Officers, Committees and Staff and all who helped to make this a successful 65th Annual Convention.

May Your merciful blessings keep us forever in Your goodness, humble of heart and unselfish in purpose.

Now I too would like to ask all of you to join with me in prayer in unison, as we sing God Bless America.

... At this time the entire delegation sang the song "God Bless America."

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: The Color Bearers will retire the Flag of the United States. The Delegates will stand and salute at my command.

(... The Delegates stood and saluted the Colors.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: I now declare the

65th National Convention of The American Legion adjourned sine die.

... At 1:25 P.M. the 65th National Convention of The American Legion adjourned sine die.

. . .

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Balance Sheet

	December 31	
	1982	1981
ASSETS		
CURRENT FUND:		
Cash	\$ 923,144	\$ 765,011
Accounts receivable:		
Emblem Division	115,129	85,944
Publications Division	312,486	302,099
Other	99,194	96,665
Accrued interest on investments	306,121	221,644
Inventories:		
Emblem Division	770,473	773,056
Publications Division	751,814	792,411
Prepaid expenses and supplies	178,721	151,424
Postal deposits and other advances	55,019	58,707
	<u>3,512,101</u>	<u>3,246,961</u>
Investments—note 2:		
Segregated for Designated Funds	6,641,707	6,212,994
Segregated for Washington, D. C. building	462,861	447,739
Other	11,742,622	9,097,029
	<u>18,847,190</u>	<u>15,757,762</u>
Property and equipment:		
Washington, D. C. real estate:		
Land	80,000	80,000
Building	815,183	793,183
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment in:		
National Headquarters building, Indianapolis, Indiana ..	1,086,644	962,295
Washington, D. C. building	296,511	293,358
Computer under capitalized lease—note 3	399,602	399,602
	<u>2,677,940</u>	<u>2,628,438</u>
Deduct: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	1,413,874	1,229,344
	<u>1,264,066</u>	<u>1,299,094</u>
	<u>23,623,357</u>	<u>20,803,817</u>
NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS—note 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Cash	10,486	7,752
Accrued interest on investments	8,556	7,006
Investments	455,386	441,801
	<u>474,408</u>	<u>456,559</u>
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Cash (overdraft)	(42,313)	4,915
Accrued interest on investments	27,166	34,204
Investments	3,359,691	2,520,613
	<u>3,344,544</u>	<u>2,559,732</u>
	<u>\$27,442,309</u>	<u>\$23,320,108</u>

See notes to financial statements.

	<u>December 31</u>	
	<u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS		
CURRENT FUND:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,065,190	\$ 750,740
Capitalized lease obligation—computer—note 3	314,593	387,135
Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales	126,723	173,755
Funds in transit to The American Legion		
Life Insurance Trust	419,768	455,421
Deferred dues income	10,742,552	7,332,901
Accrued vacation benefits	291,268	265,941
Provision for health insurance liability	45,000	45,000
Funds held for Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund	33,986	611,654
Other liabilities	21,189	24,921
Total liabilities	<u>13,060,219</u>	<u>10,047,468</u>
Fund balance—notes 4 and 5:		
Restricted funds:		
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund	146,478	396,983
Children and Youth Fund	44,943	98,913
Oratorical Contest Fund	107,671	92,128
Other restricted funds	38,473	23,734
Designated funds:		
The Restricted Fund	4,501,030	4,077,565
The Reserve Fund	2,140,676	2,135,429
	<u>6,979,271</u>	<u>6,824,752</u>
Appropriated funds	1,438,078	1,438,078
Unappropriated	2,145,789	1,993,519
Total fund balance	<u>10,563,138</u>	<u>10,256,349</u>
	<u>23,623,357</u>	<u>20,303,817</u>
 NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS—note 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Fund balance	<u>474,408</u>	<u>456,559</u>
	474,408	456,559
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Fund balance	<u>3,344,544</u>	<u>2,559,732</u>
	3,344,544	2,559,732
	<u>\$27,442,309</u>	<u>\$23,320,108</u>

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances Current Fund

	Year Ended	
	1982	
	Unappropriated	Appropriated Funds
REVENUE:		
National dues	\$ 8,977,858	
Sales of Emblem items	4,456,550	
Advertising revenue	3,288,586	
Investment income	1,414,549	
American Legion Endowment Fund		
Corporation income received—note 7		
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion		
Life Insurance Trust—note 8	925,974	
Restricted contributions		
Other income	860,837	
	19,924,354	
EXPENSES:		
Salaries	3,827,553	
Employee benefits—note 9	901,535	
Cost of Emblem items sold	2,633,931	
Direct publication expenses	6,677,171	
Executive and staff travel	440,704	
Commission and committee	892,270	
Operational	1,464,014	
Office	910,185	
Occupancy	709,838	
Special projects and programs	1,314,883	
	19,772,084	
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	152,270	
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,998,519	\$1,438,078
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	\$ 2,145,789	\$1,438,078

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit B
Sheet 1

December 31

		1981
Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Current Fund	Total Current Fund
\$ 647,934	\$ 9,825,792	\$ 9,217,789
	4,456,550	4,290,124
428,712	3,288,586	2,791,804
	1,843,261	1,592,238
606,384	606,384	602,850
65,282	991,256	694,527
74,425	74,425	60,929
<u>1,822,737</u>	<u>860,837</u>	<u>512,388</u>
	<u>21,747,091</u>	<u>19,782,649</u>
1,066,783	4,894,336	4,543,344
251,781	1,153,316	1,029,303
	2,633,981	2,589,772
	6,877,171	5,973,583
70,241	510,945	553,075
30,060	922,330	896,879
115,648	1,579,982	1,446,378
67,530	977,715	994,347
	709,838	658,707
<u>66,175</u>	<u>1,381,058</u>	<u>876,071</u>
<u>1,668,218</u>	<u>21,440,302</u>	<u>19,561,459</u>
154,519	306,789	<u>\$201,190</u>
<u>6,824,752</u>	<u>10,256,349</u>	
<u>\$6,979,271</u>	<u>\$10,663,138</u>	

(Exhibit B
Sheet 2)

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Charges in Fund Balances Designated and Restricted Funds Year Ended December 31, 1982

	Designated Funds	
	The Restricted Fund	The Reserve Fund
REVENUE:		
National dues		
Investment income	\$ 423,465	\$ 5,247
American Legion Endowment Fund		
Corporation income received—note 7		
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion		
Life Insurance Trust—note 8		
Restricted contributions		
	423,465	5,247
EXPENSES:		
Salaries		
Employee benefits		
Staff travel		
Commission and committee		
Operational		
Office		
Special projects and programs		
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	423,465	5,247
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,077,565	2,135,429
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	\$4,501,030	\$2,140,676

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit B
Sheet 2

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund	Children And Youth Fund	Restricted Funds		Total Designated And Restricted Funds
		Oratorical Contest Fund	Other Restricted Funds	
\$ 647,934				\$ 647,934
424,484	\$181,900			428,712
		\$ 65,282		606,384
21,000	22,250		\$31,176	65,282
1,093,418	204,150	65,282	31,176	74,425
				1,822,737
967,329	99,454			1,066,783
228,103	23,678			251,781
62,701	7,540			70,241
	30,060			30,060
33,047	82,601			115,648
52,743	14,787			67,530
		49,739	16,436	66,175
1,343,923	258,120	49,739	16,436	1,668,218
(250,505)	(53,970)	15,543	14,739	154,519
396,983	98,913	92,128	23,734	6,824,752
\$ 146,478	\$ 44,943	\$107,671	\$38,473	\$6,979,271

(Exhibit B
Sheet 1)

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

General: The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919. The Legion acquired all of the assets and assumed all of the liabilities of the predecessor unincorporated national organization of the same name.

Basis of Presentation: The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its accounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1981 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1982 amounts.

Accounts Receivable: The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Inventories: Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments: Investments are recorded at cost with any premiums or discounts on U. S. Government obligations recognized at the time of disposal or maturity of the investment involved.

Property and Equipment: Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the year after acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D. C. building, which was constructed in 1951, is computed on the straight-line method using a fifty-year life. Beginning in 1969, investments approximately equal to the accumulated depreciation on the building have been segregated. Income on these investments is unrestricted.

Income: Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis. Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and The American Legion Life Insurance Trust are recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Pension Plans: The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations. The annual cost, as determined by the actuary, is computed using the aggregate-cost method and includes in normal cost any past service costs.

Federal Income Tax: The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 2—INVESTMENTS (CURRENT FUND):

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

	December 31			
	1980		1981	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Segregated for Designated Funds:				
U. S. Government obligations	\$ 6,533,040	\$ 6,069,989	\$ 6,112,706	\$ 5,628,425
Accrued interest—restricted	88,489	88,489	78,684	78,684
Uninvested cash	22,178	22,178	21,624	21,624
	<u>6,643,707</u>	<u>6,777,656</u>	<u>6,212,994</u>	<u>5,728,718</u>
Segregated for Washington, D.C. building:				
U. S. Government obligations	462,851	442,844	447,739	269,685
Other:				
U. S. Government obligations	11,442,622	11,759,817	6,147,029	5,948,272
Certificates of deposit	300,000	300,000	2,950,000	2,950,000
	<u>11,742,622</u>	<u>12,059,817</u>	<u>9,097,029</u>	<u>8,898,272</u>
Total investments	<u>\$18,847,180</u>	<u>\$19,280,287</u>	<u>\$15,757,762</u>	<u>\$14,981,550</u>

NOTE 3—CAPITAL AND OPERATING LEASES:

In 1981, the Legion entered into a lease agreement (which is accounted for as a capital lease) for rental of computer equipment from December, 1981 through April, 1985. The Legion has options to purchase the equipment or to extend the lease at the end of the original lease term. The Legion is liable for property taxes, insurance, and repairs and maintenance in connection with the leased equipment. Future minimum payments on this lease, together with the present value of the payments, are as follows:

Years ending	
December 31:	
1989	\$149,611
1994	149,611
1995	124,676
Total future minimum payments	423,898
Less: Amount representing interest (approximately 22%)	109,205
Present value of future minimum payments	<u>\$314,693</u>

The Legion also rents other computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was approximately \$197,000 in 1982 and \$101,000 in 1981.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1985. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance and insurance approximated \$280,000 in 1982 and \$285,000 in 1981. The Legion has the option of renewing the lease on the same terms through November, 1989.

NOTE 4—RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings.

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

- By action of the Legion at its national convention, or
- By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

NOTE 5—APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS:

There were no interfund transfers between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds at December 31, 1982 and 1981 were as follows:

Publications Reserve	\$ 397,989
Real Estate Reserve	841,977
Convention Reserve	100,000
Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve	98,162
Total	<u>\$1,438,078</u>

NOTE 6—NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS:

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

Changes in Nonexpendable Funds during the year ended December 31, 1982 are as follows:

	Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund
Revenues:		
Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected.....		\$ 794,672
Investment income.....	\$29,223	352,186
	<u>29,223</u>	<u>1,146,838</u>
Expenses:		
Membership dues withdrawn.....		308,839
Decoration of graves:		
European Theatre.....	10,874	
Philippine Islands.....	500	
Administrative expenses.....		46,821
Trust fees.....		5,368
	<u>11,374</u>	<u>362,026</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses.....	17,849	784,812
Fund balances, January 1, 1982.....	456,559	2,559,732
Fund balances, December 31, 1982.....	<u>\$474,408</u>	<u>\$3,344,544</u>

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	December 31			
	1982		1981	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:				
U. S. Government obligations.....	\$ 465,386	\$ 463,476	\$ 441,801	\$ 379,988
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:				
U. S. Government obligations.....	\$1,089,189	\$1,182,563	\$1,279,111	\$1,216,845
Commercial paper.....	2,180,000	2,180,000	1,151,000	1,151,000
Common stocks.....	90,502	111,975	90,502	89,562
Total investments.....	\$3,359,611	\$3,424,538	\$2,520,613	\$2,457,407

NOTE 7—AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION:

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of \$2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of \$1,575,043 at December 31, 1982, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. In addition to the amount received from the Endowment Fund of \$606,384 in 1982, there was \$281,646 at December 31, 1982, in net investment earnings of the Endowment Fund, which was payable to the Legion.

NOTE 8—LIFE INSURANCE TRUST:

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion has created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, holds legal title. The accumulated earnings of the Trust funds and any experience rating refunds and dividends received from the insurers, which aggregate to approximately \$5,100,000 as of December 31, 1982, are available for any of the following purposes, if approved by the Legion:

- (a) To increase the Trust fund.
- (b) To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.
- (c) To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.
- (d) To make refunds to the participants.
- (e) To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

In accordance with the provisions of item (e) above, the Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1982, \$990,076 in Trust Funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1983.

NOTE 9—PENSION PLAN:

Pension expense under the defined-benefit pension plan in which the Legion participates was \$535,550 in 1982. Accumulated plan benefit information, as estimated by the plan's actuary, and net assets of the plan allocable to The American Legion National Headquarters were as follows:

	January 1, 1982
Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits:	
Vested	\$8,555,048
Nonvested	932,291
Total	<u>\$9,487,339</u>
Net assets available for plan benefits (at market value)	<u>\$8,501,854</u>

The assumed rate of return used in determining the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits was 6%.

NOTE 10—LITIGATION:

The Legion is currently involved as a co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that any ultimate liability of the Legion will not be material to the financial statements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Analysis of Unappropriated Revenue And Expenses by Function Year Ended December 31, 1982

	National Officers, Commissions And Committees	Internal Programs (primarily Indianapolis)	General External Activities (primarily Washington, D. C.)
REVENUE:			
National dues			
Sale of Emblem items			
Advertising revenue			
Investment income			
Amounts withdrawn from American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund			
Other income			
EXPENSES:			
Salaries	\$ 189,264	\$ 587,062	\$ 589,530
Employee benefits	44,484	137,594	139,962
Cost of Emblem items sold			
Direct publication expenses			
Executive and staff travel	224,224	109,439	46,074
Commission and committee	884,766		
Operational	1,979	892,607	98,130
Office	2,464	135,187	131,779
Occupancy		69,068	30
Special projects and programs	114,494	1,073,109	40,968
	<u>\$1,461,675</u>	<u>\$3,004,096</u>	<u>\$1,041,453</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES			

Schedule 1

Functions		Self-Supporting Functions			Total All Functions
Administration		Total General Functions	Emblem Division	Publications Division	
Indianapolis	Washington, D. C.				
		\$4,813,163		\$4,164,636	\$ 8,977,858
			\$4,456,550		4,456,550
		1,414,549		3,288,586	3,288,586
					1,414,549
		925,974			925,974
		623,657	5,896	231,282	860,837
		<u>7,777,343</u>	<u>4,462,446</u>	<u>7,684,563</u>	<u>19,924,354</u>
\$1,212,689	\$356,942	2,935,487	369,360	522,716	3,827,563
286,146	53,317	631,508	86,256	123,776	901,335
			2,633,981		2,633,981
19,875	12,157	411,469	22,924	6,877,171	6,877,171
7,504		892,270		6,811	440,704
317,483	30,165	1,225,303	216,703	22,006	892,270
161,733	74,234	525,497	226,804	177,394	1,464,014
(234,379)	185,871	(29,280)	203,888	535,580	910,185
67,340	18,982	1,514,883			709,888
<u>\$1,738,040</u>	<u>\$701,668</u>	<u>7,946,832</u>	<u>8,769,856</u>	<u>8,085,386</u>	<u>19,772,084</u>
		<u>\$ (169,489)</u>	<u>\$ 702,592</u>	<u>\$ (380,633)</u>	<u>\$ 152,270</u>

Schedule 2

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Reconciliation of Audited Financial Statements to Internal Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 1982

	Unappropriated	Total/Current Fund
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES—INTERNAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:		
Page 1.....		\$ (98,294)
Page 6.....	\$ 152,271	
ADD (DEDUCT):		
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials—principally The Restricted Fund		406,024
Rounding differences.....	(1)	(1)
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES— AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS— exhibit B, sheet 1 (page 6)	<u>\$ 152,270</u>	<u>\$306,789</u>

AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION

Robert Charles Smith (Louisiana), President

Foreseeing the necessity of a recurring income source for funding its war veterans rehabilitation and child welfare programs, The American Legion conducted a national campaign in 1925 which raised approximately \$5 million for this purpose. The funds contributed were entrusted to the custody of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

The Corporation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in 1925 and a trust agreement between

The American Legion and the Corporation was signed in accordance with which the funds are administered by the Corporation with the annual net investment income being paid to The American Legion for use in the two programs involved.

The operations and financial condition of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation for each of the last five years are summarized below (taken from the annual audit reports prepared by Geo. S. Olive & Co., Indianapolis, Indiana).

	December 31, 1982	December 31, 1981	December 31, 1980	December 31, 1979	December 31, 1978
Total Assets	<u>\$7,310,964</u>	<u>\$7,316,357</u>	<u>\$7,294,883</u>	<u>\$7,297,577</u>	<u>\$7,258,445</u>
Investments— at cost	<u>\$7,221,538</u>	<u>\$7,120,407</u>	<u>\$7,170,044</u>	<u>\$7,205,633</u>	<u>\$7,048,689</u>
Interest income	\$ 639,065	\$ 629,892	\$ 605,235	\$ 577,261	\$ 560,767
Expenses	<u>20,920</u>	<u>25,712</u>	<u>26,866</u>	<u>18,232</u>	<u>14,841</u>
Excess of income over expense	<u>\$ 618,145</u>	<u>\$ 604,180</u>	<u>\$ 578,369</u>	<u>\$ 559,029</u>	<u>\$ 545,926</u>
Funds transferred to The American Legion	<u>\$ 606,384</u>	<u>\$ 602,850</u>	<u>\$ 598,711</u>	<u>\$ 525,000</u>	<u>\$ 450,000</u>
Average yield on book value of investments	8.85%	8.73%	8.67%	8.46%	8.14%

THE AMERICAN LEGION 65TH ANNUAL REPORT

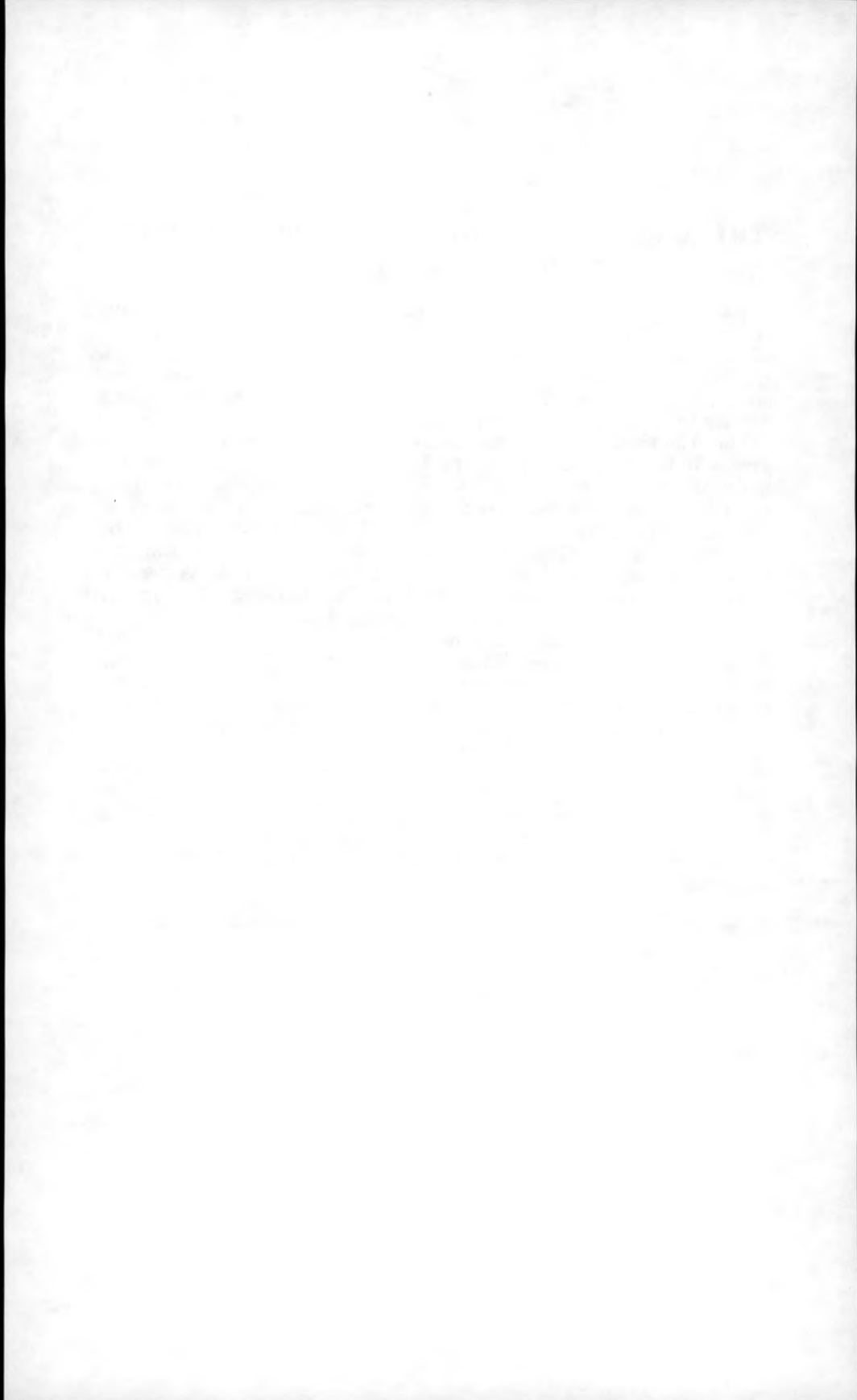
FOREWORD

The American Legion's theme during the past year was "Your American Legion—We Help America Work." Under the leadership of National Commander Al Keller, Jr. and with the support of 2.6 million members in 16,000 posts throughout the nation and overseas, the Legion has completed another year of rich and rewarding service to America and its veterans.

The American Legion national headquarters is located in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to the Indianapolis facilities, an office is maintained in Washington, D.C., housing those organization functions that require a close working relationship with the Congress and the appropriate agencies of the Federal Government. The American Legion's Magazine publisher also is located in Indianapolis, and the editor and editorial staff are located in the American Legion's Indianapolis offices. Offices of The American Legion life insurance program are located in Chicago, Illinois.

The National Commander's report is published herein as a part of the Convention proceedings. Reports of the other national officers, the national commissions, financial statement with accompanying data, and a report of the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary are also included. These reports and other materials summarize the activities of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary during an action-packed year in which the two organizations, true to their tradition, provided vital leadership to the Nation and contributed significantly to the preservation of its institutions. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward with confidence to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

ROBERT W. SPANOGLE,
National Adjutant.



EXCERPTS FROM CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ARTICLE II

NATURE

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention or meeting of the Legion.

Section 2. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be organized in departments and these in turn in posts. There shall be one department in each state, in the District of Columbia, and there may be one department in each territory in insular possession of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish posts in the territorial and insular possessions of the United States and foreign countries, and shall designate the department under whose jurisdiction they shall function, but this shall in no way affect the status of departments already established.

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961, to May 7, 1975; all dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods; provided however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably after any of said periods; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. No person may be a member at any one time of more than one Post.

Section 4. No person, who has been expelled by a Post shall be admitted to membership in another Post, without the consent of the expelling Post except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, he may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to be admitted to membership in another Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. The legislative body of THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be the National Convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws . . .

Section 3. In the National Convention each Department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of said Convention, and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate strength, have been paid; and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegate shall be chosen not less than two weeks before the National Convention at Department Conventions or in any other manner specified by any Department Constitution.

Section 4. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any registered delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered delegates present from his Department. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all the privileges of registered delegates except that of voting. A registered delegate is one who has received his credentials after his registration fee has been paid.

Section 5. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when sixty percent of the Departments are represented as provided above . . .

ARTICLE VI

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, and five National Vice-Commanders, who shall serve without seniority. No two Vice-Commanders shall be chosen from the same Department. No person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National Commander or National Vice-Commander.

Section 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by election by the National Executive Committee, and any member of THE AMERICAN LEGION in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy. Provided, however, that no Past National Command-

er or Past National Vice-Commander shall be elected to fill any vacancy in these respective offices.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the National Convention shall appoint the National Adjutant, National Historian, such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. All persons having the custody of fund shall give adequate bonds which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. All Past National Commanders, while in good standing in their respective posts, shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all National Conventions of THE AMERICAN LEGION, with vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Departments.

ARTICLE VII

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between National Conventions, the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander, the National Vice-Commanders, and one National Executive Committeeman and one alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine, the alternate to vote only in the absence of the Committeeman.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Hamilton Fish, New York
S. Perry Brown, Texas
George N. Craig, Indiana
Erle Cocke, Jr., Georgia
Donald R. Wilson, West Virginia
J. Addington Wagner, Michigan
W. C. Daniel, Virginia
John S. Gleason, Jr., Illinois
Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma
Martin B. McKneally, New York
William R. Burke, California
Charles L. Bacon, Missouri
Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota
Donald E. Johnson, Iowa
L. Eldon James, Virginia
John E. Davis, North Dakota

William E. Galbraith, Nebraska
William C. Doyle, New Jersey
J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma
Alfred P. Chamie, California
John H. Geiger, Illinois
Joe L. Matthews, Texas
Robert E. L. Eaton, Maryland
James M. Wagonseller, Ohio
Harry G. Wiles, Kansas
William J. Rogers, Maine
Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana
John M. (Jack) Carey, Michigan
Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana
Michael J. Kogutek, New York
Jack W. Flynt, Texas
Al Keller, Jr., Illinois

National Executive Committeemen

Andrew J. Cooper, Alabama
Robert G. Blair, Alaska
Louis M. Pellon, Arizona
Lawrence E. Fisher, Arkansas
Robert Schwartz, California
J. Archie Corriveau, Canada
Charles Pat Smith, Colorado
Henry S. Bialoglowy, Connecticut
Edward M. Knight, Delaware
Joseph G. Kelly, Dist. of Col.
A. L. "Tony" Ulchar, Sr., Florida
William S. Lombardo, France
W. D. Harrell, Georgia
Libert J. Pakele, Jr. Hawaii
George Serr, Idaho
John B. Mahoney, Illinois
Gilbert E. Sheeks, Indiana
Dale L. Renaud, Iowa
Frank C. Bottiglierio, Italy
U.S. "Udie" Grant, Kansas
J. Leslie Brown, Jr., Kentucky
Carroll B. Fields, Louisiana
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Calvin E. Patton, Maryland
John P. Comer, Massachusetts
Harry Wright, Mexico
Donald C. Huntley, Michigan
Donald R. Schroedl, Minnesota
Fred M. Ingellis, Mississippi

William F. Liddle, Missouri
Pete J. Tuss, Montana
Lewis L. Adams, Nebraska
Charles F. Langel, Nevada
M. Ray Olmstead, New Hampshire
Warren R. Davies, New Jersey
Robert W. Durand, New Mexico
Richard M. Pedro, New York
Robert A. Tart, North Carolina
Q. R. Schulte, North Dakota
W. Dean Scholl, Ohio
Tom C. Smith, Oklahoma
T. Les Galloway, Oregon
Romeo J. Routhier, Panama Canal
Stephen Mikosky, Pennsylvania
Ernest P. Golez, Philippines
Roberto G. Vazquez, Puerto Rico
John Demers, Sr., Rhode Island
E. Roy Stone, Jr., South Carolina
Donald Clarke, South Dakota
William B. Cain, Tennessee
C. Lynn Steward, Texas
William E. Christoffersen, Utah
Robert H. Vincelette, Vermont
Emmett B. Burley, Virginia
Frank V. Buzzell, Washington
Jack T. Gribben, West Virginia
Ervin Van Dyke, Wisconsin
Frank M. Shaffer, Wyoming

1983-84 Alternate National Executive Committeemen

C. E. Gunnin, Alabama
Joseph T. Craig, Alaska
Dr. Charles Vawter, Jr., Arizona
Leon Reed, Arkansas
John K. Simons, Delaware

Richard Billig, Dist. of Col.
George L. Derrick, Florida
Paul R. Chevalier, France
Horace E. Borders, Georgia
Harry A. Beagle, Hawaii

Charlie F. Petersen, Idaho
 Charles Kinkade, Illinois
 Keith Brown, Indiana
 Mark J. Studer, Iowa
 John Fornacca, Italy
 Paul Smith, Kansas
 Norbert H. Gadlage, Kentucky
 Philip Mayeaux, Louisiana
 Ralph J. Brooks, Maine
 Robert Neal, Maryland
 Dominick Genetti, Massachusetts
 George D. Triplett, Mexico
 Vernon L. Henrichs, Michigan
 Harlan Buck, Minnesota
 P. O. Gibson, Jr., Mississippi
 Jerome Roach, Missouri
 David Shannon, Montana
 Wayne Davis, Nebraska
 Jack M. Howell, Nevada
 Bruce Thiesen, California
 Edward Grube, Canada
 James H. McNeal, Colorado
 Lionel F. Dugas, Connecticut
 Stanley E. Shea, New Hampshire

James H. Hall, New Jersey
 Ernest Wheaton, New Mexico
 Alton H. Carpenter, New York
 Bruce Honeycutt, North Carolina
 Robert Hennessy, North Dakota
 Thomas L. Gabel, Ohio
 Charles LeRoy Brown, Oklahoma
 Herbert A. Lindner, Oregon
 Richardo Machado, Panama Canal
 Dominic DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania
 Francisco B. Quesada, Philippines
 Isidoro Cerpa, Jr., Puerto Rico
 Raymond S. Sanchas, Rhode Island
 John Ferguson, Sr., South Carolina
 Gerald Goetzinger, South Dakota
 John J. Maddux, Jr., Tennessee
 Harvey Holcomb, Texas
 Clarence W. Jones, Utah
 John Morrissey, Vermont
 Daniel Jack Harris, Virginia
 W. H. (Bill) Dunn, Washington
 Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
 Ted N. Mallow, Wisconsin
 David E. Nauman, Wyoming

Commissions, Committee, and Employees

The National Executive Committee, upon nomination by the National Commander, appoints the following standing commissions: National Americanism Commission, National Commission on Children and Youth, National Convention Commission, National Economic Commission, National Finance Commission, National Foreign Relations Commission, National Internal Affairs Commission, National Legislative Commission, The American Legion Magazine Commission, National Public Relations Commission, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and National Security Commission.

The National Executive Committee provides for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of the affairs of The American Legion, and prescribes their duties and emoluments.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

MARGARET M. MALONE, New Jersey

At the final session of the 64th Annual Convention of The American Legion held in Chicago, Illinois on August 26, 1982, I had the honor and privilege of being the first woman elected to the high office of National Vice Commander. The past year has been the most exciting and fulfilling of all my years in this organization.

The following Departments were assigned to me: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, France and Italy. I made official visits to all my assigned Departments except the District of Columbia, which did not extend an invitation, and the Departments of France and Italy to which I was not authorized to travel. Many of the Departments I visited more than once, in fact, some as many as five and six times.

In membership, the Department of Vermont was the area leader all year and the second Department in the nation to exceed its official 1982 membership. Shortly thereafter the Departments of New Hampshire and Maryland also achieved that goal with the latter reaching an all time high.

September.—Attended the Area I Regional Conference in Burlington, Vermont; had picture taken with March of Dimes Poster Child in Washington, D.C.

October.—Attended National Commander Al Keller's Homecoming in Chicago and Kankakee, Illinois; attended Fall Meeting of National Executive Committee in Indianapolis and there chaired the NEC meeting twice, hosted a breakfast for the Commanders and Adjutants of my assigned Departments and presided over a meeting of the Commanders in Membership Category II.

November.—Attended a luncheon in Atlantic City, New Jersey in honor of National Auxiliary President June Stolte during her official visit to New Jersey; Participated in all the activities of the National Salute to the Vietnam Veterans in Wash-

ington, D.C. on the occasion of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; made my official visit to Maine and was the guest speaker at a dinner honoring Commander Ed Roach in Rumford.

January.—Was the main speaker at a dinner honoring Commander Al Fuller in Fall River, Massachusetts; Participated in the National Membership Action Plan in Indianapolis where I contacted by telephone all the Department, District and/or County Commanders of the Departments assigned to me; was a guest at the Mid-Winter Conference of the Department of New York in Albany.

February.—Attended Mid-Winter Conferences in St. Johnsbury, Vermont and in Concord, New Hampshire; participated in all the activities during the National Commander's official visit to New Jersey; attended the 1983 Washington Conference and had the honor of meeting President Ronald Reagan; speaker at the Springfield Post birthday luncheon in Vermont.

March.—Guest at a banquet honoring National Commander Keller in Wilmington, Delaware; Speaker at The American Legion Birthday Dinner of Post 26 in White River Junction, Vermont; made my official visit to Rhode Island at Providence.

April.—Attended a gala dinner honoring National Commander Keller in New York City; Was present at the Regional Finals of the National Oratorical Contest in Providence, Rhode Island; guest at a dinner honoring National Commander Keller in Rutland, Vermont; principal speaker at a dinner honoring New Jersey Department Commander John Neafsey in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

May.—Attended National Executive Committee Spring Meeting in Indianapolis; participated in 30th Annual Air War College National Security Forum at Maxwell AFB, Alabama; presented The American Legion's award of an enscribed gold wrist watch to Midshipman David Andrew Radi of Hunterinton, Pennsylvania, the outstanding student in Political Science, during an awards ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

June.—Installed the officers of the Bar Harbor and Waterville Posts as well as the officers of Hancock County all in the Department of Maine; presided at the Gordon's Gin "Good Neighbor Award" luncheon in Parkville, Maryland; attended the "Pause for the Pledge" ceremony and entertainment at Fort McHenry, Maryland; presided at second Gordon's Gin luncheon in Clyde, New York; attended Department Conventions in Portland, Maine, White River Junction, Vermont and Worcester, Massachusetts; attended County Convention in Staten Island, New York; principal speaker at the 38th Annual Memorial Services at High Point, New Jersey.

July.—Guest and speaker at Department Conventions in Dover, Delaware, Ocean City, Maryland, Buffalo, New York and Hartford, Connecticut; represented the National Organization at the funeral of Past NEC Joseph Leonard in Stamford, Connecticut.

Throughout the year, I attended many functions and participated in various activities in my home Department of New Jersey.

It has been a pleasure as well as an honor to work with, and have as a friend, National Commander Al Keller. I also wish to express the same feelings about my fellow Vice Commanders, the National Adjutant and all the National Officers.

I want to thank the staffs of both the Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. offices for their cooperation, kindness and courtesy throughout the past months—it was a pleasure to be associated with all of them.

This year I have been privileged to meet with and develop friendships with so many fine Legionnaires and Auxiliary members—it was an unforgettable experience and I can only say I am proud indeed to be an American Legionnaire and to have served as a National Vice Commander.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

H. MELVIN NAPIER, Indiana

I was elected as one of the five National Vice Commanders to serve with National Commander Al Keller for the 1982-83 American Legion year. It has been a privilege to represent our organization with such outstanding Legionnaires.

The Departments I represented were Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. I received invitations for visits to all the Departments, with the exception of West Virginia. I communicated by telephone with all levels of leadership, including District Commanders, and letters were also mailed periodically. The M.A.P. membership program was of significant value in establishing a communications line to all levels of leadership.

One of the highlights of the year was attending the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. The results of The American Legion's participation will be indicated by the unification of all veterans for years to come. I had the privilege of representing Commander Keller at the Awards Ceremony of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Official National visits were made to Departments assigned to me, as follows:

October 21-22.—Attended the Indiana Department Fall Conference and addressed the banquet, which was held in my honor.

November 19-20.—Attended the Egyptian Past Commanders Club banquet and visited the Veterans Hospital in Marion, Illinois.

January 8-9.—Attended the Department Membership Rally in Harrison, Michigan, where I presented the National Membership program.

January 28-29.—Attended and addressed the Kentucky Executive Committee at their Winter Conference.

March 11-12.—Attended and addressed the Ohio Department Executive Committee at Columbia, Ohio.

April 29-30.—Attended the Testimonial Banquet in honor of State Commander Loper at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

July 8-10.—Attended the State Convention at Arlington, Virginia.

In addition to the official visits, I also was pleased to participate in the following American Legion activities:

September 12.—American Legion Day at the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home, Knightstown, Indiana.

October 8.—National Commander Al Keller's homecoming.

October 10-14.—Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

October 21-22.—Department of Indiana Fall Conference.

November 7.—Department of Indiana Box Car Membership Drive.

December 3.—Department of Indiana Christmas Membership Drive.

December 9.—Christmas dinner honoring students from the Knightstown Home at Lafayette.

January 14-15.—Department of Indiana Winter Conference.

February 21-22.—Washington Conference.

March.—Attended eleven Birthday dinners at various Posts in Indiana.

April 15.—Attended the National Regional Oratorical Contest at Indianapolis, Indiana.

April 16.—Department of Indiana Spring Conference.

May 9.—Attended the Indiana State Service Officers School.

May 14.—Dedicated new American Legion Home at New Albany, Indiana.

May 30.—Memorial Day speaker at Madison, Indiana.

June 5.—Attended Lafayette Home Day at the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette, Indiana.

June 6.—Attended the dedication of U.S.O. at the Indianapolis Airport.

June 17-18.—Visited the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, Wisconsin.

July 10.—Attended the Department of Indiana Convention, where I was presented with the Indiana Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to The American Legion.

July 23.—Presented the history of The American Legion to the Indiana Leadership College.

A special thanks to all National Officers and Staff for their cooperation and guidance. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have represented The American Legion as your National Vice Commander.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

R. C. GABRIELSON, South Dakota

I considered it a distinct honor and privilege at the conclusion of the 64th National American Legion convention in Chicago on August 25, to be elected to serve as a National Vice Commander on the team with National Commander Al Keller, Jr. for the Legion year 1982-1983.

My primary responsibility was designated to be in the Departments of Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Canada and Missouri. During my tenure, I visited each of these nine Departments.

August 27.—Principal speaker at the Homecoming for Department Commander Wayne Nesby at Leola, South Dakota.

September 18-19.—Participated in the Legion National Regional Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota.

October 9-10.—Attended the Homecoming for National Commander Al Keller, Jr. in Chicago, Illinois.

October 11-14.—Took part in the Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference and meetings of the National Executive Committee in Indianapolis. During that time, I hosted a breakfast for Commanders and Adjutants in my area, and had a later rap session with these Commanders.

Week of November 8.—Was privileged to take part in activities surrounding official dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

November 29 to December 1.—Made a "whirlwind" tour across the Department of Kansas, speaking at functions in the homes of ten different Posts. Each host Post invited others, resulting in attendance by representatives of sixty-nine Legion Posts. During that period, I also made official visits to three VA hospital facilities in Kansas.

January 8-9.—Attended the Nebraska Mid-Year Conference at Norfolk, where I spoke at a membership meeting and addressed the joint Legion-Auxiliary banquet.

February 4-6.—Was scheduled to speak at the joint banquet of the South Dakota Winter Conference in Pierre, but instead was the subject of a surprise Roast.

February 14-15.—Was in Indianapolis working with the Membership Action Program. I contacted 85 District Commanders by phone, as well as most Department Commanders and Adjutants in my assigned area.

February 20-23.—Participated in several meetings at the 1983 Washington Conference in Washington, D.C.

February 25-26.—At the North Dakota Winter Conference in Jamestown, I worked with Department Vice Commanders and District Commanders in a membership session, and delivered the address at the joint Conference banquet.

March 12-13.—At the Missouri Spring Conference at Lake Ozark, I met with the membership committee and Board of Publications, and delivered an address at the business session.

April 23-24.—Attended the Minnesota Aerial Roundup at Aviation Post 511 on Crystal Airport in Minneapolis, and addressed the evening banquet at the home of Westphal Post 251.

May 4-5.—Participated in meetings of the National Executive Committee in Indianapolis.

May 17-18.—Presented the American Legion Award to two graduating cadets considered most outstanding in athletics at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. I also attended commencement exercises, and a reception honoring Vice President George Bush.

May 20-21.—Attended the Department Convention of Canada in Montreal, Quebec. I addressed the convention banquet, and continued working with Department officers on a publicity campaign we had begun earlier.

May 30.—Delivered an address at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, South Dakota, attended by more than five thousand persons.

June 11-15.—Took part in the South Dakota Department Convention at Rapid City, and spoke at the joint banquet.

June 23-24.—Presented Good Neighbor Awards at Topeka, Kansas and Oak Creek, Wisconsin. In Milwaukee, I visited Department Headquarters and two Legion Posts in the city.

July 15-17.—Participated in the Iowa Department Convention and spoke at the closing business session.

This has been a year of challenge and rewarding experiences. Throughout this heartland of America and our organization, I note a renewed dedication, more aggressive leadership and sense of purpose. It has been a unique opportunity to have served with such an exceptional and compassionate leader as our National Commander Keller.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

LEE O. WALKER, Oklahoma

The honor bestowed upon me of election as a National Vice Commander at the 64th National Convention of the American Legion in Chicago, was more fully realized as I attended functions and accomplished my duties throughout the year.

My first trip was to Charlotte, North Carolina, to attend the Region 3 Conference in that area. Commander Keller also attended this conference and we both spoke to each section of conferees. Next was the Region 4 Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisi-

ana, where I was privileged to participate both as the National Vice Commander and as Regional Chairman of the Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference. Attendance at both conferences was excellent with 300-400 interested Legionnaires there to upgrade their knowledge of our great programs.

Another highlight event of the year was attending the National Commander's Homecoming in Chicago, followed by the following day's bus trip to Kankakee for brunch and on to Indianapolis for the Fall meeting of the National Executive Committee. A breakfast attended by Commanders and Adjutants of the fourteen Departments resulted in an exchange of ideas concerning membership and other areas of interest.

My official visit to the Department of South Carolina was to attend their Fall Rally at Myrtle Beach in October. The hospitality was tremendous and I was to find that to be true throughout all the Departments I visited.

The next trip was twofold in purpose and more inspiring than any other. First I was off to Birmingham, Alabama, to attend National Veteran's Day. Events included a reception and Awards Dinner with Admiral Hyman Rickover, the honoree. The November 11th program started with a Distinguished Guests Breakfast followed by a beautiful Memorial Service and then the World Peace Luncheon. Both the Awards Dinner and the luncheon were attended by approximately 1,400. Then the Veteran's Day Parade followed with enormous participation. Unfortunately we had to leave midway through the parade to catch a plane to Washington, D.C.

In Washington we were privileged to take part in the activities during the dedication of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. Truly a great inspiration to all who attended, I was so proud of the leadership and support provided by the America Legion on this project.

In January I was off for the official visit to the Department of Tennessee for their Midwinter Conference. Their hospitality included a visit to the Grand Ole Opry.

Next was the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., which included a very pleasant and worthwhile visit with members of our Congressional Delegation at the reception.

In February I was called to Indianapolis for a briefing on the Membership Action Program (MAP) for three days. Two days were spent contacting District Commanders throughout the Departments. From Indianapolis I flew to Austin, Texas, to attend that Department's Leadership College.

In May, Spring meetings of the National Executive Committee were held in Indianapolis. As is usually the case a great deal was accomplished to further the programs of the organizations.

During the months of June and July official visits were made to the Departments of Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Georgia in conjunction with their respective Department Conventions. Attendance was excellent at each one and we were impressed by the capable leadership throughout the Departments. I wish to express my thanks to all those Department officials and "Blue Cap" Legionnaires for their efforts throughout the year. I'm very proud to have represented them.

To the National Executive Committee and Alternates, a word of thanks for their support, and a special expression of my gratitude to Mrs. Walter (June) Stolte and the Auxiliary members throughout the Departments for all their courtesies and hospitality given me.

To Commander Keller, an outstanding leader and gentleman, to National Adjutant Robert Spanogle, and to the fellow National officers, I owe a debt of gratitude for their confidence and support. Working with individuals of that caliber inspires one to put forth every effort for mission accomplishment.

Regardless of economic and other adverse conditions, The American Legion has demonstrated that it can maintain and accomplish those ideals and purposes set forth in our Preamble.

God bless you for your noteworthy work.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

JACK C. PLATO, Oregon

My endorsement by the Department of Oregon, at their Department convention, held in June 1982, to be a candidate for National Vice Commander of the Western Division, was a thrill that was looked upon as a culmination of many years of service to The American Legion in Oregon. This was prior to the nomination and election of National Officers at the National Convention in Chicago which could not help but be one of the greatest honors bestowed upon a Legionnaire.

Immediately following National Convention sessions I attended my first N.E.C. meeting as an officer, and was briefed in certain areas that were of the utmost importance to the welfare of all Veterans, and the future of The American Legion.

The Western Division, my area of responsibility, is comprised of the following fourteen departments: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Philippines, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Visiting fourteen Departments, in the limited time that revolves around the important Legion dates, would become an impossibility due to so many variables. Four Departments, Alaska, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Philippines, did not extend an invitation. Two Departments, Idaho, and Colorado, had conflicting dates with Departments with earlier requests.

My first official visitation, representing the National organization, was to the Region 8 Conference held in Bellevue, Washington, in early September. This conference was attended by the Departments in the Northern part of the Western Div.

Region 7 Conference, in San Mateo, California, was intended to be supported by the Southern part of the Division, or by any Department that had missed the Region 8 Conference. These conferences are very informative and should be continued in some form with additional input by knowledgeable Legionnaires from the local areas, given time to prepare their part of the program.

The homecoming for National Commander Al Keller, Jr., in Chicago, prior to the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, during October, was an event that was truly outstanding. The hospitality extended by the many people that worked to present this memorable event are to be commended.

Fall Meetings, held in Indianapolis, in conjunction with Commanders and Adjutants Conference, followed by the N.E.C. meeting, is a week so filled with informative sessions that it is difficult to relate all that was presented by such talented people.

I had the pleasure of hosting an early morning breakfast attended by the Department Commanders and Adjutants from the Western Division. This beneficial get-together giving everyone a chance to get acquainted and exchange ideas should continue.

As presiding officer for the Departments with comparable membership, around 20,000, I found that much more time should be devoted to this type of meeting. The Departments that have a common membership, have problems in common, that could very well be resolved by active participation in a session that gives everyone a chance to expound on their problems.

The highlight of my year as National Vice Commander, had to be the week in Washington, D.C. during the "National Salute To Vietnam Veterans", and the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial. This was a once in a lifetime honor to be able to participate with the Veterans who gave so much at a time when it was not too popular to be patriotic. Veterans Day activities, and being part of such an illustrious group, led by National Commander Al Keller, Jr., when he presented the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, was a tribute to The American Legion and its many members that continue to give so much.

A person is always a bit apprehensive visiting Montana in January, but the weather cooperated and the Department had a very good Fall Conference, and I had the pleasure of speaking to the delegates at their banquet.

Speaking to the Legionnaires and their ladies attending the Mid-Winter Conference Banquets in the state of Washington and Wyoming was also a very nice honor.

I had the very good fortune to participate in the "Membership Action Plan" in Indianapolis in February. This not only gave me a feeling of being a part of the MAP program, but also seeing the staff "in action" at National Headquarters. They are to be commended for their innovative ideas and the extreme talent that it takes to implement the many programs of The American Legion.

The February Conference in Washington D.C. is the time when a Legionnaire has the opportunity to see some of the results of the programing of the National Chairmen and staff, at it's highest level. Meeting with our representatives in Government, and hearing the outstanding speakers that present the issues that are so vital to Veterans, and their dependents, is a lesson that is not soon forgotten.

Making a presentation to the D.E.C. of California, in March, was indeed a challenge. Appearing before a Department with a membership that is seventh place in the nation has a tendency to leave one with a feeling that the Legion is, at times awesome.

Speaking to the March Banquet in Utah was a nice experience for me, coupled with various speaking engagements in my own state of Oregon.

Our National Commander, Al Keller, Jr., had excellent comments when, as part of Oregon's delegation, I met with him at our D.E.C. in April. The Legionnaires of

Oregon were deeply impressed with his attitude towards the so-called "Blue Cap Legionnaire".

The May Meetings in Indianapolis, and especially the truly impressive dedication of the Harry W. Colmery Memorial, is a tribute to The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and staff.

As the presenter of the coveted "Outstanding Cadet In Academic Performance" award, at the June Week Cadet Awards ceremonies, at the United States Air Force Academy, held in Colorado, I had the distinct feeling that the future of the Air Force is in very capable hands.

Being Master of Ceremonies of the "Gordons Gin Good Neighbor Award" luncheon in June, held in New Mexico, honoring Robert Burns for his untiring efforts helping those children that need it most, was a gratifying experience. This award program should definitely be continued, with or without a benefactor. The PR derived from this type of program more than compensates for the efforts of our staff and our volunteers.

Meeting with the Legionnaires in Arizona, and speaking at their Department Convention joint opening was part of a very busy June schedule.

The thrill of speaking to a joint session in my own Department of Oregon, at their Department Convention, also part of the June activities, gave me the opportunity to thank Oregonians for the high honor that they had given to me when they gave me the chance to serve them and the National organization.

Visiting Nevada in July, and speaking at their Department Convention Banquet, proves that hospitality abounds in most Departments, regardless of size.

The various activities listed, coupled with the many functions at the local level, leave a person with the feeling that The American Legion is "Alive and Well".

My congratulations to the Departments that have not forgotten that Membership is the nucleus of our organization, that continues to serve our Veterans, our God, and our Country.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

REV. FATHER JOHN D. KEMPF, Ohio

A day which will long be remembered in my life will be Thursday, August 26, 1982 when at the National Convention in Chicago National Commander Al Keller, Jr. appointed me National Chaplain of The American Legion. To Commander Keller and the American Legion I will be eternally grateful for the opportunity and privilege of serving this great organization.

The following are some of the more important events which I participated in during my year as chaplain—there were many others:

Aug. 26, 1982.—Appointed National Chaplain by Commander Al Keller, Jr. in Chicago, Illinois; N.E.C. meeting followed the convention.

Sept. 11, 1982.—Honored as National Chaplain at 35th Reunion of the 100th Infantry Division Reunion.

Sept. 15, 1982.—"Outstanding Citizen Award" from Richvale Grange.

Sept. 18, 1982.—Attended Department Commander of Ohio Clarence Burkholder Homecoming in Akron, Ohio.

Sept. 24-26, 1982.—American Legion Regional Conference—offered Mass and Ecumenical Services.

Sept. 28, 1982.—Main speaker at 150th Birthday of the City of Minster, Ohio.

Oct. 4, 1982.—Gave Invocation and Benediction for President Ronald Reagan's visit to Columbus, Ohio sponsored by The American Legion and other Veteran groups.

Oct. 6, 1982.—Presided over the Department of Ohio Religious Emphasis Committee; offered resignation as Department of Ohio Chaplain.

Oct. 10-14, 1982.—N.E.C. Meeting in Indianapolis. Offered prayers at all sessions and banquets; appointed by Commander Keller to serve on the committee to judge the National History and Scrap Books Contests.

Nov. 14, 1982.—Homecoming for National Chaplain Father John D. Kempf; presented a flag pole to be dedicated to all veterans in honor of National Chaplain Father John D. Kempf, the flag pole will be erected in front of Saint Ann new parish hall.

Nov. 15-17, 1982.—Conducted National Chaplain's in Indianapolis

Dec. 5, 1982.—Memorial Services for Newcomerstown, Ohio Elks.

Dec. 10-12, 1982.—Department of Ohio Executive Meeting.

Jan. 17, 1983.—Spoke at 4-H District Meeting.

Jan. 29-30, 1983.—Principal speaker at the Department of Ohio Mid-Winter Conference; offered Mass.

Feb. 2, 1983.—Spoke at American Legion Post 178, Van Wert, Ohio Birthday Celebration.

Feb. 6, 1983.— Offered Mass at 9 a.m. and spoke at the Birthday Party of Argone Post 545, Toledo, Ohio; spoke at 7:30 p.m. at Lybargar-Grimm Post 441, Tontogany, Ohio Birthday Party; spoke at Summit County Council Birthday Party, Post 209, Akron Ohio.

Feb. 19-24, 1983.—Washington Conference—Invocations and Benedictions at meetings and dinner.

Feb. 26, 1983.—Principal speaker at the Ohio State Association of Soldier Relief Association in Columbus.

Mar. 12-13, 1983.—Department of Ohio Executive Committee Meeting in Columbus Ohio.

Mar. 14, 1983.—Spoke at National Honor Society for Pickaway County, Ohio.

Mar. 30, 1983.—Spoke at Lewistown High School.

April 9, 1983.—McConnsville Post 24 Birthday Party; Hospitalized for three weeks with phlebitis; misses N.E.C. Meeting and Gibsonburg Post 17 Birthday Party.

June 10-19, 1983.—On executive committee and staff of Buckeye Boy's State, Catholic Chaplain, instructor in City Government, main speaker on Saturday evenings assembly.

July 4, 1983.—Principal speaker at "Rededication of WW I Statue" in Toronto, Ohio.

July 7, 1983.—Department of Ohio Executive Meeting.

July 8-10, 1983.—Department of Ohio State Convention.

July 23-25, 1983.—Boy's Nation in Washington, D.C.; offered Catholic Mass, Ecumenical Services, spoke to the young men and was present when Commander Al Keller laid a wreath on the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier".

Aug. 17-25, 1983.—National Convention in Seattle, Washington; invocation and benedictions at meetings, luncheons, and dinners.

I submitted articles for The Advance on Veterans Day, Four Chaplains and Memorial Day.

N.E.C. Meetings were very impressive because of the quality and quantity of work produced in these few short days. The meetings were interesting and most productive—committee members worked morning, afternoon and evenings. The procedure and decorum of the Executive Committee was exemplary.

The staffs, of National in Indianapolis and Washington, are dedicated people. They are most helpful, cordial and truly "a people dedicated to service of the legionnaire".

It is obvious, upon entering the buildings, of the cleanliness and orderliness of the buildings. Those responsible are to be commended.

"The Man Behind the Chaplain" is Mr. Lee Hardy. For his generous assistance, experience, preception, organization, advice and direction I say, "thanks a million!" May God continue to bless and guide him in helping the chaplain in his role.

The 1982 Annual Conference for Department Chaplains was deemed successful. The group discussions on the subject, "God, Country and Family" were very productive. There were many excellent presentations made by the National staff on the services that can be rendered by chaplains on all levels. The over-riding summary in everything that was said and discussed was "Pass it on. Do not let it stop here." The evening banquet was delicious, entertainment delightful and a fine talk by Past National Chaplain George Rumney.

In helping to judge the National History and Scrap Book Contest, as a clergyman, I noticed the lack of "religious emphasis" in post activities. I do not know if it is a "lack of reporting" or "lack of doing spiritual activities."

A paramount observation is that almost every activity in The American Legion is done in a suprelative manner except the spiritual and yet we say "For God and Country."

The chaplain is called upon to begin and end meetings in prayer; at some levels of The American Legion they sit passively at meetings with no voice or vote; a vacancy that needs to be filled. The role of the chaplain on all levels needs to be stressed as "important."

Sacred Scripture tells us that when we do things for an earthly motive we receive only an earthly reward. When we do them for spiritual motives we receive a spiritual reward.

Sacred Scripture tells us further and makes it very clear that when the Israelites forgot their God and strayed from His commandments they lost favor with Him and their nation and people fell into corruption and national disgrace.

Our basic concept is that our Organization was founded upon the principle of our dependency and close relationship with God. I implore that all Legionnaires and organizations "rededicate" themselves to those principles upon which we were founded, "For God and Country."

REPORT OF NATIONAL HISTORIAN

JAMES W. CONWAY, Massachusetts

"So much is history, and as the historian of the Legion I so record it. What may be the fate of the Legion rests in the hands of the coming and future conventions, and it will fall to some future historian to record the outcome of any change in the policy of our great patriotic organization."

These words are excerpted from the last annual report of Eban Putnam, rendered to the 14th National Convention, Portland, Oregon, September 1932.

Eban Putnam of Massachusetts, the first National Historian, serving from 1920-1933, was a noted scholar, historian, and author as well as a successful businessman. Amongst his many accomplishments and contributions is a little known fact that his was one of the earliest and strongest voices on the national scene in calling to the attention of Congress the desperate need for a National Archives. He was a prime mover in the Legion's successful legislative campaign which won Congress' approval of the appropriation creating the National Archives.

Eban Putnam of Massachusetts truly epitomized what a National Historian should be and is worthy of emulation by all National Historians.

As your National Historian and a Legionnaire from the great Department of Massachusetts, I am both proud and humble to be following in his footsteps and once more extend my gratitude and thanks to National Commander Al Keller, Jr., and to the members of the National Executive Committee, for granting me this opportunity to serve.

Since the August Convention in Chicago, it has been my privilege to attend many National and Department functions including being selected as the Keynote Speaker at the Department of Maine State Convention.

Historically noteworthy were the Washington, D.C. "Vietnam Veteran Salute" and its many activities, including the very moving dedication of the Vietnam Veteran Memorial. Who that attended that dedication could not feel the pride in being a Legionnaire—a member of a giving organization, not one that is forever taking—when our National Commander in his remarks as to the Legion's involvement, announced our contribution of over one million dollars to the Memorial. Furthermore, what could be more stirring than to be able, as I was, to march with our Massachusetts delegation of Legionnaires and Vietnam Veterans up Constitution Avenue to the music and singing of "God Bless America" as rendered by Massachusetts' own Dorothy Slamin Hill's Waltham Post 156, American Legion Band.

The Legion's February Washington, D.C. National Conference was the setting for a major Foreign Policy Address by President Ronald Reagan and we of the Department of Massachusetts were privileged to have as our guest at our annual luncheon, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr.

Judging of the 1982 National One-Year History Book and Post Scrapbook Contests was held at Indianapolis prior to the October N.E.C. meeting. There were 19 entries in the History and 23 entries in the Scrapbook Contest, putting it on a par with last year's contest—a total of 42—the greatest number of books submitted for judging. Massapequa Post 1066, North Massapequa, New York placed first in the History Contest receiving \$200 and a Certificate. Winning \$200 and a Certificate for First Place Scrapbook was Montgomery Post 2, Montgomery, Alabama.

During the year, the office of the National Historian answers hundreds of requests for information and mailed out over a thousand pieces of literature on the proper compilation of a History or Scrapbook.

The work of the National Historian could not have been successfully accomplished without the sage advice, dedicated professionalism, and continuing cooperation of National Librarian Tom Hull, to whom I am indebted. He is not only an invaluable asset to this National Historian but to the entire National Organization.

Tom is ably assisted by the following competent staff: Mary Ann Rabinovich, Kathryn Gibbons, Connie Lamm and Deborah Scaife—to them, my personal thanks.

I am pleased to report, that due to the efforts of Tom Hull, the process has been initiated, which hopefully with the final approval of the National Organization, to

designate Richard J. Loosbrock, Ph.D., Professor of History at Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska to do a definitive history of the American Legion from 1945-1983 to bridge the gap since Jones' History was completed in 1946. This history when completed, will be an invaluable resource to Legion Historians and worthy of donation to local libraries to tell the Legion story.

During the term of the late Past National Historian Arnold J. Stockstad, a most valuable precedent was set that lent continuity and enhanced planning on the Department and Post level by setting out a five year plan stipulating what types of books would be judged during that year.

In keeping with this policy, I am recommending that the following contests take place: 1984—both a Department One-Year History Book and One-Year Scrapbook; 1985—Post One-Year Scrapbook; 1986—Post One-Year History Book; 1987—Post One-Year Scrapbook; 1988—Post One-Year History Book.

With the exception of the 1984 Contest, and subsequent Department Contests which take place only every five years, I am recommending that there be only one type of book judged annually. This will serve a dual purpose in relieving the additional burden placed upon your National Librarian and staff since 1976 and gives the judges more time to consider the books submitted.

Furthermore, it will allow the upgrading of prize money without increasing the present \$1,000 allocations. Each prize would increase \$100, with the exception of the year Department books are judged, with First Prize-\$300, Second-\$250, Third-\$175, Fourth-\$150, Fifth-\$125. All other books submitted will receive a Certificate of Participation.

I further recommend, for the consideration of future National Commanders, that the judges appointed to score the books be selected from Past National Historians and Past Department Historians who are already on call to the October Committee/Commission meetings at Indianapolis.

In closing, I would like to express my personal thanks to the National Association of Department Historians and their President, Delfo Barabani also of Massachusetts, for their continuing cooperation with the Office of the National Historian and their dedication to preserving the history of The American Legion and engendering more interest in their respective Departments and its Posts in the compilation and preservation of their history.

Memorial Roll Call

Each year we lose many of our outstanding Legionnaires, men who have contributed much to the success of the organization.

The official roll call of these leaders who answered the call of Taps since the 1978 National Convention is as follows:

Dr. Charles A. Ainslie, Panama
 Thomas L. Allander, Pennsylvania
 Arthur Anleu, Panama
 Lou Babb, Idaho and Montana
 William H. Babcock, Alaska
 Bernard J. Bagert, Louisiana
 Arthur Bartell, Florida
 Adam Benjamin, Jr., Indiana
 Edward F. Bennett, Florida
 Engelbert J. Berger, Panama
 William R. Black, Nevada
 Charles M. Blackburn, Kentucky
 A. J. Blair, Canada
 Robert C. Booth, New York
 Samuel M. Bowe, Oregon
 C. N. Brainard, Canada
 Richard S. Brogie, Panama
 Charles H. Burnett, Arizona
 Gideon S. Burnham, Jr., Vermont
 Ikie M. Butler, Florida
 Albert R. Cage, Florida
 Vern D. Calloway, Panama
 Clarence S. Campbell, Vermont
 Jack Carlough, Florida
 John G. Carr, Florida
 M. E. Carver, Canada
 Frank H. Caton, Florida

Rocco Cerullo, New York
 Allen Chamberlain, Florida
 C. A. Chillingsworth, Florida
 Edward Chizek, Nebraska
 Harry R. Churchill, Canada
 Dr. G. B. Crabtree, Idaho
 Arthur J. Craig, Florida
 Fred Cruse, Panama
 Harold A. Cummins, Illinois
 Abram Cunix, Ohio
 J. "Doc" Daffin, Florida
 Kay A. Davis, North Carolina
 Harold K. Davison, New Hampshire
 Robert J. deSanctis, New York
 Peter Devecka, Pennsylvania
 Michael G. DiLorenzo, Rhode Island
 Albert Sydney Dodd, Jr., Georgia
 Gerald P. Domenick, Pennsylvania
 Grandin E. Drake, Panama
 Harry F. Dugan, Vermont
 L. C. Dunagan, Jr., Georgia
 William M. Dunson, Florida
 Joseph W. Edwards, Jr., Illinois
 Carl N. Espeseth, Minnesota
 Rev. Milton B. Faust, D.D., North Carolina
 Garnet E. Ferguson, West Virginia

- Sydney A. R. Finer, Connecticut
 Ivan E. Forsythe, Maine
 Robert A. Francis, Sr., Florida
 Paul Frank, Ohio
 Sam Friedman, Tennessee
 Emmett V. Galloway, Panama
 Waldo B. Gilley, Panama
 John Girvin, Florida
 Leslie K. Gridley, Illinois
 Norman E. Hagen, Sr., Florida
 Roland Haggett, Maine
 Clyde V. Hayman, Florida
 Waino E. Hendrickson, Alaska
 P. H. Henley, Canada
 Emily J. P. Herbert, New Jersey
 Paul M. Herbert, Ohio
 Herbert Hessler, Canada
 Robert K. High, Florida
 Warren B. Hillman, California
 Albert Hirth, Florida
 Richard W. "Wimp" Hodson, South
 Dakota
 Rev. Albert J. Hoffmann, Iowa
 Spessard Lindsey Holland, Florida
 Holger G. Holm, New Jersey
 Eunice A. Horne, Florida
 Glenn F. Horton, Ohio
 Earl W. Hoshal, Minnesota
 C. Russell Huber, Alaska
 George Humphrey, Maine
 Cornelius D. Johnson, Florida
 Harry A. Johnston, Florida
 Bascom F. Jones, Tennessee
 Rev. W. H. Jones, Canada
 Richard James Keelan, Wyoming
 Thomas F. Kehoe, Florida
 Rogers Kelley, Texas
 Edward W. Kennedy, Pennsylvania
 Hayes Kennedy, Illinois
 John J. Kennedy, Panama
 William C. Kesting, Maryland
 A. Rice King, Florida
 Howard C. Kingdom, Ohio
 Saxo A. Kirk, South Dakota
 Dr. Joseph Kise, Minnesota
 David E. Kisliuk, District of Columbia
 Robert S. Knox, Panama
 Wilbur P. Kramer, Louisiana
 Dr. Harry H. Kretzler, Sr., Washington
 Albert V. LaBiche, Louisiana
 Frank E. Landis, Nebraska
 Joseph G. Leonard, Connecticut
 Irvin H. Lesser, Panama
 D. C. Lewis, North Carolina
 James L. Lingenfelter, Colorado
 Ronald F. Lutes, France
 Joseph F. Lutes, Indiana
 Charles MacAluso, New Mexico
 Edmund R. MacVittie, Panama
 W. F. Martens, Arizona
 Frederick E. Martin, Sr., Virginia
 J. Mashburn, Canada
 Frank Massina, Florida
 Albert W. Matthews, District of
 Columbia
 Norman C. McDonald, West Virginia
 John R. McDougal, South Dakota
 David McDougall, Michigan
 Edward F. McSweeney, Jr., New York
 Russell Meadows, Arizona
 Lowell H. Mills, Florida
 Ivan H. Mitchell, Illinois
 William H. Moon, Illinois
 Hon. Robert F. "Sam" Murphy,
 Massachusetts
 Carl V. Nelson, Arizona
 Joseph F. Newman, Jr., New York
 Frank A. Nietupski, Massachusetts
 L. P. Nolin, Canada
 A. Lee Oder, California
 Henry W. O'Dom, Mississippi
 John F. Oster, Sr., Panama
 Honore "Henry" Ouellette, New
 Hampshire
 Peter Outcalt, Ohio
 Victor O. "Vic" Overcash, Montana
 Quincy Panteah, New Mexico
 S. J. Peters, Florida
 Joseph B. Phelan, Canada
 Louise Philipps, Florida
 C. Kenneth Randall, Illinois
 Fr. Leo James Raus, Nebraska
 Audie T. Redmond, Iowa
 M. A. "Fred" Rennie, Oklahoma
 Edward P. Rhatigan, New York
 James Richardson, California
 Granville S. Ridley, Tennessee
 C. J. Santucci, Florida
 Hon. Jack Saunders, Florida
 Keith George Sebelius, Kansas
 Will Edd Shelton, Jr., Kentucky
 Mason B. Sickles, Canada
 Fred N. Sleep, Georgia
 H. Vincent Strout, Massachusetts
 John F. Supper, Missouri
 Lee H. Tate, Florida
 Marshall M. Taylor, Michigan
 Bill Till, Louisiana
 Ray R. Tillson, Washington
 Preston M. Trim, Jr., Panama
 William F. Trinke, Wisconsin
 Everett G. Tripp, Colorado
 Kenneth E. Trueblood, Indiana
 Wallace E. Utley, Alaska
 Byron C. Waggoner, Indiana
 Harry W. Walker, Washington
 Harold J. Warner, Oregon
 Herman M. Wilson, Maryland
 Loris A. Winn, Washington
 Rev. Irvin Q. Wood, Idaho
 Alton A. Wright, Alabama
 Arthur L. "Bud" Yeaw, Vermont
 James R. Zoll, Indiana

REPORT OF NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

B. G. DAVIS, New York

Contracts

Contracts and/or amendments to contracts prepared by the National Judge Advocate and contracts entered into by The American Legion which were reviewed and approved by the National Judge Advocate

(1) Amendment to the Trust Indenture by and between The American Legion and The Indiana National Bank, Indianapolis, Indiana, Trustee of The American Legion's Retirement Plan. The purpose of the amendment was to permit the investment of Legion Trust funds in the Trustee's pooled fund. A requirement of the Comptroller of the Currency made the amendment necessary.

(2) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Foote & Davies, Inc., a Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, covering the printing, binding and mailing of The American Legion Magazine. The Agreement commenced with the first issue printed subsequent to July 1, 1983 and will terminate with the last issue printed prior to July 1, 1986.

(3) Leasing Agreement by and between Xerox Corporation, Rochester, New York, and The American Legion, for a five (5) year term covering the leasing of a 9,400 copying machine which previously was covered under a rental agreement. The equipment is housed in our Washington, D.C. office.

(4) Leasing Agreement by and between The American Legion and S Q & Associates, covering the leasing of property known as 733-739 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, for a term of five and one-half (5½) years beginning April 1, 1983. This property is used as a parking area for certain employees of the Indianapolis National Headquarters.

(5) Conference Agreement by and between The American Legion and The American University, Washington, D.C., covering housing, meeting facilities and food service for the Boys Nation Conference in Washington, D.C., during the period July 20, 1983 to July 31, 1983.

(6) Statement of Understanding by and between The American Legion, the American Blood Commission, The American Association of Blood Banks, the American Red Cross, and the Council of Community Blood Centers, in which each organization pledges to work together in support of all volunteer blood donation programs across the country so that the needs of patients requiring transfusions are served.

(7) Recording Contract by and between The American Legion and Martin Productions, Seattle, Washington, covering the recording, production, duplication, sales and distribution of audio recordings during the 1983 Seattle, Washington, National Convention.

(8) Agreement by and between Richard L. Fleischer & Associates, Inc., Roslyn Heights, New York, and The American Legion, covering the purchase of a Carrier Route Code System for use by Divisions at National Headquarters.

(9) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Fabricon Company, Chicago, Illinois, a data processing service corporation, covering the purpose of eliminating duplications, merging and supplying single copy print-outs to the Legion all of which were to be used as a part of a direct mailing project at National Headquarters.

(10) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Marden-Kane, Inc., a New York Corporation, for the purpose of providing advertising services and counsel in conjunction with the testing of a special national membership awards program being conducted by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee.

(11) Contract by and between The American Legion's Employees' League and Local No. 3 (Indianapolis, Indiana), of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, covering the services of musicians for the Employees' League Christmas Party on December 17, 1982, held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

(12) Standard List Protection Agreement by and between The American Legion and Foote & Davies, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, a Printer of the The American Legion Magazine, covering the protection of magnetic tapes which will be supplied by the Legion to Foote & Davies for mass mailing pieces to our membership periodically throughout the year 1983.

(13) The Office of the National Judge Advocate reviewed prior to execution, all insurance policies and riders to existing insurance policies in which The American Legion is the named insured.

(14) The Office of the National Judge Advocate reviewed all contracts in connection with The American Legion National Baseball Program prior to execution.

(15) The National Judge Advocate also reviewed all National Emblem Sales Division contracts for the year 1983 and the bonds furnished in connection therewith, prior to approval and execution, covering the purchase of specific items for sale, including but not limited to emblems and other paraphernalia.

Litigation

Civil Action No. 79-004350-NO

Litigation styled:

DONALD F. KROMER, PLAINTIFF

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, a congressionally chartered veterans organization, and DONALD B. WARSTLER, jointly and severally, DEFENDANTS

On November 7, 1979, we were served with a Summons and Complaint by Plaintiff's attorneys who had brought a suit in the Circuit Court, Alpena County, Michigan. It is alleged that on August 17, 1978, Plaintiff was an invited guest of John Warstler, son of one of the Defendants, Donald B. Warstler, at a cottage located on Higgins Lake, Roscommon County, Michigan. It is further alleged that Donald Warstler maintains the cottage on Higgins Lake and that the dock on the lake is located on property owned, maintained and controlled by the Department of Natural Resources, a branch of the State of Michigan. It is further alleged that the dock, through a committee arrangement, is maintained and controlled by the American Legion, Department of Michigan and The American Legion.

It is further alleged that Plaintiff dove off the dock into water that was 24 inches deep and as the result suffered injuries to his spinal cord and is presently a quadriplegic.

On November 29, 1979, I transmitted the Summons and Complaint to our insurance carrier for defense. I suggested to the carrier that it seek through defense counsel a Motion for Summary Judgment. Thereafter, I furnished to defense lawyers several cases to assist them in the preparation and filing of the Motion.

On July 3, 1980, defense counsel filed a Motion for Summary Judgment with supporting brief. Thereafter, counsel for Plaintiff filed a brief in opposition to our Motion, with supporting brief, for Summary Judgment.

On September 15, 1980, arguments on the Motion for Summary Judgment were heard by the Court. His Honor denied our Motion for Summary Judgment, without prejudice, and indicated that after our discovery has been completed, he might consider renewal of the Motion.

On May 14, 1982, Plaintiff's attorney deposed National Adjutant Spanogle and me at Indianapolis, Indiana. We also at that time responded to a Motion to produce documents.

On August 18, 1982, our attorneys negotiated a settlement, insofar as the National Organization is concerned, in the amount of \$15,000. You may now consider this litigation closed.

No. 77158082-NI

Litigation styled:

LOWELL GRIMSHAW, PLAINTIFF

US.

JESSE TATE SPARKMAN, AMERICAN LEGION, AMERICAN LEGION CHIEF PONTIAC POST,
VFW, VFW POST 6756, DEFENDANTS

On March 17, 1980, we were served with a Summons and Complaint by attorneys for Plaintiff, who brought suit in the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland, State of Michigan. Defendants include Jesse Tate Sparkman, The American Legion, the VFW, American Legion Post No. 63, Department of Michigan, and VFW Post 6756, Department of Michigan.

Plaintiffs maintain that American Legion Post No. 63, Department of Michigan and VFW Post 6756, served intoxicating liquors to Defendant, Jesse Tate Sparkman, knowing he was visibly intoxicated at the time of such service and incapable of conducting himself in a reasonable and prudent manner while driving his automobile, and in violation of Michigan statutes.

It is alleged that Mr. Sparkman, while in an intoxicated state, operated his automobile at an excessive rate of speed, drove recklessly, negligently, willfully and wantonly, culminating in his striking Plaintiff in the rear with such force that Plaintiff suffered several multiple injuries requiring surgical and medical intervention. It is also alleged that Plaintiff's injuries are permanent in nature.

Plaintiffs seek damages and exemplary damages in an amount to exceed \$10,000 for his injuries and his wife seeks damages for loss of consortium.

I turned this cause over to our insurance carrier for defense and offered cases and authorities to the law firm assigned to the case to support a Motion for Summary Judgment so as to sever The American Legion from the case.

On June 12, 1980, I filed an affidavit with the Court stating, among other things, that The American Legion is not nor has ever been a liquor licensee within the State of Michigan. I further informed the Court that we were not personally served with the Summons and Complaint but rather were served through the United States mail. I will keep you informed as this case progresses.

File No. 81-62-NO

Litigation styled:

MARION THOMAS and GLENN THOMAS, PLAINTIFFS

US.

NONESUCH POST No. 462, AMERICAN LEGION, a Michigan corporation; AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, a Michigan corporation; THE AMERICAN LEGION, a National Organization; DUANE ROEHM; and RICHARD GRAY d.b.a. DICK'S DUGOUT, DEFENDANTS

On June 24, 1981, a Summons and Complaint was served upon me by mail in connection with the above cited litigation.

Plaintiff's attorneys brought their suit in the Circuit Court, State of Michigan, for the County of Ontonagon, alleging that Defendants were responsible for Plaintiff's injuries which were sustained while she was an alleged business invitee at a softball game. It is alleged that because Defendants were careless, reckless and negligent, Plaintiff suffered severe injury to her left eye, causing loss of sight therein and permanent disfigurement after having been struck by a softball during the course of a softball game.

On June 29, 1981, I turned this matter over to our insurance carrier.

On March 14, 1982, we were served with written Interrogatories. On March 30, 1982, we provided Answers to the Interrogatories. In preparation for the filing of a Motion for Summary Judgment a affidavit was prepared and signed by the National Adjutant on June 2, 1982, in support of the Motion. I shall keep you advised as this litigation progresses.

82-208025-NS

Litigation styled:

JOAN KUCZMARSKI, as Mother and Next Friend of JOHN K. KUCZMARSKI, a Minor,
and JOSEPH J. KUCZMARSKI, PLAINTIFFS

vs.

AMERICAN LEGION HAROLD J. CHATELL Post 426, a Michigan corporation, and
AMERICAN LEGION, a foreign corporation, Jointly and Severally, DEFENDANTS

On May 3, 1982, we were served with a Summons and Complaint in the above cited litigation which was brought in the Circuit Court for the County of Wayne in the State of Michigan.

It is alleged in the Complaint that on October 5, 1978, Defendants in violation of Michigan law served to Plaintiff, while at the club bar of American Legion Harold J. Chatell Post No. 426, intoxicating beverages after it was apparent that at the time of said service he was visibly intoxicated. It is further alleged that as a result of Plaintiff's intoxicated condition, he was severely and permanently injured.

A judgment is sought in an amount which is fair and just and consistent with the laws of evidence, as the jury shall determine.

This matter was turned over to our insurance carrier on May 3, 1982.

On November 5, 1982, we were served with Plaintiffs' Interrogatories. We responded to Plaintiffs' Interrogatories on December 10, 1982.

On February 1, 1983, we were served with a "Notice of Taking Deposition Duces Tecum." On February 14, 1983, National Adjutant Spanogle was deposed by Plaintiffs' Attorney in Indianapolis, Indiana. At that time we also produced documents requested by Plaintiffs. We will keep you informed as this litigation progresses. Litigation styled:

RONALD M. PAULL and PAMELA J. PAULL, PLAINTIFFS

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION CORPORATION, a federally-chartered corporation; THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO, a corporation; THE AMERICAN LEGION POST No. 137 (Haxtun, Colorado); THE AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING CORPORATION OF HAXTUN, COLORADO, a corporation, DEFENDANTS

During the Chicago National Convention National Adjutant Spanogle was by hand served with a Summons and Complaint by Dean Hunter, Department Adjutant of Colorado, in the above cited cause of action. He was also served with three (3) sets of written Interrogatories by Plaintiffs.

Plaintiffs filed their cause of action in the District Court, County of Boulder, State of Colorado. It is alleged that Plaintiff while on the premises of Post No. 137, fell suffering a severed spinal cord which has rendered him permanently quadriplegic. Plaintiff alleges that his injuries are the result of the negligence of those who control the activities of Post No. 137.

Plaintiff and his wife seek a Judgment in their favor, jointly and severally, to adequately compensate each of them for their injuries, damages and losses, together with interest and costs and other extraordinary expenses. I turned this case over to our insurance carrier on September 1, 1982.

On October 25, 1982, we responded to Plaintiffs' first, second and third set of Interrogatories. On November 2, 1982, Plaintiffs served upon us a request for Production of Documents, to which we responded on November 8, 1982.

Venue of the case has been changed from Denver to Phillips County. We answered the Complaint in this case on April 27, 1983. I shall keep you informed as this litigation progresses.

In the Circuit Court for Baltimore County at Law

Litigation styled:

LEROY G. CARROLL, 31 Kenmar Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21055, PLAINTIFF

vs.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 183 a.k.a. PARKVILLE AMERICAN LEGION a.k.a. PUTTY HILL
AMERICAN LEGION, 2301 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234

Serve on: Richard Prevail, Commander, 2301 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore,
Maryland 21234

and

RICHARD PREVAIL, COMMANDER, American Legion Post 183 a.k.a. Putty Hill
American Legion a.k.a., 2301 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234

and

THE AMERICAN LEGION, War Memorial Building, Baltimore, Maryland

Serve on: Daniel M. Burkhardt, Resident Agent, War Memorial Building, Baltimore,
Maryland

and

THE AMERICAN LEGION, National Headquarters, 700 North Pennsylvania Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Serve on: Al Keller, Jr., President, 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis,
Indiana 46206, DEFENDANTS

PERSON OR PERSONS whose names will be furnished to the Court at a later date,
whose identity is known only to the DEFENDANTS

On March 21, 1983, we were served with a Summons and Complaint and written Interrogatories in the above styled litigation which was filed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County in Towson, Maryland.

Plaintiff alleges that on March 26, 1982, while on the premises of American Legion Post 183, as an invitee participating in the Post's "Bonanza Night," he asserted to a "blackjack" dealer of the Post that he miscounted cards. The dealer allegedly thereafter signalled two (2) individuals to remove Plaintiff from the Post premises. In the course of doing so Plaintiff alleges he was viciously attacked, which resulted in numerous bodily injuries and permanent disfigurement of his face. Plaintiff seeks \$100,000 in compensatory damages and \$100,000 in punitive damages.

I turned this case over to our insurance carrier on March 23, 1983. I will keep you informed as this litigation progresses.

Litigation styled:

DONALD T. REGAN, Secretary of the Treasury, et al., appellants

vs.

TAXATION WITH REPRESENTATION OF WASHINGTON, APPELLEE

*ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT*

BRIEF OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AS AMICUS CURIAE

I have disseminated timely bulletins to all Legion Officials during the past year on this litigation so that they would be kept fully informed. However, in order to make a record of this case I will reiterate what I stated in my bulletin of June 6, 1983, following the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on May 23, 1983.

The American Legion filed an amicus curiae brief in this litigation on December 16, 1982, in support of the brief of the United States Government. The case was orally argued before the Supreme Court on March 22, 1983, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The decision of the Supreme Court was handed down on May 23, 1983.

In an unanimous decision, the Supreme Court of the United States has upheld the right of veterans' organizations to lobby without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

The 9-0 decision reversed a ruling of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, citing Congress's "longstanding policy of compensating veterans for their past contributions by providing them with numerous advantages."

The Court rejected the position pressed by Taxation with Representation (TWR), a Washington-based group that lobbies to promote its views of the "public interest" in the area of federal taxation. TWR filed the initial suit after being denied tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service because a substantial part of its activities consisted of attempting to influence legislation. TWR claimed that the tax statutes prohibiting substantial lobbying by them violated their First Amendment rights and also violated the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution because the Tax Code permitted veterans' organizations to lobby and yet to retain their tax-exempt status, but denied the same to charitable organizations listed under 501(c)(3) of the Code.

The Supreme Court rejected both arguments, holding that there was no violation of the First Amendment, nor was there any violation of the Fifth Amendment.

The Court said: "Congress had not infringed any First Amendment rights or regulated any First Amendment activity, but has simply chosen not to subsidize TWR's lobbying out of public funds." The Court also said that Section 501(c)(3) of the Code does not violate the equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment, in that the Sections of the Code at issue do not employ any suspect classifications.

The Court observed that "although TWR does not have as much money as it wants, and thus cannot exercise its freedom of speech as much as it would like, the Constitution 'does not confer an entitlement to such funds as may be necessary to realize all the advantages of that freedom.'"

Writing on behalf of the Court, Justice William H. Rehnquist said: "It is not irrational for Congress to decide that tax-exempt charities such as TWR should not further benefit at the expense of taxpayers-at-large by obtaining a further subsidy for lobbying . . . It is also not irrational for Congress to decide that, even though it will not subsidize substantial lobbying by charities generally, it will subsidize lobbying by veterans' organizations." Veterans, the Justice stated, "have been obliged to drop their own affairs and take up the burdens of the nation . . . subjecting themselves to the mental and physical hazards as well as the economic and family detriments which are peculiar to military service and which do not exist in normal civil life. . . ."

In a concurring opinion, Justice Harry A. Blackmun stated: "The benefit provided to veterans' organizations is rationally based on the Nation's time-honored policy of 'compensating veterans for their past contributions.'"

In the amicus curiae brief filed before the Supreme Court by the American Legion, significant distinctions were drawn between charitable organizations such as TWR that lobby extensively, and organizations like the The American Legion that are classified under 501(c)(19) of the Tax Code as veterans' organizations.

In its brief, the Legion stated: "Veterans' organizations simply do not pose the kinds of dangers with which Congress was concerned in imposing lobbying restrictions on charitable organizations—to wit, permitting essentially private interest lobbying by wealthy individuals who, by virtue of substantial deductible contributions, could control small 501(c)(3) organizations lacking effective membership control."

Moreover, the brief pointed out that veterans' organizations "do not depend for their financial support on deductible contributions from small groups of wealthy individuals, or from a floating general public that cannot demand accountability, but rather are principally supported by membership contributions."

Noting that veterans' organizations are congressionally chartered, subject to special reporting requirements, internal controls and congressional oversight, the Legion's brief also stated: "The Legion, for example, will not lobby on any issue unless its membership has formally authorized its leadership to take such action. Because the lobbying activity of The American Legion, like other veterans' groups, reflects the welfare and interests of veterans—a large and substantial group—it cuts across racial, political and occupational lines, and many other special interest criteria."

Many complex legal issues were involved in this case, nevertheless, the Court in its decision unequivocally upheld and reiterated the historical proposition that veterans are indeed a privileged group and, therefore, are entitled to a special status in our society. The Court specifically linked this privilege to the past contributions of veterans of this nation and said Congress was correct to recognize it.

Bequests

During the past year the National Organization was the recipient of the following bequest in connection with which the paper work was handled by the Office of the National Judge Advocate.

In the matter of the Estate of Russell Stevens a.k.a. Russell Eugene Stevens, we were bequeathed \$439.70, representing our share of the estate.

The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof

In accordance with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) the Office of the National Judge Advocate has filed all of the necessary Annual Return Reports and allied documents for the calendar year 1982 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof. The office of the National Judge Advocate also prepared this Summary Annual Report for the Legion's Retirement Plan and arranged the distribution thereof as required by law.

Opinions Rendered

The National Judge Advocate has rendered 790 written opinions on questions which have been submitted by the several Departments and/or Posts of The American Legion, National Officers, staff members and individual members of our organization. These opinions involved matters legal, such as contractors, probate matters, federal tax questions, torts, insurance matters, articles of incorporation, civil rights' statutes, retirement benefits under ERISA and other matters of a legal nature; problems concerning the interpretation and construction of the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, policy matters, and matters covering the internal affairs of The American Legion, its Department and Posts, many of which matters required a great deal of legal research. In each instance, when appropriate, a copy of the opinion rendered was furnished to each of the following so that they would be acquainted with the decision affecting their Department: National Executive Committeeman, Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and Department Judge Advocate of the Department involved.

Many oral opinions were also rendered to the National Officers, National Commission Chairmen, to Department Officers and to staff Directors of the National Organization upon subjects involving matters legal, financial, administrative and policy.

There were 18 written opinions rendered during the year to the National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, in response to queries submitted to her for determination by me.

The National Judge Advocate has also rendered oral advice on matters legal and administrative to the National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary on many occasions during the past year.

The American Legion Magazine

The National Judge Advocate in accordance with established policy, has reviewed all manuscripts of articles destined for future publication in the American Legion Magazine, for the purpose of expunging statements or material questionable in character, contained therein which might subject The American Legion to a suit in libel. To date 66 manuscripts have been reviewed and appropriate comments in connection therewith were transmitted, when necessary, to the Editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Firing Line

At the 1955 National Convention of the American Legion it was concluded that all statements made in each issue of the Firing Line should be documented and that the National Judge Advocate should review and approve each issue prior to publication in order to protect The American Legion from actions in libel. In accordance therewith, all issues have been reviewed and either approved by the National Judge Advocate prior to publication, or rejected in whole or in part, with appropriate comments.

Parliamentary Duties

The National Judge Advocate attended the past National Convention of the American Legion and all meetings of the National Executive Committee and has served both bodies in the capacity of National Parliamentarian.

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

The National Judge Advocate, as Chairman of the National Retirement Committee of National Headquarters, The American Legion, has attended and participated in all meetings held by this Committee during the past year.

I have also, in response to requests, drafted legal and other documents for the use of National Officers, and Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Last, during the past year I have met with and attended numerous conferences with officials of outside corporations, for the purpose of representation or for the rendering of advice and guidance for and on behalf of The American Legion on matter legal and administrative.

In conclusion, the National Judge Advocate wishes to thank all National Officers, Department Officials, and members of the National Executive Committee for the valuable assistance and cooperation extended to him during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

B. G. DAVIS,
National Judge Advocate.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

WILLIAM D. JACKSON, Indiana, *Executive Director*

The Executive Director, whose office is located in the National Headquarters, Indianapolis, has four major responsibilities.

(1) He performs such duties as may be assigned to him by the National Adjutant to assist in meeting the myriad responsibilities of that office and, during temporary absences of the National Adjutant from the Headquarters, acts for him.

(2) He heads the Administrative Services Division and through it supervises and coordinates the many administrative functions of the Indianapolis Headquarters.

(3) He serves on the Personnel Committee of the Headquarters, the National Retirement Committee, Publications Advisory Board, and is Chairman of the Management Review Board.

(4) He coordinates EDP-Computer operations, which has a Director reporting to the Executive Director.

Included in the Administrative Services Division of the Indianapolis Headquarters are the following administrative functions: Cashier; Mail; Purchasing; Graphic Arts; General Supply . . . stock, receiving, shipping; Library, Archives, E. A. Blackmore Museum; Communications and Printing; building maintenance; Cafeteria; Personnel Division; Finance section and Insurance section.

The Administrative Services Division also provides all secretarial assistance to the executive officers of The American Legion.

Computer Center

The EDP-Computer Center is currently responsible for the following programs:

Updating of "The American Legion Magazine," SAL, Firing Line, Advance, and Legislative Bulletin mailing lists; and the printing of mailing labels and renewal notices.

Production of direct membership renewal notices and registers.

The production of membership cards and registers, department accounting reports, statistical information, post questionnaire reports and welcome back notices.

The printing of state paper mailing labels, upon request. PUFL members updating and financial checks.

The maintenance of inventory controls, purchasing controls and billing applications for The American Legion Emblem Division.

Emblem Sales invoices and reports.

Production of all general ledger accounting information.

Maintenance of the mailing list and automated grading for the Extension Institute.

Production of audit control and circulation analysis reports for "The American Legion Magazine."

Production of inventory control and purchase order control of National Headquarters.

Accounts receivable.
 Retirement Investment program.
 Furniture and Fixtures Inventory and Depreciation reports.
 Direct mail solicitation programs.
 Consolidated Post Reporting.
 National Commission and Committee list.

Statistical Tables

The following statistical tables are indicative of the volume of work routinely performed by this Division:

Mail, June 1, 1982, through May 31, 1983

Incoming letters (distributed to various divisions for processing)	6,472,953
Incoming parcels.....	2,484
Outgoing letters.....	239,116
Outgoing parcels (exclusive of national emblem sales).....	87,708

Freight and express, June 1, 1982, through May 31, 1983

Out (cartons).....	1,800
Out (pounds).....	64,399
UPS (in).....	3,528
UPS (out).....	7,208
Permit 719 outgoing.....	2,849,765

Printing and communications, June 1, 1982, through May 31, 1983

Envelopes and labels addressed.....	385,182
Letters transcribed.....	2,199
800 ETS.....	28,736
A/M varityper/processor.....	57,166
Telegrams (in 369, out 436).....	805
Binding.....	5,500
9400.....	1,480,742
2600.....	86,981
3300.....	45,397
Offset 1250 (reprographics).....	5,352,230

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Library

THOMAS V. HULL, Librarian

Satisfactory progress has continued during the year in increasing our various records, such as: the book collection, national and department records, American Legion publications, pamphlet and subject correspondence files, biographies of prominent Legionnaires and miscellaneous material.

Books were donated by individuals and placed in the Verna B. Grimm Memorial Book Collection to honor the memory of: Mrs. Emily J. P. Herbert, Harry H. Kretzler, Sr., M.D., Robert A. Francis, Sr., Cornelius D. Johnson, Mrs. Louise Phillips, Ronald E. Loubert, Leslie K. Gridley, Herman M. Wilson, Frank A. Nietupski, Katherine E. McDowell, Shirley Workman, David Jones, Arthur R. Burgess, David J. Fitzmaurice, Fred D. Smith, Constance M. Simmons, Jack Sloan, Emory B. Rockwell, Paul E. Dale, and Chris Johnson.

Special appreciation is extended to Mr. and Mrs. George H. Cornelius, Jr., Indianapolis, Ind., to the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion, Arthur M. McDowell, Mrs. Herberta T. Stark, Charles C. Lilly American Legion Post 149, Waldoboro, Maine, Fred D. Smith III, Archibald Laird, and Robert H. Barnes, Battle Creek, Michigan, for contributions of books to the Grimm Collection. Mr. Barnes also gave us books in Living Memory of his mother, Mrs. Mary H. Barnes, Muncie, Indiana.

Mr. Richard C. Davis, Department Historian of Virginia, donated a copy of the book entitled "History of The American Legion Department of Virginia, 50 Years, 1919-1969", by Gates R. Richardson.

The papers and memorabilia of James F. O'Neal, Manchester, New Hampshire, a past national commander of The American Legion, were donated by his family.

Mr. Donald E. Johnson, Hoover Presidential Library Association, Inc., West Branch, Iowa, and a past national commander of The American Legion, donated a copy of Dr. George Nash's book entitled "The Life of Herbert Hoover: The Engineer."

Mrs. Gertrude Hill, Palm Bay, Florida, presented the library with a lovely oil seascape painting of the Atlantic coast near her home which she had painted.

Mr. Vernon Useldinger, Adjutant, American Legion of North Dakota presented a 13-volume set of Official Bulletins, covering the periods beginning on May 10, 1917 and concluding on March 31, 1919, dealing with the First World War.

The book "Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Directory of Names" was presented by Harold J. Kelly, Administrative Assistant, Washington Office, The American Legion.

Commemorative history of the Seventh Armored Division was presented by the author, Colonel Neil M. Chapin, U.S.A., Retired.

Mrs. Portia Christian, Franklin, Ind., donated the book entitled "The Atterbury File", compiled by Custer Baker Middle School students in Franklin. It is the illustrated history of Camp Atterbury military camp located near Franklin.

The "History of Dundalk American Legion Post & Unit No. 38, 1932-1932, Dundalk, Maryland", was presented by Donald S. Williams, Historian, American Legion of Maryland.

Mr. Ray A. Randolph, Indianapolis, Ind., donated 103 books written about Abraham Lincoln.

The book "The ROA Story: a History of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States", by John T. Carlton and John F. Slinkman, was donated by the Association.

Mr. Jack M. Howell, alternate national executive committeeman of Nevada, donated a document entitled "War Comes to the United States: December 7, 1941, the First 30 Hours", as reported to Time, Life, Fortune News Bureau from the United States and abroad, and a map showing World War II in the Pacific covering all of

the events from Pearl Harbor to the Japanese surrender on the Battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

Mr. Richard J. Wilde, Commander, American Legion of Panama Canal, donated "Upstart", a publication of Nathaniel J. Owen Post 3, Gatun, Canal Zone, and the publication of Guatamala Post No. 1, Guatamala, Central America, entitled "Ruthless Revenge".

"Fifty Year History of The Sons of The American Legion, 1932-1982", given by the author, J. R. Stilwell, a past national commander of the SAL.

Time/Life books on the Seafarers and the Epic of Flight given by the late Dr. Harry H. Kretzler, Sr., Edmonds, Washington.

Mr. Carl E. Smith, Hope, Ind., donated a copy of the book "The Story of The 139th Field Artillery, American Expeditionary Forces", by Robert L. Moorhead.

Mr. Bernard J. Chisholm, Duluth, Minn., continues to send us books in the Time/Life series on World War II.

The library has purchased two A. B. Dick Company System 200 Record Processors designed to copy legal and letter-size business records in a microfiche format on film. It was decided to begin in January, 1983, to microfiche all correspondence in our Subject Correspondence file, beginning with the subject: Administration & Organization. This correspondence can be done on the letter-size record processor with 98 documents being put in one jacket. Since January, we have placed a total of 36,203 on microfiche. The nice thing about using this A. B. Dick System is that we can use our same subject headings that are on our present correspondence file folders. This also enables us to utilize our same index for locating the correspondence in this file. Much of the library's correspondence is of a subject nature and considered to be valuable to the National Organization of The American Legion. Much of it dates back to the Legion's formative year in 1919.

Statistical summary of 12 months ending June 30, 1983

General correspondence received coded and filed	13,687
Subject correspondence received coded and filed.....	9,089
Bulletins, minutes, reports, news releases, etc., received and filed.....	723
Pamphlets and clippings received and filed.....	352
Periodicals received	5,144
History material filed.....	9,126
Folders and guides made	1,818
Books catalogued.....	577
Letters written:	
National Historian	584
National Librarian	622
Prominent Legionnaires:	
Mailed questionnaires	1,028
Returned questionnaires	106
Prominent Legionnaire death memos made	171
Prominent Legionnaire card entries	9,963
NEC Mandate cards made and filed.....	178
NC Mandate cards made and filed	203
Inter-Library loans and Outside service.....	60
Requests answered (persons coming to library)	921
Requests answered by:	
Telephone.....	1,535
Tube	486
Interoffice mail	140
Followups sent	288
Materials loaned.....	6,795
Microfilming (pages).....	18,433
Microfiche (pages) January 1983 through June 1983.....	36,203
Alpha list requests.....	589

EMIL A. BLACKMORE MUSEUM

THOMAS V. HULL, Curator

Many American Legionnaires, their families and friends visited our museum this past year.

Significant objects added this past year include:

1933 American Legion national convention cane, Indiana American Legion convention badges and American Legion national convention badges, given by Edward O. Gaynor, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Twelve (12) DONG (Vietnamese coins), given by John M. Greenfield, Little Rock, Arkansas.

World War I army uniform, given by Bill J. McGrew department historian of Arkansas.

North Vietnam Christmas card and a Vietnam War American helicopter calling card, given by Edward Gibson, Farmer City, Illinois.

Philatelic covers given by the late Dr. Harry H. Kretzler, Sr., Edmonds, Washington.

National Sons of The American Legion trophies.

Replica of a check in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) given on August 26, 1982, to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund by The American Legion.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

DANIEL J. O'CONNOR, New York, *Chairman*

K. MICHAEL AYERS, Indiana, *Director*

The National Americanism Commission of The American Legion was created by a recommendation made to and adopted by the National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1919. The recommendation reads as follows: "We recommend the establishment of a National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, whose duty shall be the endeavor to realize in the United States the basic ideal of this Legion of 100 percent Americanism through the planning, establishment and conduct of a continuous, constructive educational system."

It is the objective of the National Americanism Commission to translate Americanism precepts, principles and ideals in an understanding and practical manner to Legion Posts and other groups and individuals, including Young America.

While the Americanism program consists of a broad, objective, general program featuring wide-range community service, better citizenship, youth development and counter-subversive activities, the efforts of the National Americanism Commission are educational in nature and embrace specific objectives as follows:

To promote understanding of the principles of democratic government developing interest in governmental problems, and bringing more citizens to think seriously of the duties of citizenship;

To give sound, practical service in our communities, working to make these communities better and safer places in which to live;

To emphasize religion, encouraging its continuation in the life of every citizen;

To encourage education in every possible manner, presenting School Awards, conducting Oratorical Contests, cooperating with education and citizenship groups, promoting proper Flag Etiquette and display, and sponsoring objective youth-development programs;

To do important work for the youth of America, sponsoring Baseball, the National High School Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Boys Nation, Boy Scout activities and many other citizenship and objective-training activities;

To work for the assimilation of aliens through schools of citizenship and other agencies, and stand for the restriction of immigration so that this assimilation may approach perfection;

To combat subversion and all un-American groups and activities which have for their aim the downfall of democracy in America.

In addition, the National Americanism Commission has continued to be actively involved in legislative matters affecting our democratic way of life. Among our legislative concerns are illegal entry of aliens into this country, voluntary prayer in public buildings, the formation of an FBI Charter and the need for Congressional Internal Security Committees to combat terrorism within the United States.

Also, this Commission has the responsibility for supervision and coordination of two National Standing Committees—the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee and the National Committee on Education.

Following is a report of the various program areas which are the responsibility of the National Americanism Commission and have been implemented during the 1988 American Legion year.

Boys State/Boys Nation

Over 30,000 high school junior boys participated in The American Legion Boys State program in their respective states, and were provided the opportunity to learn and participate in the functions of various governmental procedures at the city, county and state levels. This very effective learning process is continued as two outstanding Boys State citizens are selected by their peers as Delegates to represent their Boys State at Boys Nation to participate in an extensive program of activities

at the Federal level. The annual American Legion Boys Nation program was held on the campus of American University, Washington, D.C., July 22-30. The 100 Boys Nation Delegates receive a unique training program under the instruction of highly experienced volunteer members of The American Legion and former Boys Nation Delegates who serve as junior counselors. Through established procedures, the Delegates perform legislative functions through actual hearings, debates, acting on Bills in session, and introducing resolutions. They become familiar with the electoral process as they conduct party conventions, nominate candidates and elect a President and Vice President. Other offices are filled by appointment. Instruction becomes more meaningful as the Delegates are provided with a series of field trips to Federal agencies, Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court to witness actual operation. The Delegates meet with their respective United States Senators, visit historical sites, the U.S. Naval Academy, and Arlington National Cemetery where they participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. A highlight of the week's activities is the annual visit by the Delegates to the White House for a meeting with the President of the United States. Donal F. Logue of El Centro, California, was elected President of the 38th Annual Boys Nation. He will join the Youth Champion delegation as a guest of the National Commander at the National Convention in Seattle, Washington. John Hatfield of Indianapolis, Indiana was elected Vice President.

Oratorical

The American Legion has continued to sponsor a competitive annual scholarship program since 1938, which is open to high school students. Scholarships are awarded for the purpose of education beyond high school. This program, offered through The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest, has had the approval, since 1943, of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Each year the following scholarship awards are made: National Finals—First Place—\$16,000; Second Place—\$14,000; Third Place—\$10,000; Fourth Place—\$8,000. Competition begins locally and progresses through the Department (State) to the National rounds. Each winner who is certified into, and participates in the Regional contest receives a \$1,000 scholarship. Likewise, each Regional winner who is eliminated in the Sectionals receives a \$1,000 scholarship. Since the beginning of the contest, the National Organization of The American Legion has awarded \$900,000 in cash scholarships. Funds for these awards are provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund.

Each contestant must give a prepared oration of some phase of the United States Constitution, giving emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to his government. Prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant, taking not less than 8 nor more than 10 minutes of delivery. Each contestant must also give an extemporaneous discourse on a Constitutional topic (not known until time of contest), taking not less than 3 nor more than 5 minutes for delivery.

The 1983 National Finals were held at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland and the four finalists were: First Place—Keith Finch, Blacksburg, Virginia; Second Place—Matthew Baumgart, Des Moines, Washington; Third Place—Michele Horner, Fargo, North Dakota; Fourth Place—Stephen Epstein, Needham, Massachusetts.

Boy Scouts of America

The American Legion continues to share the mutual objective of "For God and Country" with the Boy Scouts of America. Emphasis comes through the sponsorship of nearly 3,000 scout troops by American Legion Posts in communities across the country.

For 1983, The American Legion selected Christopher Hugh Davies as the Legion Scout of the Year, for his outstanding religious, school, community and scouting achievements. He is from Olney, Maryland, and hopes to attend one of the military academies. He will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school, the money for which is provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund. He was sponsored by American Legion Post No. 68, Sandy Spring, Maryland. Davies will join the Youth Champion delegation as a guest of the National Commander at the National Convention in Seattle, Washington.

Flag Education

The American Legion is recognized as the leader in instructing the American public in the proper display and respect for the United States Flag. The latest

amendment to the U.S. Flag Code (Public Law 344, 94th Congress, approved July 7, 1976) represents yet another step by The American Legion to modernize and clarify the Flag Code for use by United States citizens.

Pamphlets such as "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" and "Flag of the United States—How to Display It, How to Respect It," are published every year by The American Legion to inform and educate all Americans.

Service to God and Country

"Service to God and Country" is basic Americanism. This program is designed to help prevent the spiritual decay of America and to charge our citizens with a spirit of positive Americanism, with respect for law, reverence for authority and awareness of our human right and freedoms.

The first of this dual objective is service to God, through regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children. Legionnaires are called upon to make parents more aware of their responsibility to instill in their children, the belief that God is the source of all our rights and privileges.

The second object is to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State and Nation by preparing our young Americans to take up tomorrow's responsibilities by teaching them moral and spiritual values, renewed interest in our country's history, self-discipline, self-reliance, thrift, ideals of loyalty, honesty and physical fitness.

This program is coordinated by the Post Chaplain through the cooperation of local clergy, Post activities and other public service and civic organizations which hold with the principles of The American Legion's "Service to God and Country" program.

A Conference of Department Chaplains is held at National Headquarters each Fall, the next conference is scheduled for November 15-16, 1983.

Education Program

The American Legion Americanism Commission, created in 1919, expressed its concern with education at the time and included a major objective committing The American Legion to constructive education support. Throughout the years of its existence, the efforts of the National Americanism Commission have been directed toward that purpose and have provided support to secure adequate funds for school construction, research, teachers' salaries, improved curriculum and a variety of resources to assist students to continue with their education.

The 38th National Convention adopted the following objectives and they continue to serve as the guidelines for this year's program development.

- (1) To help make it possible for any veteran or dependent of a veteran who has ability or desire to receive an education beyond high school;
- (2) To encourage the membership of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations to take an active part in the development and maintenance of a school system that will serve the needs of all children at every level;
- (3) To encourage students to select careers where personnel shortages exist;
- (4) To explore and summarize existing scholarship sources;
- (5) To make known to potentially eligible children the sources of scholarships that exist;
- (6) To develop new scholarship opportunities for the increasing number of students who will reach college in the years ahead;
- (7) To cooperate with established organizations in the recruitment of students for careers where personnel shortages exist.

"Need A Lift?"—This publication, revised each year contains 144 pages of career sources, scholarships, grants and loan information for not only veterans and their dependents, but for all children. This year's book was divided into nine chapters including: (1) Introduction (8 pages); (2) American Legion Educational Aids (24 pages); (3) Sources of Educational Assistance for Veterans and their Dependents (22 pages); (4) Sources of Scholarships and Other Forms of Financial Aid Available to All Students (22 pages); (5) Other Private and State Sources of Loans (5 pages); (6) State Educational Benefits (16 pages); (7) Student Employment and Cooperative Education Programs (26 pages); (8) Sources of Career Education (10 pages); (9) Sources of Additional Information for Students, Parents and Counselors (7 pages); and an Index for Sections 3-5 (3 pages).

This year's distribution totalled 100,000 copies with the majority reaching high school and college counselors, librarians and other youth-serving groups throughout the United States.

Copies of "Need A Lift?" are available from The American Legion, "Need A Lift?", P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206, \$1.00 prepaid.

A Guide for Parents and Students.—This pamphlet, with a distribution in excess of 120,000 copies during the last school year, contains valuable information for thoughtful high school students and their parents in planning a career, the necessary education and financing.

American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units were responsible for placing this pamphlet in the hands of numerous students and concerned parents during the observance of American Education Week.

The "Guide for Parents and Students" may be obtained from The American Legion, National Emblem Sales, P.O. box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206, at a cost of \$10.00 per 500 copies or \$15.00 per 1,000 copies.

American Education Week.—American Education Week is an annual event, established in 1921 by the joint action of The American Legion and the National Education Association to focus public attention on the needs and achievements of the Nation's schools. Helpful pamphlets and suggestions have been prepared for distribution to all American Legion Posts as they formulate plans for this year's observance.

This year's theme, "A Strong Nation Needs Strong Schools", a repeat of last year's theme, to be observed November 13-19, 1983, urges all citizens to recommit themselves to strengthening America's schools. The objective of The American Legion is to provide leadership in assuming responsibility and taking effective action to contribute to solutions of education problems now. Many other National organizations have joined with the sponsors in the anticipated observance of American Education Week.

Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Scholarship Program.—The American Legion develops, publicizes and administers the Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Nursing Scholarship Program, which has for its objective the preparation of nurses at the graduate level in order that they may serve in the areas of prevention and care as it relates to Lung and Respiratory Diseases throughout the United States. The Eight and Forty, for the year 1983-84 awarded twenty-five scholarships at \$1,500 each, bringing its accumulative total to 359 awards and \$506,500. This scholarship program will again be offered for the 1984-85 school year, with awards of \$2,000 per grant.

Exhibits and Workshops Participation.—The American Legion, with help from the Auxiliary, again had educational exhibits at the National Conventions of the American Personnel and Guidance Association and the National Association of Secondary School Principals where more than 2,500 free copies of "Need A Lift?" were given out.

This year, The American Legion participated in and assisted with a National Conference on Career Education. A member of the National Staff sat on the National Planning Committee for this Conference. Along with an exhibit of Legion educational materials, examples of Post/Unit programs were illustrated for educators from across the Nation.

Throughout the year, we have taken an active part in high school Career Days, serving as panel moderators, encouraging young people to consider occupational fields where shortages exist and alerting them to the many sources of financial assistance available in pursuing further education.

To assist in and provide information explaining the MEDIHC Program, Law Enforcement Grants, student Social Security Benefits and Federal Education Grants, to eligible and interested students, The American Legion has cooperated with these agencies by creating an awareness to the programs through Posts and Units throughout the Nation.

National Leadership Workshops.—During each of the Regional Workshops, a block of time was reserved for dissemination of education information during the Americanism Workshop. Area and Department Chairmen, as well as other interested persons, were invited to discuss objectives, problems and trends of education as they relate to The American Legion and its Auxiliary.

The major emphasis at each Workshop focused upon the following objective areas of the National Committee on Education: Career Education, Citizenship Education, Financial Assistance, and American Education Week. The last hour was devoted to a question and answer session.

General announcements of new educational program materials were made regarding the "PACT" in Education Handbook and accompanying "PACT" brochure. "PACT" stands for Post, Auxiliary, Community Together.

The eight National Leadership Workshops (formerly Regional Conferences) will continue in September 1983, with Education being a vital part of all Workshop agendas.

Policy Statement on Education.—The basis for The American Legion's Education Program is its Policy on Education, adopted by National Convention, 1959 and amended by the National Executive Committee in 1967, 1974, 1977 and 1981. The fundamental concepts are described in the following paragraphs.

Fundamental Concepts.—The American Legion has always strongly supported the principle that education is a necessary prerequisite to the successful functioning of a democracy. While recognizing the right of private and religious groups to maintain schools, The American Legion vigorously subscribes to the necessity of a universal publicly supported system of primary, secondary and college education to insure that every American child has the opportunity for an adequate education. The American Legion believes that popular self-government as created by the covenant set forth in the Constitution of the United States, cannot continue to exist unless there is the bulwark of a continuing system of free public education. Not only does proper National defense require trained personnel, but the daily operations of our local, state and Federal governments, our farms, our professions, our commerce and industry and, in fact, every phase of life today, demands that we have competent citizens, who are qualified, willing and able to discharge their responsibilities.

The availability of educational opportunity for every individual to pursue his own development is a prerequisite to the achievement of all other social goals. Our education system must, therefore, be designed to provide every person the means to reach his highest potential, which, in turn, will provide our Country as a whole with the high level of responsible citizens and specialized workers which it requires. In turn, we will have greater assurance of economic growth, of sound decision-making, and the knowledge necessary to promote our National security.

This educational system should produce citizens who understand and who are dedicated to the principles of free enterprise; to democratic principles and processes; and whose devotion to freedom and human dignity goes beyond mere lip service.

The American Legion further believes that the citizens of this Country should be dedicated to the pursuance of excellence in the entire realm of intellectual endeavor; that our people should recognize and esteem those persons who have developed their intellectual abilities to the fullest extent; that teachers should enrich their knowledge and capacity, particularly in the fields in which they teach and that scholarship assistance to deserving students should be expanded.

Such an educational program will fulfill the dream of the past, the aspirations of the present and the needs of the future. The American Legion supports such a system of education, and believes that the vitality of our democratic way of life is dependent upon such schools.

American Legion Baseball

American Legion Baseball celebrates its 58th anniversary in 1983. This program continues to provide young American youth the opportunity to learn the rudiments of baseball and teaches them a mode of sportsmanship at the same time.

The American Legion Baseball Player of the Year in 1982 was Ivan S. Snyder, a pitcher-outfielder for Charles B. Yerger Post No. 471, Boyertown, Pennsylvania. Snyder was honored at the Hall of Fame Game, Cooperstown, New York, August 1, 1983.

James Howard Sundberg of the Texas Rangers was selected as the 1982 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year and was so saluted by Past National Commander Joe L. Matthews at special ceremonies prior to the game scheduled between the Rangers and the New York Yankees at Arlington, Texas, July 26, 1983. The choice was made since Sundberg exemplifies the aims and principles of our program by his general good conduct on and off the field, his cooperation with others, his community service, his playing ability and his contribution to the sport to youth. Slightly more than 54 percent of all 1982 major leaguers played American Legion Baseball as teenagers.

Regional tournaments leading up to the 1983 World Series at Fargo, North Dakota, September 1-5 will be played at:

- Northeastern (Region 1)—Pittsfield, Massachusetts.
- Mid-Atlantic (Region 2)—Boyertown, Pennsylvania.
- Southeastern (Region 3)—Laurinburg, North Carolina.
- Mid-South (Region 4)—Memphis, Tennessee.
- Great Lakes (Region 5)—Stevens Point, Wisconsin.
- Central Plains (Region 6)—Ely, Minnesota.

Pacific Northwest (Region 7)—Casper, Wyoming.
Western (Region 8)—Palo Alto, California.

New Orleans, Louisiana will host the 1984 World Series and Kokomo, Indiana was awarded the 1985 event.

For the 1983 season of American Legion Baseball, nearly 4,000 teams desiring to participate in national competition have been certified to National Headquarters. This is a slight increase over 1982's total. It is estimated that 250 teams not certified for national competition also participated in the Legion Baseball program during the 1983 season.

The 23rd Annual National Baseball Conference will be held at Indianapolis, Indiana, September 24-25, 1983. Fifty States and Puerto Rico baseball chairmen will meet to discuss and recommend policy for the 1984 American Legion Baseball season.

School Medal Award Program

Thousands of young students are recipients of The American Legion School Medal Award each year. This program is designed to recognize the young people for the following purposes:

Courage.—Bravery in the face of opposition and danger; determination and force to do the right thing without public applause and regardless of personal advantage. A quality of intellect.

Honor.—Highly-developed moral character; moral excellence; strength and stability of character; high standards of conduct, devotion to duty; adherence to truth; keen sense of what is right; practice of clean speech.

Leadership.—Ability to lead and to accomplish through group action; ability to work in harmony and in unison with other leaders in accomplishing group results; desire and ability to fill the voids in the lives of others caused by timidity, illness or other handicaps.

Patriotism.—An ideal of loyal Americanism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, and the willingness to defend our Flag against all enemies—foreign or domestic. Perhaps best defined in the American's Creed.

Scholarship.—Attainments in school studies; quality of school work reflecting the fine traits of industry, perseverance, efficiency and intelligence.

Service.—Kindliness, unselfishness, fellowship, protection of the weak, promotion of the interests and welfare of associates and constructive aid for the upbuilding of schools and community.

Marksmanship

In cooperation with The American Legion, the National Rifle Association conducts annual individual and team postal rifle and pistol matches for Legionnaires and rifle matches for members of The Sons of The American Legion (SAL). This program is designed for American Legion Posts as a recreational activity which will stimulate interest not only in rifle and pistol marksmanship, but also firearms safety.

COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

LEO F. MALLOY, Massachusetts, *Chairman*

The Counter-Subversive Activities Program comes under the jurisdiction of the Americanism and Children & Youth Division of The American Legion. It reports to a Counter-Subversive Activities Committee, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, National Commander's Representative, two Consultants and fifteen members. This Committee submits a detailed report to the National Americanism Commission at its Spring, National Convention and Fall Meetings concerning this phase of Americanism. At all of these meetings, it is responsible for furnishing background information on the many resolutions which are assigned to it, prior to presentation to the National Americanism Commission for recommended action to the National Executive Committee and to the National Convention.

The Counter-Subversive Activities Committee was established by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on November 17, 1950. The Committee, through its publication *Firing Line*, continues to inform members of The American Legion and other citizens what is transpiring not only in this country but abroad. *Firing Line* has been in existence since 1952—two years after the creation of the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee. A very intense effort is made to maintain a publication which is not only current in its content but also one which contains

information of vital importance in these crucial times when subversion and terrorism are becoming rampant.

Firing Line has covered the recent merger of several factions of the Ku Klux Klan; the Nuclear Freeze Movement; pending immigration legislation; school prayer; illegal aliens; the capture of the reported head of the F.A.L.N. and other newsworthy items.

Of great concern also to the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee is the increased activity of many of the communist and radical groups in the United States and the resurgence of the Nazi movement which has occurred in this country and abroad.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DR. W. F. HAYNIE, Texas, *Chairman*

The American Legion National Committee on Education was established following an extensive two-year study, by the National Executive Committee during its meeting held in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 1976. This Committee has filled the vacuum created by the dissolution of the Joint Committee with the National Education Association and will provide the vehicle necessary for continued involvement in promoting quality education for the youth of this Nation.

The purposes of the National Committee shall be: (1) to inform itself and The American Legion of developments, problems and potentials in the field of education; (2) To recommend appropriate policies and programs for The American Legion; and (3) To maintain contact with the educational community so that there may be an interchange of thinking between The American Legion and educators, students and other organizations concerned with the well-being of education throughout the Nation.

Specific efforts to accomplish the purposes are to be directed toward the veteran returning to school, Career Education, citizenship development, adult education, financial aid programs and participation in the observance of American Education Week.

The Committee is composed of six Legionnaires appointed on a staggering basis to three-year terms, by the National Commander, two Legionnaires appointed by the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission and three members of the Auxiliary, appointed by the National President.

The degree of success of this Committee is determined by the priority assigned and sincerity of appointment given to similar committees at the Department and Post level.

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

EUGENE V. LINDQUIST, Minnesota, *Chairman*

K. MICHAEL AYERS, Indiana, *Director*

Toward the closing of World War I, many veterans got together and decided there would be many post-war issues arise that would have to specifically deal with them and their families. This group became known as The American Legion, and at the first National Convention conducted in November of 1919, they set about their business of passing resolutions to petition Congress to enact legislation that would aid the needs of veterans, their families and the American way of life.

American Legion Posts were urged to aid widows and children of deceased veterans and Congress was asked to make special compensation allowances for wives and children of war-disabled veterans. The initial purpose of the Legion's Child Welfare program was "to provide a setting in which every veteran's child can realize his/her full potential."

The concern for the veteran's child quickly moved to concern for all the youth of this country. The need existed to improve conditions for all children to insure they would be able to grow to the fullest extent of their capabilities. The volunteer force of The American Legion and Auxiliary is second to none throughout this nation in dealing with assistance to rectify any situation that would attempt to stifle the well-being of children.

From its beginning to present, The American Legion has maintained a positive and successful approach to gain achievements that will benefit all children. This involvement by Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units clearly indicates that our organization upholds the belief that our children are the "Threshold of Tomorrow", and for them to be effective leaders in the future, they must be given every opportunity to grow and learn in our society with the least amount of encumbrance.

1983 Program

This program year, the Commission on Children and Youth was faced with many problem areas that concern our youth. The areas for concentration for this program year were:

1. Drug abuse prevention.
2. Infant hearing assessment.
3. Teenage suicide prevention.

Although these three areas were chosen for National emphasis, it is important to note that the Departments, Districts, Posts and Units of our organization also give their support and assistance to many local and regional problem areas within their respective communities.

Drug abuse prevention.—The advancement of medical technology has given us many wonder drugs to relieve and cure today's numerous pains and ailments. Unfortunately, that same advancement has given society more types of substances to abuse. Amphetamines and barbiturates continue to be major items of abuse because they are easy to conceal, not very hard to obtain, and are reasonably priced when compared to other drugs.

The additional problem that has arisen with these two substances is the production of "look-a-likes". These counterfeit pills not only rob our children of their well-being, but they contribute to false security on the user's part. They are primarily composed of caffeine and anti-allergy agents. They do not produce the results of the real thing. As such, the user feels he needs to take more of them. Then if he does get the real drug and takes it in its large dose, he overdoses and is not even aware he has done it.

We, as concerned parents and citizens must take the time to educate ourselves so we can properly instruct our young people on these dangers.

Infant hearing assessment.—Each year, in the United States, around 120,000 babies are born with at least some degree of hearing failure. Quite obviously, the

child is not aware of it, and unless proper testing is made right away, neither is anyone else until, in many cases, it is too late to do anything about it.

If a child is born with only a mild or moderate hearing deficiency it may be anywhere from two to five years before it is detected. In order to acquire language and develop speech naturally, a child must be able to hear at a very early age since the basis for language is laid down in the brain from the first eight to eighteen months of life.

The Infant Hearing Assessment Foundation has developed a process of screening, identifying, and testing of infants for hearing disabilities. The American Legion has also taken on this program and all in our organization have been urged to do what they can to get this equipment and trained volunteers into as many hospitals around the country as possible.

The consequences of an undetected hearing problem can be very hard on the child and parents. The child, through no fault of his own, will be behind classmates right from the start of school. This puts unnecessary pressure on the child not only from his teachers and parents, but is labeled as "slow" by his peers and this can be the most severe pressure of all. Children want very much to be accepted by their friends.

Early detection can not only eliminate many future pressures, but start the child on an equal footing with his classmates and place the child in a much healthier learning environment enabling him to develop to his full potential.

This new equipment and testing is a breakthrough that deserves our full attention and support.

Teenage suicide prevention.—According to statistics, the suicide rate for persons under the age of 21 has tripled since 1955. Every hour, at least one American teenager or young adult has committed suicide and as many as 40 have made the attempt.

Data shows that suicide is the second largest killer among college age students and third largest killer among early and middle teens. It is a very sad commentary on today's society that so many young people seek to eliminate their troubles by taking their own lives.

The socio-economic patterns of suicide of the past are no longer accurate barometers to focus attention on. Suicide has developed into an epidemic killer of this nation's young people from all walks of life. The following is a list of findings that have resulted from research around the country on suicides:

Eight out of ten people that kill themselves give some warning of their intentions.

Many suicides occur around three months after there has been some improvement of their troubles.

Suicide is represented proportionately among all income groups.

Suicide does not automatically run in families.

Studies of hundreds of suicide notes indicate that although the person is very unhappy, he/she is not necessarily mentally ill.

Nearly half of all suicide attempts are drug-related.

Many happen in split families or where a poor parent/child relationship exists.

They want to be with a departed loved one.

Anniversary suicides are not uncommon.

Four out of five who actually commit suicide have tried to do so at least once previously.

One of the disadvantages of high technology is that it helps to create a fast-paced society, expecting more and more of what the technology offers. Our young people are getting caught up in this "fast lane" of society before they are physically or emotionally ready for it.

It is imperative that any adult who has daily contact with young people educate themselves on the warning signs of suicide if we are to decrease the numbers of this tragic area. This Nation cannot afford to let one of its greatest natural resources go to such waste.

Continuing Programs

Special Olympics.—Since the dawn of man, the "different" of their respective cultures have been separated from the "normal". The Special Olympics program bridges that gap, emotionally as well as physically. Thousands of volunteers donate thousands of dollars and hours of time annually in community and state athletic contests, giving the mentally retarded the chance to experience and achieve productivity.

This program is not merely an exercise for the body; it's an exercise in life that teaches these individuals that achievement, through their own effort, is an attainable goal. Many of the athletes can, and are quite capable of, assisting in the coaching and training of other athletes in events they have excelled in.

The Special Olympics program allows these individuals the chance to be an active member in their society, not just a separated bystander of it.

The need for volunteers in this program is not only enormous, it is essential if the program is to continue to thrive and enjoy its current success. It is our sincerest hope that the community volunteers will always be there to keep this program alive and well, because the largest benefactor of this great endeavor is the character of our society.

Temporary financial assistance.—This program is the landmark of the Children & Youth activities. From the very start, it voiced the concern of our founders for the care of veterans' children. It is still a very active program of the Children and Youth Commission, and the past few years have seen a steady increase in the amounts of assistance required for needy veteran families.

The fund is used to assist families in meeting the costs of shelter, food, utilities, and health income items when the parents are unable to do so. We are thereby helping to keep the child(ren) in a more stable home environment.

Through the program of TFA, a Post may call upon the National Americanism and Children and Youth Division for cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of veterans' children. Funds can be granted over a temporary period to eligible children when it has been determined by investigation that the child is in need and that no other sources are available or those that are available are inadequate.

Temporary Financial Assistance is a vital tool used by The American Legion to help insure the child of a veteran is allowed to develop in the home.

Halloween.—The "Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night" program is now entering its 11th year of National emphasis. It developed from the horror of the early 1970's, when nationwide attention was focused on our children being maimed and drugged by "treats" they had been given while making their rounds for that evening.

There are many activities that can be planned at the community level to reduce the risks of children being harmed during this time of the year.

The National office of The American Legion publishes a brochure that passes along ideas and safety tips to aid in keeping this a fun and festive occasion. These brochures are available through our state organizations and all are encouraged to use them to help protect the well-being of our children.

April incentive.—The April Incentive program was instituted to encourage Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units to develop youth-oriented activities during the Children and Youth month of April and report those activities to the National Commission. It is hoped that through an award system, the Posts and Units will take a more active initiative in the celebrating of April as Children and Youth month.

The April Incentive program offers recognition and awards for those Posts reporting the best programs marking the occasion. Awards are offered to Posts in four Membership categories, and recognition is given to all participants. Winners receive appropriate awards at the Department and National levels.

Regional Leadership Seminars

The regional gatherings provide a common ground for all levels of The American Legion to gather, learn, and discuss issues of interest and concern. The year 1982 was the fourth year for these eight regional meetings. This past year, 1982, seminars were held at:

Region 1.—Burlington, Vermont—September 17-19.

Region 2.—Atlantic City, New Jersey—October 15-17.

Region 3.—Charlotte, North Carolina—September 10-12.

Region 4.—Baton Rouge, Louisiana—October 1-3.

Region 5.—Columbus, Ohio—September 24-26.

Region 6.—Bloomington, Illinois—September 17-19.

Region 7.—San Mateo, California—September 24-26.

Region 8.—Bellevue, Washington—September 10-12.

Even though the travels of today are expensive and the demands on time are many, we continue to enjoy an average turnout of around 500 delegates at each seminar. This is a leading indicator that our community level volunteers place these programs at a high level of priority.

Legislative Efforts

The initiation and support of worthwhile legislation is one means by which the Children and Youth Commission has attempted to accomplish its goals during the 1982-83 program year. At our National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, the following mandates were introduced for our attention during this 98th Congress:

School nutrition program.—Res. 507 once again reaffirms its position that the Congress of the United States and the various state legislatures be urged to appropriate sufficient funds for school nutrition programs to reflect the increased cost of food and to provide for needed facilities and trained personnel for the purpose of conducting an adequate school lunch program.

Combatting Reye's syndrome.—Res. 508 requests the assistance in the fight of a childhood disease for which the mortality rate is determined to be 20 to 40 percent fatal. Estimates consistently proclaim the actual deaths from Reye's Syndrome exceed reported cases by a rate of ten to one.

The incidence of Reye's varies greatly in any given geographical region from year to year and an accurate accounting of the number of actual cases would help reveal the cause, cure, prevention, and treatment of this disease.

The American Legion urges the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation to benefit and augment the existing knowledge of Reye's Syndrome, to the end that this threat to the lives of our nation's young people is diminished.

Adoptive children with special needs.—Res. 509 seeks assistance for the more than 100,000 children who are now considered unadoptable because of their age, race, ethnic group, mental, physical, or emotional disabilities.

A crucial factor in adoption of children of "special needs" is the highest cost of medical care often impossible to estimate, and those who would be willing to commit themselves to the involvement with and care for a physically or mentally handicapped child would need financial assistance.

The American Legion supports the passage of Public Law 96-272 and encourages Congress and the Office of Management and Budget to continue its fiscal support to the fullest degree possible of this most vital legislation.

National Family Week.—Res. 510 of The American Legion stresses the importance to maintain the integrity of the family home. It is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of strengthening of family life as the family is the center of our affections and the foundation of our American society. There are no institutions that can take the place of the family in giving meaning to human life and stability and The American Legion urges the President of the United States and Congress to establish "National Family Week" during Thanksgiving holiday week as an annual observance.

Child pornography.—Res. 511 unfortunately reveals the increased use of children in pornographic magazines and films. To offset this disgrace, we are in need of stronger laws, which at present, are weak and inadequate. We are asking by this resolution that our State and Federal legislators examine current statutes pertaining to child pornography. From such an examination, we are confident that remedial action would be swift as meaningful laws would be passed to protect our youngest generation from this sickening blight on our society.

Comprehensive health care for children and youth.—Res. 512 stresses that a program such as this depends on yearly reconsideration and adequate appropriations by Congress. Therefore, we have asked that attention be given to programs as outlined by the Maternal and Child Health Services and Crippled Children's Services contained under Title V of the Social Security Act and urge the Congress of the United States to continue its support by adequately funding these programs, including the Comprehensive Health Care for Children and Youth programs.

Catastrophic illness among children.—Res. 513 reaffirms our position in urging the Federal and State governments to enact the necessary legislation to assist financially those individual families faced by catastrophic illness of one of their children in order to maintain the integrity of the family, and that in lieu of a better approach, the present Federal and Crippled Children's Services program be expanded to include catastrophic illness, with each state developing its own definition and financial standards relating to catastrophic illness.

Pornographic and obscene literature.—Res. 514 stresses the importance of not reducing or eliminating any protective laws dealing with the sale of this type of material to underaged children. Present laws forbid the importation of such materials from foreign countries, interstate trafficking, the use of the United States mail, or public media, and any attempt to eliminate such protective laws from State and/or

Federal criminal codes would have a negative impact on our youth and society in general.

The American Legion strongly opposes any attempt to weaken our present laws governing the penalties for the production, sale, and distribution of pornographic or obscene materials.

Reaffirming immunization program.—Res. 515 reaffirms its position of supporting the fullest use of any licensed vaccines to combat communicable diseases. We must also continue to stress that sufficient federal and state funds be provided so that medically indigent children may be afforded an opportunity to receive the necessary treatment and immunizations against all communicable diseases.

These are highlights of our 1982 legislative program, as offered by the Commission on Children and Youth. This Commission has constantly urged its Departments of The American Legion to support Children and Youth legislation as it relates to national objectives. Local Posts are also encouraged to support city ordinances as they deal with the community's efforts to improve conditions for Children and Youth.

Children and Youth Expenditures

Annually as it has for the past 59 years, the Commission on Children and Youth collects and tabulates reports of expenditures for Children and Youth activities from nearly 15,000 Posts of The American Legion, 12,000 Units of the American Legion Auxiliary, and the hundreds of Salons of the Eight and Forty. In addition, the expenditures of Departments and of the National Organization are obtained for the 12-month period of June 1 through May 31 and combined with these reports.

This year, Posts and Departments reported expenditures of \$19,927,359. To this amount, we proudly add \$4,233,834 contributed by the American Legion Auxiliary, while \$75,537 was given to families in need through our Temporary Financial Assistance program. To this, we add other contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation in the amount of \$38,238. This amounts to a grand total of expenditures and contributions to the total Children and Youth program in 1982-83 of \$24,274,968.

Children and Youth Literature

During the 1982-83 program year, tens of thousands of pieces of Children and Youth literature were distributed by the Americanism and Children and Youth Division as it attempted to further the objectives of the total Children and Youth program.

As shown in Table No. 5, the most popular publications were the annual Children and Youth program publication—"Threshold of Tomorrow", "April is Children and Youth Month" and brochures on our three Areas of Concern—Drug Abuse Prevention, Infant Hearing Assessment, and Teenage Suicide Prevention. It is of further interest to note that some 6,038 citations were distributed to Departments in order to recognize Posts for their contributions to the overall Children and Youth program.

Appreciation Acknowledged

Youth Commission on Children and Youth and its Chairman welcome this opportunity to express their appreciation and commendation to the many members of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary who gave generously of their time, energy and personal funds to further the Children and Youth program this year. It has been an eventful year that would not have been possible without the cooperation and dedication of these thousands of volunteers. A special thanks to Commander Al Keller, Jr. for his support and encouragement of our programs. Likewise, to National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle, we extend our heartfelt thanks for his continued cooperation and understanding. The members of the American Legion Auxiliary deserve a special praise for their wholehearted cooperation and assistance on behalf of our program and its objectives. To the members of the Eight and Forty, who do such a tremendous job with their special assignment of assistance to children with respiratory disorders, we also extend our appreciation.

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Executive Section

Eugene V. Lindquist, Clarissa, Minnesota, Chairman.
Thomas L. Gabel, New Knoxville, Ohio, Vice Chairman.

Dan McConough, Anchorage, Alaska, National Commander's Representative.
 Leo P. Burke, Stockton, California, Consultant.
 Angelo J. Molinari, Rochester, New York, Consultant.
 Lee Guy, Breckenridge, Texas, Consultant.
 C. B. Knight, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
 James P. Holley, Center, Texas.
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 Maloy R. Bills, Salt Lake City, Utah, Region 7 Chairman.
 R. R. Barney Rapp, Longview, Washington, Region 8 Chairman.

Regional Vice Chairmen

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 Owen C. Jones, Huntington, West Virginia, Region 2 Vice Chairman.
 Robert G. Carter, Macon, Georgia, Region 3 Vice Chairman.
 Scott J. Russum, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Region 4 Vice Chairman.
 William R. Ball, Hannibal, Missouri, Region 5 Vice President.
 Lloyd L. Grossnickle, Monticello, Minnesota, Region 6 Vice Chairman.
 Mrs. Stella Kekawa, Waimanalo, Hawaii, Region 7 Vice Chairman.
 Joseph T. Craig, Ketchikan, Alaska, Region 8 Vice Chairman.

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 Mrs. Eunice F. Staley, Vienna, Virginia, Le Chapeau National, Eight and Forty.
 Charles Holloway, Tillar, Arkansas.
 Donavon L. Orth, Seaford, Delaware.

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 Dominick Genetti, Jr., Bedford, Massachusetts.
 Lester R. Perham, Milford, New Hampshire.
 Ray Greenwood, Montpelier, Vermont.
 Matthew P. Salva, Enfield, Connecticut.
 Louis R. J. Malo, Warwick, Rhode Island.

Region 2

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 Warren L. Dearstine, Mechanicsville, Maryland.
 Edward J. Osowiecki, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 Lawrence Luteran, Longport, New Jersey.
 Owen C. Jones, Huntington, West Virginia.
 William Melville, Dover, Delaware.
 Howard L. Matty, New Hartford, New York.
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Region 3

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 Jay E. Harville, Kingsport, Tennessee.
 Robert G. Carter, Macon, Georgia.
 Elaine Anderson, Charlotte, North Carolina.
 Miss Josephine A. LoCicero, Holmes Beach, Florida.
 Cameron L. King, Robards, Kentucky.

Region 4

Joseph C. Sanchez, Alexandria, Louisiana.
 Howard Lee Marks, Beaumont, Texas.
 Kendrick Newton, Greenville, Alabama.
 Scott J. Russum, Vicksburg, Mississippi.
 Ernest Gober, McGehee, Arkansas.
 Leno O. Easky, Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Region 5

S. William Brewer, Knightstown, Indiana.
 Mrs. Delores Mueller, Green Bay, Wisconsin.
 Glenn H. Ainslie, Battle Creek, Michigan.
 William R. Ball, Hannobal, Missouri.
 Robert Maxwell, Waters, Wisconsin.
 Donald L. Gruebaum, Maryville, Ohio.

Region 6

Frances Swensen, Junction City, Kansas.
 Marlo R. Brackelsberg, Mohall, North Dakota.
 Terry Kruse, Lone Tree, Iowa.
 Lloyd L. Grossnickle, Monticello, Minnesota.
 Ray A. Griffin, Aurora, Nebraska.
 Willis E. Danekas, Raymond, South Dakota.

Region 7

Lee Farmer, Denver, Colorado.
 Louis S. Pardy, Las Vegas, Nevada.
 Maloy R. Bills, Sandy, Vermont.
 Mrs. Stella Kekawa, Waimanalo, Hawaii.
 John LeRouge Martinez, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
 Raymond Martinez, Phoenix, Arizona.
 Elizabeth R. Wilson (Mrs. Hugh T.), Monterey Park, California.

Region 8

R. R. Barney Rapp, Longview, Washington.
 Jacob E. Dailey, Casper, Wyoming.
 Joseph T. Craig, Ketchikan, Alaska.
 Hero Shiosaki, Blackfoot, Idaho.
 William A. Macmillan, Helena, Montana.
 Robert E. Holmes, Springfield, Oregon.

Commission on Children and Youth Liaison Committee

Robert W. Durand, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Chairman.
 Joseph G. Kelly, Falls Church, Virginia.
 Pete J. Tuss, Lewistown, Montana.
 Roberto Gonzalez Vazquez, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
 John E. Demers, Sr., Cumberland, Rhode Island.

TABLE NO. 1

Departments	Percentage of posts reporting	Percentage of units reporting	Aid granted by national children and youth division	Contributions to the child welfare foundation by departments and posts (legion)	Contributions to the child welfare foundation by departments and units (auxiliary)	Direct aid from legion posts for food, clothing, medical care and other necessities	Direct aid from legion departments for food, clothing, medical care and other necessities	Direct aid from auxiliary units for food, clothing, medical care and other necessities	Direct aid from auxiliary departments for food, clothing, medical care and other necessities	Contributions to child welfare agencies by legion posts and departments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Region 1:										
Connecticut	71	100		\$20	\$372	\$19,890		\$11,719		\$37,453
Maine	41	100	\$1,000		279	23,085	\$26,836	11,201	\$1,375	60,724
Massachusetts	1	100		414	330	3,115	32,347	60,700		46,013
New Hampshire	100	100		145	160	31,093		7,900		47,753
Rhode Island	46	100		25	63	2,730	3,425	2,866		66,011
Vermont	100	37		90	203	20,456	1,575	2,806	50	56,004
Total—Region 1	60	95	1,000	694	1,407	100,369	64,183	97,192	1,425	313,958
Region 2:										
Delaware	6	60			55	2,900		2,398		3,500
District of Columbia	58	83			37	800		917		3,735
Maryland	100	89		585	231	148,569	173,324	22,300		256,047
New Jersey	30	100	1,117	100	1,301	48,148	(¹)	7,749		45,191
New York	68	100	200	102	555	146,751		112,751		986,885
Pennsylvania	72	70	4,344	2,520	761	94,636	5,300	27,225		137,430
Puerto Rico	(¹)	(¹)	640			(¹)		(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Virginia	47	100	850	130	776	80,508		11,583		89,648
West Virginia	39	49	325		328	26,338	(¹)	2,832		38,037
Total—Region 2	47	86	7,476	3,437	4,044	548,650	178,624	187,755		960,473
Region 3:										
Alabama	29	43	5,554		836	28,833	30,536	18,657		61,307
Florida	69	100	100	355	1,311	175,426	7,500	56,164		147,722
Georgia	35	32	300		132	90,003	(¹)	25,863		53,464
Kentucky	41	45	4,580	215		58,969		76	9,041	153,077
North Carolina	27	52	1,915		168	33,634	(¹)	8,393		26,729
Panama	60	(¹)				950	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	2,300

South Carolina.....	15	32	300		1,370	15,275	550	2,450		3,300
Tennessee.....	32	45	1,909	150	345	67,559		25,567		41,438
Total—Region 3.....	39	52	14,658	720	4,162	470,649	38,596	137,170	9,041	489,337
Region 4:										
Arkansas.....	100	68				22,035	79,866	3,580		18,762
Louisiana.....	30	48		25	748	40,952	(¹)	35,134	200	85,157
Mississippi.....	25	25	11,819		765	51,494	8,500	2,143		57,750
Oklahoma.....	19	100	10,660		140	31,045	38,067	6,216		88,530
Texas.....	22	100	650		809	74,206	(¹)	67,931		38,934
Total—Region 4.....	40	79	23,129	25	2,462	219,732	126,433	115,004	200	289,133
Region 5:										
Illinois.....	23	79	914	235	4,110	55,198	11,520	32,640		115,165
Indiana.....	63	86	980	299	807	99,720	(¹)	22,112		99,685
Michigan.....	40	100	1,150	55	522	52,648	(¹)	21,722		89,410
Missouri.....	35	57	900		221	12,930	38,197	32,246		98,228
Ohio.....	41	65	2,545	276	1,665	116,009		45,787	2,150	184,214
Wisconsin.....	63	100	1,150	70	1,568	27,145		23,818	221	50,614
Total—Region 5.....	44	77	7,639	935	8,893	363,650	49,717	178,325	2,371	637,316
Region 6:										
Iowa.....	50	77		55	302	20,997	17,600	9,138		79,751
Kansas.....	62	73	700	237	876	20,342	4,000	5,329	300	29,426
Minnesota.....	66	96	1,200	25	934	178,770	400	22,551		243,373
Nebraska.....	61	86	300	155	1,199	34,694		5,313		31,927
North Dakota.....	100	81		10	552	111,245	(¹)	7,034		405,531
South Dakota.....	48	85			120	11,246	6,202	1,574	1,056	19,833
Total—Region 6.....	65	84	2,200	482	3,983	377,294	28,702	50,939	1,356	809,841
Region 7:										
Arizona.....	68	41	2,151	35	551	175,448		18,188	730	71,894
California.....	41	100		679	1,969	82,462	65,536	60,327	8,798	209,956
Colorado.....	56	79		45	45	23,283	653	3,605	205	29,076
Hawaii.....	56	71			60	2,200	(¹)	700		11,580
Nevada.....	(¹)	50	500		260	(¹)	6,105	2,014		2,150
New Mexico.....	48	42	5,969		50	16,749	3,725	3,191	2,756	13,459

TABLE NO. 1—Continued

Departments	Percentage of posts reporting	Percentage of units reporting	Aid granted by national children and youth division	Contributions to the child welfare foundation by departments and posts (legion)	Contributions to the child welfare foundation by departments and units (auxiliary)	Direct aid from legion posts for food, clothing, medical care and other necessities	Direct aid from legion departments for food, clothing, medical care and other necessities	Direct aid from auxiliary units for food, clothing, medical care and other necessities	Direct aid from auxiliary departments for food, clothing, medical care and other necessities	Contributions to child welfare agencies by legion posts and departments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Utah	45	100			65	6,746	6,738	9,200	1,293	7,262
Total—Region 7	45	86	8,620	759	3,000	306,888	82,757	97,225	13,782	345,377
Region 8:										
Alaska	64	54	300		60	32,670	3,341	2,330		16,552
Idaho	53	28	900		70	7,055		1,646		5,920
Montana	66	38			220	3,569	1,000	7,822	500	14,081
Oregon	61	100	9,615	80	367	77,477	8,859	13,230		29,134
Washington	56	100		503	1,532	44,133	(¹)	16,855		33,262
Wyoming	76	78			245	16,035	(¹)	5,957		11,264
Total—Region 8	63	73	10,815	583	2,494	180,939	13,200	47,840	500	110,213
Total—8 Regions	50	79	75,537	7,635	30,445	2,568,171	581,702	911,450	28,675	3,955,648
Foreign—France	100					10,830				11,386
Subtotal			75,537	7,635	30,446	2,579,001	581,702	911,450	28,675	3,967,034

Departments	Contributions to child welfare agencies by auxiliary units and departments	Other expenditures by legion and auxiliary for children	Legion departments and posts children and youth administrative expenses	Auxiliary departments and units children and youth administrative expenses	Aid furnished by 8 and 40 salons for children and youth	Children directly aided and served by legion and auxiliary	Families aided through service work only	Total aid from funds of legion and affiliates (cols. 4-16)
(1)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
Region 1:								
Connecticut	\$9,567	\$243,122	\$200	\$865	.....	99,233	14	\$323,208
Maine	23,319	138,230	13,120	1,998	.....	17,493	4	301,167
Massachusetts	20,578	140,087	600	5,836	.....	51,454	5,063	310,020
New Hampshire	9,332	183,661	21,249	460	.....	22,306	13	301,753
Rhode Island	2,260	39,457	27,700	.....	.....	7,398	5	144,537
Vermont	4,369	212,873	19,468	.....	.....	20,651	773	317,894
Total-Region 1	69,425	957,430	82,337	9,159	.....	218,535	5,872	1,698,579
Region 2:								
Delaware	2,320	18,535	1,320	300	.....	2,937	169	31,328
District of Columbia	1,376	9,542	1,150	470	.....	3,906	.....	18,027
Maryland	22,844	659,469	25,615	600	.....	40,376	4,104	1,309,584
New Jersey	13,586	82,402	(¹)	150	.....	14,351	4	199,744
New York	39,111	956,297	8,500	6,247	.....	138,975	7,167	1,657,399
Pennsylvania	19,609	861,186	28,585	7,088	.....	88,674	75	1,188,684
Puerto Rico	(¹)	(¹)	.....	(¹)	.....	80	(¹)	640
Virginia	13,754	357,660	71,306	1,371	.....	53,422	7	627,586
West Virginia	3,857	129,406	(¹)	620	.....	12,437	.....	201,743
Total-Region 2	116,457	3,074,497	136,476	16,846	.....	355,158	11,526	5,234,735
Region 3:								
Alabama	9,744	95,165	9,442	2,364	.....	10,552	.....	262,438
Florida	65,793	465,204	118,434	3,210	.....	125,525	1,130	1,041,219
Georgia	22,483	223,394	(¹)	4,960	.....	31,758	54	420,599
Kentucky	15,971	212,345	322	700	.....	12,834	228	455,296
North Carolina	4,144	156,255	(¹)	1,590	.....	8,887	.....	232,828
Panama	(¹)	335	(¹)	.....	.....	44	.....	3,585
South Carolina	9,936	49,962	62,907	800	.....	1,848	211	146,850

Departments	Contributions to child welfare agencies by auxiliary units and departments	Other expenditures by legion and auxiliary for children	Legion departments and posts children and youth administrative expenses	Auxiliary departments and units children and youth administrative expenses	Aid furnished by 8 and 40 salons for children and youth	Children directly aided and served by legion and auxiliary	Families aided through service work only	Total aid from funds of legion and affiliates (cols. 4-16)
(1)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
Tennessee.....	\$7,710	\$142,155	\$8,290	\$1,597		42,315		\$296,720
Total-Region 3.....	135,781	1,344,815	199,395	15,221		233,763	1,623	2,859,535
Region 4:								
Arkansas.....	5,466	146,031	2,500	1,000		6,537	695	279,240
Louisiana.....	43,840	189,007	(¹)	3,500		10,613	75	398,563
Mississippi.....	2,706	105,269	375	2,500		4,036	37	243,321
Oklahoma.....	46,273	211,630	70,000	3,633		15,389	3,518	506,194
Texas.....	134,537	344,492	(¹)			151,299	151,299	661,559
Total-Region 4.....	232,822	996,429	72,875	10,633		187,874	4,325	2,088,877
Region 5:								
Illinois.....	42,545	447,916	52,171	8,109		69,683	40	770,523
Indiana.....	20,934	491,424	(¹)	660		26,001	145	736,621
Michigan.....	44,567	299,101	(¹)	4,970		46,705	40	514,145
Missouri.....	5,764	76,265	134,584	575		11,366	300	399,910
Ohio.....	43,849	700,031	10,000	3,537		92,220	118	1,110,063
Wisconsin.....	14,569	341,400	950	1,330		21,523	107	462,835
Total-Region 5.....	172,228	2,356,137	197,705	19,181		267,498	750	3,994,097
Region 6:								
Iowa.....	19,269	220,456	12,000	2,335		16,869	175	381,903
Kansas.....	3,373	281,071	4,195	300		18,657		350,149
Minnesota.....	38,217	935,454	9,900	4,815		90,298	190	1,435,639
Nebraska.....	13,858	438,127		4,655		20,356		530,228
North Dakota.....	14,403	905,367	(¹)	3,541		39,358	46	1,447,683
South Dakota.....	9,440	165,864	(¹)	1,372		14,009	8	216,707
Total-Region 6.....	98,560	2,946,339	26,095	17,018		199,547	419	4,362,309

Region 7:								
Arizona	6,622	154,823	35,265	1,275	44,143	45	466,982	
California	86,615	510,275	750	8,500	274,177	21,083	1,035,867	
Colorado	10,383	49,027	17,325	2,022	23,123	6	135,669	
Hawaii	1,155	8,440	(¹)	400	4,698	46	24,535	
Nevada	571	20,558	13,300	300	4,980	539	45,758	
New Mexico	2,067	76,701	12,322	1,300	6,871	60	138,289	
Utah	7,064	59,291	2,656	50	19,106	65	100,905	
Total-Region 7	115,017	879,115	81,618	13,847	377,098	21,844	1,948,005	
Region 8:								
Alaska	760	147,051	2,500	1,691	6,959	49	207,255	
Idaho	2,535	86,185	300	655	6,224	315	105,266	
Montana	2,569	127,811	1,850	481	10,557	2	159,903	
Oregon	32,187	106,203	5,288	7,639	14,214	284	290,079	
Washington	31,822	201,489	(¹)	942	23,512	183	330,538	
Wyoming	2,066	185,964	(¹)	1,158	25,741	22	222,689	
Total-Region 8	71,939	854,703	9,938	12,566	87,207	855	1,315,730	
Total-8 regions	1,012,229	13,409,465	806,439	114,471	1,926,680	47,214	23,501,867	
Foreign-France		34,775	8,372		4,770		65,363	
Sub total	1,012,229	13,444,240	814,811	114,471	1,931,450	47,214	23,567,230	
Add \$10,000 contributed to Child Welfare Foundation by National Auxiliary							10,000	
Add \$20,000 contributed to Children and Youth by National Auxiliary							20,000	
Add \$773 contributed to Child Welfare Foundation by individuals							773	
Add \$37,465 in bequests to Child Welfare Foundation							37,465	
Add \$639,500 expended by National Auxiliary for Children and Youth							639,500	
Grand total							(*) \$24,274,968	

¹ No report submitted.

² Included in total figure is \$1,151,924 expended for Special Olympics and/or retarded children.

Note.—Eight and Forty figures were not available at the time this report was prepared.

Source: Departments of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary for 12-month period June 1, 1982 through May 31, 1983.

TABLE NO. 2.—EXPENDITURES FROM NATIONAL TEMPORARY FINANCIAL AID FUNDS TO DEPARTMENTS ACCORDING TO YEARS

	1926-35	1936-45	1946-55	1956-65	1966-75	1975-82	Last 7 mos. 1982	First 5 mos. 1983	Grand total
Alabama.....	\$15,281.65	\$13,899.68	\$27,466.26	\$23,700.80	\$19,672.79	\$43,670.27	\$3,935.00	\$1,619.39	\$149,245.84
Alaska.....			627.56	1,000.00	950.00			300.00	2,877.56
Arizona.....	17,587.40	8,474.30	5,094.00	3,658.00	250.00	1,992.08		2,151.13	39,206.91
Arkansas.....	9,845.20	24,028.00	20,999.22	4,963.00	100.00	250.00			60,185.42
California.....	25,558.18	4,547.97	13,231.40	2,795.05	800.00	250.00			47,182.60
Colorado.....	26,956.23	14,664.88	17,360.78	5,257.33	770.00	375.00			65,384.22
Connecticut.....	160.00	1,694.00	350.00	90.00		450.00			2,744.00
Delaware.....	1,025.00	1,010.00	825.00	175.00	150.00	325.00			3,510.00
District of Columbia.....	1,790.00	780.00	983.50	220.00					3,773.50
Florida.....	16,607.28	16,734.00	24,207.50	1,313.00		1,730.00	100.00		60,691.78
Georgia.....	14,839.50	55,054.57	51,448.42	34,596.00	4,015.00	300.00	300.00		160,553.49
Hawaii.....	450.00	420.00				900.00			1,770.00
Idaho.....	3,641.00	3,952.50	2,721.00	3,050.85	4,071.97	1,600.42	900.00		19,937.74
Illinois.....	11,943.25	18,277.54	3,211.53	1,132.00	1,078.11	3,053.65		914.10	39,610.18
Indiana.....	24,906.08	6,944.00	4,213.40	4,853.00	190.00	1,150.00	790.00	190.00	43,236.48
Iowa.....	15,833.58	1,659.50	407.00	190.00	773.45	2,505.00			21,368.53
Kansas.....	9,552.50	11,214.30	31,565.87	10,498.48	4,273.00	750.00	400.00	300.00	68,554.15
Kentucky.....	13,922.00	9,921.50	15,488.90	30,039.00	28,540.66	20,574.30	2,940.00	1,640.00	123,066.36
Louisiana.....	12,554.00	10,846.50	24,376.30	14,078.00	1,208.00	1,887.00			64,949.80
Maine.....	2,564.94	1,054.00	889.90	1,020.36		1,676.55	1,000.00		8,205.75
Maryland.....	3,862.00	2,025.00	2430.57	960.00	358.00	2,625.00			12,260.57
Massachusetts.....	2,064.50	690.00	455.00			150.00			3,359.50
Michigan.....	12,709.48	11,185.85	20,653.85	12,627.39	9,719.46	2,531.60	300.00	850.00	70,577.63
Minnesota.....	6,516.00	2,094.77	14,908.19	8,414.60	2,327.23	5,426.00	500.00	700.00	40,886.79
Mississippi.....	16,509.00	23,784.63	30,843.14	32,411.00	37,582.00	54,992.10	6,990.49	4,828.40	207,940.76
Missouri.....	18,047.08	35,026.00	33,824.64	13,975.00	7,231.76	1,780.00	900.00		110,784.48
Montana.....	5,099.25	315.00	744.50	924.35	365.00	600.00			8,048.10
Nebraska.....	14,091.21	4,378.90	7,479.25	10,316.43	14,111.06	4,898.00		300.00	55,574.84
Nevada.....	390.00	195.00	566.00	200.00	1,978.00	3,144.00	300.00	200.00	6,973.00
New Hampshire.....	2,562.00	1,688.50	4,791.50	150.00					9,192.00
New Jersey.....	7,163.68	1,831.85	1,701.00	245.00	600.00	925.00	745.00	372.00	13,583.53
New Mexico.....	11,473.72	8,600.58	25,665.74	27,433.00	19,145.00	23,194.99	2,948.00	3,021.00	121,482.03
New York.....	4,547.97	3,339.57	3,411.00	1,392.00	300.00	550.00	200.00		13,740.54
North Carolina.....	12,230.50	34,367.00	52,708.00	28,311.60	3,705.00	1,970.00	450.00	1,465.00	135,207.10

North Dakota.....	13,204.37	12,813.08	8,138.21	3,650.00	2,083.01	2,988.31			42,876.98
Ohio.....	16,220.00	7,710.43	3,360.50	1,755.75	1,690.00	5,360.00	750.00	1,794.57	38,641.25
Oklahoma.....	24,955.05	15,503.00	26,118.77	39,287.70	46,835.00	15,824.50	7,450.00	3,210.00	179,184.02
Oregon.....	855.00	395.50	6,190.65	7,559.50	3,178.00	5,717.26	7,925.00	1,690.00	33,510.91
Panama.....	105.00	570.00	234.00	300.00					1,209.00
Pennsylvania.....	19,239.41	3,608.00	434.00	217.00	435.00	4,300.85	1,700.00	2,644.00	32,578.26
Puerto Rico.....	5,671.00	11,386.00	27,210.00	30,544.00	49,304.50	3,935.00	400.00	240.00	128,690.50
Rhode Island.....	1,277.00	285.00	1,641.00		760.00				3,963.00
South Carolina.....	29,589.20	38,861.85	16,780.54	9,912.80	2,936.07	2,382.93	300.00		100,765.39
South Dakota.....	19,555.89	22,874.38	13,405.05	2,957.00		350.00			59,142.32
Tennessee.....	12,211.52	18,933.25	29,403.20	25,210.00	5,604.50	8,555.80	1,384.00	525.00	101,827.27
Texas.....	11,239.50	24,134.00	31,879.35	15,513.08	12,856.00	6,608.50	400.00	250.00	102,880.43
Utah.....	3,435.00	7,690.48	3,248.00						14,373.48
Vermont.....	1,559.50	265.00	9,026.50	225.00					11,076.00
Virginia.....	19,219.86	26,090.45	26,449.78	1,588.00	9,768.00	9,364.00	500.00	350.00	93,330.09
Washington.....	3,033.00	345.00	427.50			225.00			4,030.50
West Virginia.....	20,276.98	7,353.00	5,801.00	5,594.94	650.00	2,235.00	225.00	100.00	42,235.92
Wisconsin.....	9,561.68	6,320.30	2,542.00	5,525.25	2,116.00	2,830.00	850.00	300.00	30,045.23
Wyoming.....	6,885.00	1,295.00	793.00	1,200.00		1,350.00			11,523.00
Other departments.....	200.00	360.00	173.50						733.50
Total.....	1 580,077.34	541,495.61	658,906.47	431,030.26	302,481.57	2 258,253.11	45,582.49	29,954.59	2,828,282.23

¹ Includes \$19,499.21 for the year 1926—Department totals not available.

² Includes first 5 months of 1982.

TABLE NO. 3.—COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF WORLD WAR II, KOREAN, VIETNAM, AND WORLD WAR I VETERANS RECEIVING AID FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH DIVISION

	World War II children		Korean children		Vietnam children		World War I children	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
June 1, 1982 to May 31, 1983.....	40	5.9	15	23.3	48	70.8	0	.00
June 1, 1981 to May 31, 1982.....	51	14.36	80	22.54	224	63.10	0	.00
June 1, 1980 to May 31, 1981.....	65	14.74	125	28.34	251	56.92	0	.00
June 1, 1979 to May 31, 1980.....	94	21.81	58	13.46	279	64.73	0	.00
June 1, 1978 to May 31, 1979.....	111	27.54	101	25.06	191	47.40	0	.00
June 1, 1977 to May 31, 1978.....	198	30.33	215	32.92	240	36.75	0	.00
June 1, 1976 to May 31, 1977.....	216	38.30	140	24.82	208	36.88	0	.00
June 1, 1975 to May 31, 1976.....	177	29.70	233	39.09	186	31.21	3	.57
June 1, 1974 to May 31, 1975.....	189	36.00	208	39.62	218	41.52	0	.00
June 1, 1973 to May 31, 1974.....	248	36.69	334	49.41	94	13.90	0	.00
June 1, 1972 to May 31, 1973.....	204	43.59	150	32.05	114	24.36	1	.13
June 1, 1971 to May 31, 1972.....	360	46.15	309	39.62	110	14.10	0	.00
June 1, 1969 to May 31, 1970.....	749	53.32	417	39.00	82	7.68	4	.34
June 1, 1968 to May 31, 1969.....	706	61.49	414	33.99	51	4.18	3	.27
June 1, 1967 to May 31, 1968.....	875	61.66	390	34.06	46	4.01	4	.29
June 1, 1966 to May 31, 1967.....	1,024	64.02	463	33.86	25	1.83	0	.00
June 1, 1965 to May 31, 1966.....	1,147	72.86	384	27.06	11	.08	1	.07
June 1, 1964 to May 31, 1965.....	1,091	82.11	249	17.82	.....	.....	2	.15
June 1, 1963 to May 31, 1964.....	1,099	79.86	273	19.99	.....	.....	1	.07
June 1, 1962 to May 31, 1963.....	1,077	78.73	296	21.20	.....	.....	8	.61
June 1, 1961 to May 31, 1962.....	1,329	82.47	221	16.92	.....	.....	10	.62
June 1, 1960 to May 31, 1961.....	1,716	83.59	251	15.79	.....	.....	15	.74
June 1, 1959 to May 31, 1960.....	2,536	84.99	288	14.27	.....	.....	53	1.78
June 1, 1958 to May 31, 1959.....	1,589	85.16	389	13.06	.....	.....	47	2.47
May 1, 1957 to May 31, 1958.....	2,050	86.78	195	10.65	.....	.....	39	1.70
June 1, 1956 to May 31, 1957.....	1,713	89.32	206	8.98	.....	.....	47	2.47
June 1, 1955 to May 31, 1956.....	1,579	90.06	142	7.47	.....	.....	118	6.40
June 1, 1954 to May 31, 1955.....	2,098	85.68	146	7.92	.....	.....	250	10.05
May 1, 1953 to May 31, 1954.....	2,519	84.32	140	5.63	.....	.....	238	8.22
May 1, 1952 to May 31, 1953.....	2,050	87.12	135	4.66	.....	.....	341	14.03
May 1, 1951 to April 30, 1952.....	1,481	84.36	39	1.61	.....	.....	290	16.33
May 1, 1950 to April 30, 1951.....	1,506	83.39	5	.28	.....	.....	265	14.96
July 1, 1949 to April 30, 1950.....	1,584	85.04	.....	.....	.....	.....	435	21.55
July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1949.....	1,796	78.45	.....	.....	.....	.....	665	27.02
July 1, 1947 to June 30, 1948.....	1,218	72.98	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,090	47.23
July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1947.....	785	52.77	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,006	56.17
Prior to July 1, 1946.....	590	43.83	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

TABLE NO. 4.—National Eight and Forty Fund for Mothers of Children of Veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam Wars and World War I

Allocated in:	
1943.....	\$1,000.00
1946.....	500.00
1948.....	1,500.00
1949.....	1,500.00
1949 for 1950.....	500.00
1950 for 1951.....	2,000.00
1951 for 1952.....	2,000.00
1952 for 1953.....	3,000.00
1953 for 1954.....	500.00
1954 for 1955.....	500.00
1955 for 1956.....	500.00
1956 for 1957.....	750.00
No allocations in 1957 for 1958.....	
Allocated in:	
1958 for 1959.....	1,000.00
1959 for 1960.....	1,000.00

1960 for 1961.....	1,000.00
No allocation in:	
1961 for 1962.....	
1962 for 1963.....	
1963 for 1964.....	
Allocated in:	
1964 for 1965.....	250.00
1965 for 1966.....	250.00
1966 for 1967.....	250.00
1967 for 1968.....	250.00
1968 for 1969.....	100.00
Total	18,350.00
Grand total expended from 1944 to May 31, 1983.....	17,350.07
Balance unexpended June 1, 1983.....	999.93

TABLE NO. 5.—*Printed material furnished upon request during period June 1, 1982 through May 31, 1983*

Annual Program Piece—"Threshold of Tomorrow".....	35,936
April Is Children and Youth Month.....	22,988
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.....	29,827
Blow Your Own Horn by Reporting.....	13,079
Children and Youth Guide.....	16,450
Decades of Service.....	19,227
Infant Hearing Assessment Program.....	15,136
Introduction to Special Olympics.....	26,010
Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night.....	29,074
Now What?.....	23,137
Parent's Guide to Marijuana.....	1,645
Reye's Syndrome.....	11,177
Reye's Syndrome News Release.....	975
Special Olympics Program Guide.....	40,603
TFA applications.....	1,572
TFA brochures.....	19,180
To Prevent Drug Abuse.....	32,400
Warning signs—Suicide Prevention.....	42,161
Citations:	
Annual Children and Youth Citations.....	5,252
April Incentive Certificate of Honorable Mention.....	22
April Incentive Certificate of Participation.....	56
Certificate of Meritorious Service.....	81
National Achievement Award.....	64
New Release for Annual Children and Youth Citation.....	4,907
New Release for Certificate of Meritorious Service.....	81
New Release for Special Children and Youth Citation.....	563
Special Children and Youth Citations.....	563
Reporting:	
Tally sheet.....	995
Unit report form.....	10,214
We Want a Report from Your Unit or Salon.....	8,255
Total	411,030



AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.

WALTON D. GRIFFIN, Tennessee, *President*

PAUL R. FRINSTHAL, Illinois, *Executive Secretary*

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation continues to be an advocate for the children and youth of this country. As a separate corporation from The American Legion, the Foundation, since its incorporation in 1954, has made grants totaling over 1.2 million dollars. These grants have been made to nonprofit, youth-oriented agencies and organizations across this nation. To qualify for such grants, projects must fall into one of the following categories:

1. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or their programs designed to benefit youth; and
2. To contribute to the physical, mental emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations, to the end that such information can be more adequately used by society.

Since its beginning 29 years ago, the Foundation has received over one million dollars in contributions, primarily from members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty. The Foundation has always been of the opinion that it is better to prevent many of the physical and social ills confronting our nation's youth than to try to correct the problem after it has already occurred. The Child Welfare Foundation became an official part of The American Legion's Children and Youth Program in 1956.

On May 1, 1983, the Foundation's Board of Directors met in Indianapolis, Indiana, to consider 12 grant applications for grants totaling over \$229,000.

These grants requests were made from all parts of the country, and they represented many excellent programs to benefit the children and youth of this country. During this meeting, grants totaling a record-breaking amount of \$192,373 were awarded to 10 voluntary, nonprofit organizations who are actively engaged in helping our youngest generation. Without the continued support of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, as well the Eight and Forty, such assistance would not be possible. The following grants were awarded for the 1983-84 granting year:

The National Reye's Syndrome Foundation of Bryan, Ohio, was awarded a grant of \$16,435 to fund their project entitled, "Audiovisual Health Professional Teaching Program." The central theme of their project is to reduce the Reye's Syndrome mortality rate through education programs for health care professionals.

The Guardians of Hydrocephalus Research Foundation of Brooklyn, New York, was awarded a grant of \$10,030 to fund their project entitled, "Awareness of Hydrocephalus." The main purpose of this grant is to produce a 15-minute film designed to educate the public about this little-understood birth defect.

The Infant Hearing Assessment Foundation of Concord, California, was awarded a grant of \$24,000 to fund their project entitled, "Can My Baby Hear?" The main purpose of this grant is to fund a monthly newsletter and the printing of two additional, national-level brochures for parents.

The Immune Deficiency Foundation of Columbia, Maryland, was awarded a grant of \$20,460 to fund their project entitled, "Children and Immune Deficiency Disease." The main purpose of this grant is to develop a 15-minute video film that can be shown on television that will increase awareness and understanding, by the general public, about immune deficiency diseases.

The Leukemia Society of America of Orlando, Florida, was awarded a grant of \$30,000 to fund their project entitled, "Emotional Aspects of Childhood Leukemia." The main purpose of this grant is to develop a 20-minute educational film explain-

ing the dealing with the emotional aspects of childhood leukemia. This film is basically oriented toward the parents.

The Ohio State University Research Foundation of Columbus, Ohio, was awarded a grant of \$5,310 to fund their project entitled, "Hopscotch, Koolaid, Piano Lessons, Fatso, Four Eyes, and . . . DUMMY!" The Central theme of this project is to deal with the faulty knowledge and misunderstanding that children, ages 6 to 12, have of their peers who are mentally retarded.

The United States Association of Blind Athletes of Beach Haven Park, New Jersey, was awarded a grant of \$8,000 to fund their project entitled, "Phase III—USABA Seed Money Grants." The purpose of this program is to continue a project begun by them, through our auspices, in 1980. These seed money grants will initiate new programs of sports and recreation for visually impaired children.

Central Missouri State University of Warrensburg, Missouri, was awarded a grant of \$13,138 to fund their project entitled, "Student Program on Drinking and Driving." The purpose of this project is to promote student-conducted assemblies on drinking and driving at the high school level. Funds will be used to reproduce transparencies and other audiovisuals.

The Tourette Syndrome Association of Bayside, New York, was awarded a grant of \$40,000 to fund their project entitled, "Tourette Syndrome Film for Children." The purpose of this grant is to create a 15-minute film to help promote the acceptance, understanding and integration of children with Tourette Syndrome by their peers and classmates.

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America of Bethesda, Maryland, was awarded a grant of \$25,000 to fund their project entitled, "We can! We Will! We Must!" The main purpose of this grant is to fund the production of a 15-minute documentary film for adolescents with asthma and allergic diseases. No comparable educational audiovisual of this nature now exists.

Officers of the Board are Walton D. Griffin, Tennessee, President; U.S. "Udie" Grant, Kansas, Vice President; Eugene V. Lindquist, Minnesota, Secretary; and W.D. Harrell, Georgia Treasurer. Members of the corporation include George Boucek, Illinois, James P. Holley, Texas; W. H. Redman, Oklahoma; L. Eldon James, Virginia; and C. B. Knight, Louisiana.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Liaison Committee include Mrs. Lyle Seymour, Chairman, Mrs. Robert Melgard, Vice Chairman, and Mrs. Alan Schanel, Member.

Appointed personnel consists of Paul R. Frinthal, Executive Secretary and Webber LaGrange, Assistant Treasurer.

The Board of Directors has been touched this year by all of those who have remembered the Foundation in their Last Will and Testament. Across the nation, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members, as well as the general public, have left many lasting memorials to children. Such generosity and thoughtfulness serves as a living tribute to those who are left to carry on this great work.

Under the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the Foundation retains its tax-exempt status. Gifts, therefore, are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent permitted by law, and bequests to the Foundation are deductible for federal inheritance tax purposes to the extent permitted by the Federal Tax Act.

EXHIBIT A.—THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.—STATEMENT OF INCOME, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

	Year ended Dec. 31			
	1982		1983	
	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds
Income:				
Contributions and bequests:				
Restricted:				
Eight and Forty Research Fund	\$9,136		\$6,000	
Unrestricted:				
Memorial contributions		\$13,226		\$14,921
American Legion Auxiliary contribution		10,000		10,000
Bequests		37,738		14,900
Other contributions		24,856		22,412
Total contributions and bequests	9,136	85,820	6,000	62,233

EXHIBIT A.—THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.—STATEMENT OF INCOME,
EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES—Continued

	Year ended Dec. 31			
	1982		1983	
	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds
Investment income		61,295		53,259
Miscellaneous.....		93		777
Total income	9,136	147,208	6,000	116,269
Expenses:				
Grants awarded	25,000	150,480	6,000	112,220
Grants canceled	(637)	(13,000)		
Net grants awarded	24,363	137,480	6,000	112,220
Other expenses:				
Trustee's fees.....		793		2,460
Auditing and tax services		1,845		1,050
Printing, meeting expenses and sundry		1,275		620
Total expenses	24,363	141,393	6,000	116,350
Excess income (expenses)	(15,227)	5,815		(81)
Fund balance, beginning of year	27,153	405,783	25,505	405,864
Restricted receipts in excess of amounts recognized as income			1,648	
Fund balance, end of year	11,926	411,598	27,153	405,783

See accompanying note to financial statements.

EXHIBIT B.—THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.

[Balance Sheet]

	December 31	
	1981	1980
	Assets	
Cash:		
Checking account.....	\$265	\$1,141
Savings account.....	1,416	2,918
Trust account (overdraft).....	(334)	980
Total	1,347	5,039
Investments—(market value \$546,279 and \$483,931):		
U.S. Treasury notes.....	29,663	29,663
U.S. Government Agency obligations.....	154,966	215,153
Corporate notes.....	244,000	147,000
Common stocks.....	77,827	82,321
Total	506,456	474,137
Accrued interest on investments.....	6,600	
Mineral rights deeds.....	36	36
Total	514,439	479,212
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Grants payable.....	90,915	46,276

EXHIBIT B.—THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.—Continued

[Balance Sheet]

	December 31	
	1981	1980
Fund balances:		
Restricted—Eight and Forty Research Fund	11,926	27,153
Unrestricted	411,598	405,783
Total	423,524	432,936
Grand total	514,439	479,212

Note 1.—Summary of significant accounting policies:

Organization and General.—The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., was incorporated in 1954 for the purpose of making grants to qualified recipients for projects or programs related to improving the general welfare of children.

Federal Income Tax.—The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the Foundation is exempt from the payment of federal income tax under the provisions of Section 501 of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code as a corporation organized and operated for charitable purposes.

Investments.—Investments of the Foundation are stated at cost if purchased, or at market value at date of receipt if acquired by gift.

Grants.—Grants awarded to qualified recipients are expensed in the year they are approved by the Board of Directors.

Eight and Forty Research Fund.—Contributions received for the Eight and Forty Research Fund are restricted for grants related to cystic fibrosis or other upper respiratory diseases and are recognized as income only to the extent that expenditures for the restricted purpose are incurred. Contributions received in excess of expenses are credited directly to the Eight and Forty Research Fund balance.

CONVENTION COMMISSION

RICHARD H. KLINGE, Washington, *Chairman*

WILLIAM H. MILLER, Hawaii, *Director*

The 64th national convention which was held in Chicago was a success, however, attendance was not up to expectations. Registration was in the area of 10,500 persons. Prior to the convention it was the feeling that attendance could be higher than normal as a result of Chicago's geographic location and its nearness to heavy Legion membership.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that one of the main obstacles facing the Convention Commission is the specter of extremely high hotel rates. This situation was encountered in Seattle, the site of the 65th national convention and we can be sure that we will have the same problem in many cities in the future. The only course of action which the Commission has is that of negotiation wherein an attempt is made to get rates into an affordable range for attendees. There is always the possibility, however, that these negotiations will not prove fruitful leaving us no alternative but to select an alternate location for the convention.

In Seattle initially some of the major hotels were offering rates in the \$70 to \$85 range for singles and doubles. After a great deal of negotiation their rates were lowered to \$56 to \$66.

Contests

Prior to the Chicago 1982 national convention a subcommittee of the Convention Commission had recommended a change in contest activity at the national convention, a change that was concurred in by the Commission and the National Executive Committee. This revised contest format was put into practice in Chicago and worked out extremely well. Numerous Junior Bands, the majority from the Department of Illinois and others from around the country participated in the convention parade. The new format will be carried on at future conventions.

Resolutions

For many, many years the registration fee for delegates, alternates and guests attending the national convention was so low that convention corporations in the various cities have been having a difficult time operating a financially successful convention. The Convention Committee has discussed this problem at great length and during the spring meeting in Indianapolis a resolution was presented to the National Executive Committee which increased the national convention registration fee from \$5 to \$10. Research indicates that with this increase The American Legion registration fee for a national convention has increased only \$8 in 48 years. In 1935 the fee was \$2.

Also at the spring meeting the Convention Commission presented a resolution to the National Executive Committee specifying housing procedures which all Departments must follow in obtaining housing in convention cities. This action became necessary because some Departments in recent years have attempted to secure housing direct with hotels or through a travel agent who attempts to deal direct with hotels in the convention city.

Since it is a continuing aim of the Convention Commission to keep the National Convention Requirements Booklet updated, a resolution to accomplish this was also presented to the National Executive Committee at the spring meeting.

All resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Future Conventions

The Commission continues to receive bids from cities throughout the nation to host a future national convention. Representatives of the various cities appear at each of the Commission's meetings and outline their desires. Bids are on file from Denver,

San Antonio, Phoenix, Minneapolis, Detroit, Cincinnati and Las Vegas. Our schedule of convention cities presently places the convention in: Salt Lake City—August 31 to September 6, 1984 New Orleans—August 23 to August 29, 1985.

The site of the 1985 convention will in all probability be selected at the fall 1984 meeting.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE

MAURICE E. DRUHL, Oregon, *Chairman*

The list of distinguished guests who accept our invitation to attend the national convention is most impressive. The Distinguished Guest Committee which is attached to the Convention Commission plays host to these guests. The committee arranges transportation for the guests arrival and to various events.

The committee operates from a headquarters usually in the headquarters hotel. This headquarters is the nerve center for the committee's operation and is maintained as a convenience for all distinguished guests.

CONTESTS SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

ROBERT G. HENSEL, Minnesota, *Chairman*

THOMAS O. LEAVITT, Massachusetts, *Liaison*

The National Contests Supervisory Committee (NCSC), a subcommittee of the American Legion National Convention Commission, met twice in formal session during the 1982-83 year. The 1982 musical group competition was held in Chicago, Illinois, the site of the 64th American Legion National Convention. The following is a breakdown of units which actually competed:

Type of unit	Number of units	Average number of persons
Senior band.....	7	75
Firing squad.....	3	5
Senior color guard.....	13	12
Junior color guard.....	7	8
Senior drill team.....	7	8
Junior drill team.....	11	15

The approximate number of people involved in marching and musical competition during the 64th National Convention was 973.

Plans are being made for musical competition during the 1984 National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The National Contests Supervisory Committee and The American Legion congratulate the contestants involved in these contests for making a major contribution to a national patriotic activity.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

FRANK KELLY, Georgia, *Chairman*

JAMES G. BOURIE, Connecticut, *Director*

The following report covers the programs, activities and accomplishments of the Economic Commission, its affiliated Committees, and the staff for the period from July 1, 1982 and ending June 30, 1983.

A total of twenty-seven resolutions pertaining to the Economic program have been assigned or referred to the Economic Commission since our last annual report. An analysis of these resolutions as to source and type is below:

Twenty-two resolutions approved from the 1982 National Convention;

One resolution approved from the National Executive Committee meeting, October 13-14, 1982;

Two resolutions referred from the 1982 National Convention; and

Two register resolutions referred by the National Adjutant.

Action on each resolution, as of June 1983, is set forth below, commencing with those approved by the 1982 National Convention and National Executive Committee meetings, followed by the register resolutions referred by the National Adjutant's office.

Approved 1982 National Convention Resolutions

Resolution No. 20.—Seeks funding for a separate veterans employment/training program to be administered by the Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment in the U.S. Department of Labor.

The American Legion presented testimony on this resolution three times; it was satisfied with enactment of Public Law 97-300, title IV-C, National Veterans Program, of the Job Training Partnership Act.

Resolution No. 25.—Urges the Office of Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment to take a positive and aggressive approach to veterans employment/training matters and implement innovative and responsive local programs for veterans.

This resolution was satisfied by Public Law 97-306, the Veterans Education, Compensation and Employment Amendments of 1982, and assurances from the Assistant Secretary. Testimony on this resolution was presented to appropriate subcommittees of both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 51.—Seeks legislation to provide the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment with authority to place staff of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program where they would work with the greatest efficiency.

Testimony on this resolution was presented to a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 23, 1983; it was satisfied by enactment of Public Law 97-306, the Veterans Education, Compensation and Employment Amendments of 1982.

Resolution No. 67.—Supports continuation of the "Jobs for Veterans" program by the Legion to promote maximum employment for all veterans.

This resolution is implemented continually through programs and activities of the departments and posts, as well as by the Economic Commission in keeping posts and departments fully informed of developments and provided with material on employment. A letter was sent October 8, 1982 to all department commanders, adjutants, and employment chairmen to inform them of this resolution and the "Jobs for Veterans" program.

Resolution No. 85.—Seeks transfer of the Office of Veterans' Reemployment Rights, with adequate funding, to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training.

After testimony on February 23 before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, this resolution was satisfied with enactment of Public Law 97-

306, the Veterans Education, Compensation and Employment Amendments of 1982. The transfer has been effectively completed.

Resolution No. 105.—Seeks full enforcement of laws requiring affirmative action for eligible veterans by federal contractors, with ultimate responsibility in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment.

Testimony was presented on this issue three times; Public Law 97-306, the Veterans Education, Compensation and Employment Amendments of 1982, provides that State and Assistant State Directors of Veterans Employment and Training are to supervise job listings and referrals in the Job Service offices to see that veterans' complaints are timely resolved.

Resolution No. 191.—Provides for promoting, through American Legion posts and departments, the purchase of American manufactured goods.

This resolution, with an accompanying letter, was sent on October 8, 1982 to department commanders, adjutants, and employment chairmen. Letters were also sent to trade and labor organizations, as well as pertinent government agencies, to inform them of this American Legion position.

Resolution No. 241.—Express strong support for veterans preference in federal employment and opposes any effort to reduce this preference.

The Legion presented testimony on this mandate on April 7, 1983 to a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. In a letter dated September 29, 1982, after receipt of this resolution, Dr. Donald Devine, Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, assured the Legion of the administration's commitment to veterans preference. The staff continuously monitors veterans preference in federal employment and conducts an ongoing "conversation" with federal agencies on this mandate.

Resolution No. 245.—Seeks legislation to correct "Catch-62," whereby federal retirees with military service since 1956 lost a good part of their retirement benefits.

This resolution was satisfied by passage of Public Law 97-253, the Budget Reconciliation Act.

Resolution No. 257.—Seeks full funding for the office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment, U.S. Department of Labor.

The Legion presented testimony on this resolution three times, including appearances before both the House and Senate subcommittees on appropriations. A continuing resolution has fully funded the Office of the Assistant Secretary for staff, travel, and other necessary expenses through fiscal year 1983.

Resolution No. 261.—Seeks funding for staffing of the State Job Service offices to permit an effective employment service, including services to veterans.

Testimony in support of this mandate was presented on five occasions to various Congressional subcommittees with some success.

Resolution No. 298.—Ask for continued support by The American Legion of the U.S. Savings Bonds program and support of legislation to ensure that its financial return be beneficial to the purchasers.

Recent legislation has now made U.S. Savings Bonds competitive with other savings plans; the Economic Commission cooperated with the U.S. Treasury in a special mailing to each post commander on these bonds.

Resolution No. 305.—Urges full support and promotion of the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) by all federal agencies.

Upon receiving this resolution, Dr. Donald Devine, Director, Office of Personnel Management, reiterated his support of veterans preference and the special hiring programs for veterans. This mandate was cited in testimony April 7, 1982 to a subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment, of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 368.—Seeks Congressional authority to have "National Employ the Older Worker Week" proclaimed annually.

A joint resolution to this effect has been introduced in both the House and Senate.

Resolution No. 376.—Urges support and promotion of the special hiring authority provided federal agencies to hire veterans with 30 percent service-connected disability.

Testimony before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs cited this mandate; the Director of the Office of Personnel Management has stated his office is committed to full support of veterans preference and special hiring programs for veterans.

Resolution No. 383.—Seeks legislation to allow ex-service personnel eligible for reenlistment to collect unemployment compensation.

This resolution was satisfied by passage of Public Law 97-362, Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1982.

Resolution No. 389.—Opposes any changes in the Wagner-Peyser Act that would adversely affect employment services to veterans.

The American Legion included this mandate in testimony presented February 23, 1983 to a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Public Law 97-300, the Job Training Partnership Act, which did amend the Wagner-Peyser Act, should not adversely affect employment services to veterans in the state Job Service offices.

Resolution No. 419.—Opposes the contracting out of those federal jobs, maintenance, custodial and security in nature, reserved by law for veterans preference eligibles.

Testimony on this issue was presented April 7, 1983 to a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and other members of Congress have been informed of the Legion's position. Partial success was achieved in a Congressional ban on such contracting out by GSA in fiscal year 1983, and H.R. 825, to apply to all agencies, was introduced January 25.

Resolution No. 495.—Opposes any reduction of the floor and preference level indicators for veterans services in the state employment offices that would adversely affect these services to veterans.

The Department of Labor did not publish the required floor and preference level indicators for veterans employment services for fiscal year 1982; requirements for fiscal year 1983 will be the same as for 1982.

Resolution No. 461.—Seeks funding for the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program to be a specific and separate line item, with controls to ensure utilization of such funds for DVOP only.

The American Legion presented testimony on this mandate to both the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and to subcommittees on appropriations of both the House and Senate. Funding for DVOP was set at \$62.6 million for fiscal year 1983, with supervision by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training.

Resolution No. 495.—Opposes any change in the two-year residency requirement for State and Assistant State Directors for Veterans Employment.

This resolution was included in testimony presented February 23 to a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs; Public Law 97-306, the Veterans Education, Compensation and Employment Amendments of 1982, reiterated this residency requirement in its amendments to title 38, United States Code.

Resolution No. 496.—Opposes any changes in the reduction-in-force regulations harmful to veterans in federal employment.

The Office of Personnel Management has been informed of the position of The American Legion in this regard, and the staff closely monitors any proposed changes in these regulations.

Approved National Executive Committee Resolutions

Resolution No. 1—NEC, October 1982.—Urges that the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government purchase and lease American manufactured goods. The General Services Administration has been informed of this mandate.

Referred 1982 Convention Resolutions

Resolution No. 168 (California).—Opposes providing aliens with employment rights in federal employment equal to citizens.

At the October 1982 meeting of the NEC, the recommendation of the Economic Commission that this resolution be rejected as insufficiently germane to veterans was approved.

Resolution No. 366 (Utah).—Seeks promotion of "Buy American."

As approved by the NEC at its October 1982 meeting, this resolution, as amended, became Resolution No. 1.

Referred Register Resolutions

Register No. 2007 (California DEC).—Seeks action to prevent the U.S. Postal Service from hiring aliens with permanent resident status.

At the May 1983 meeting of the NEC, the recommendation of the Economic Commission that this resolution be rejected, as not having a substantive issue involving the Veterans Preference Act, was approved.

Register No. 2033 (Pennsylvania DEC).—Asks for full enforcement of the requirements of federal contractors to take affirmative action in employing eligible veterans.

At the May 1983 meeting of the NEC, the recommendation of the Economic Commission was approved that this resolution be received and recorded as being covered by Resolution No. 105—1982 Convention.

Meetings of the Economic Commission

Members of the Economic Commission and two affiliated committees have held four meetings during the 1982-83 year as follows:

(1) Forty-four members of the Economic Commission and two affiliated committees met in the Summit Room of the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, August 21, 1982, preceding the 64th Annual National Convention. A report of this meeting was made to the National Executive Committee at its post-convention meeting August 26, 1982 and appears in the proceeding of that meeting, page 14.

(2) A fifteen-member subcommittee of the Economic Commission met at National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 1982. A report of the meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on October 14, 1982, and commences on page 111 of the October 1982 NEC Proceedings.

(3) An Executive Section of the Economic Commission, composed of twenty-six members of the commission and affiliated committees, met on February 21-23, 1983, in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Washington Conference at the Capital Hilton Hotel. A detailed report of action taken at this meeting is contained in the Commission's Advance Report to the May 1983 National Executive Committee and appears on page 137 in the Proceedings of that meeting.

(4) An eleven-member subcommittee of the Economic Commission and its two committees met May 2-3, 1983, at National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. The report of that meeting, as made to the National Executive Committee at its May 4-5, 1983 meeting, appears in the Proceedings of that meeting.

Report of Award Committee for Selecting 1982 Employers of the Year for Hiring Veterans

The special Committee to select two companies to receive the 1982 awards as "Employer of the Year for Hiring Veterans" consisted of: James McMahon (Maine) chairman; Kenneth Kiefler (Georgia); James Lang (Washington); Ted Mallow (Wisconsin); and Jerome Roach (Missouri).

The committee considered sixty (60) submissions from thirty-seven (37) departments; thirty-two (32) in the category of companies with 200 or fewer employees, and twenty-eight (28) in the large company category, those with over 200 employees. Chairman McMahon's report was approved at the Economic Commission's business session on February 23, 1983.

The following companies will receive the National Award at the 1983 National Convention:

Large Employer (more than 200 employees).—Fraser Paper (200 Ltd, Madawaska, Maine.

Small Employer (200 or fewer employees).—Strategraph, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Immediately upon receipt, all nominations from the departments (maximum of two, one in each category), including the two recipients named above, were sent laminated plaques for presentation at the department's discretion to these employers with exemplary employment practices of hiring and retaining veterans. These other companies are:

Large employers (over 200 employees)

Hayes International Corporation, Dothan, Alabama.

Gold Kist, Inc., Bentonville, Arkansas.

Adolph Coors Company, Golden, Colorado.

Burnside—OTT, Division of Military Aviation, Helicopter Maintenance Services Project, Milton, Florida.

Grumman Aerospace Corporation, Milledgeville Operation, Milledgeville, Georgia.

FMC Corporation, Pocatello, Idaho.

Chesty Food Division—Snacktime Company, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Thomas Industries, Inc., Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

Black and Decker, Inc., Easton, Maryland.

Forster Forbes Glass Co.—A Division of National Can Corp., Milford, Massachusetts.

Westinghouse Architectural Systems Division, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Marvin Windows, Warroad, Minnesota.

St. Regis Paper Company, Libby, Montana.

United A. G. Cooperative Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

Taylor Forge Stainless, Division of Gulf & Western Manufacturing Company, Somerville, New Jersey.
 Grumman Aerospace Corp., Bethpage, New York.
 Croft Metals, Inc. of N.C., Lumber Bridge, North Carolina.
 General Dynamics, Lima, Ohio.
 Frontier Federal Savings & Loan Association, Ponca City Oklahoma.
 Charley Brothers Company, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.
 Pinkerton's, Inc., East Providence, Rhode Island.
 Coast to Coast Stores, Northern Div. Warehouse, Brookings, South Dakota.
 Murray Guard, Inc., Jackson, Tennessee.
 Affiliated Foods, Amarillo, Texas.
 Pinkerton's Inc., Richmond, Virginia.
 Hercules Incorporated/Allegany Ballistics Laboratory, Mineral County, West Virginia.
 Fox River Paper Company, Appleton, Wisconsin.

Small employers (200 or fewer employees)

Alaska Motor Coaches, Inc., Delta Junction, Alaska.
 Jim R. Smith & Co., Inc., Sierra Vista, Arizona.
 Arkansas Vinegar Company, Rogers, Arkansas.
 Dean Machine Products, Inc., Manchester, Connecticut.
 The Wackenhut Corporation—Lakeland Office, Lakeland, Florida.
 Durant-Wayland, Inc., LaGrange, Georgia.
 Ward's Cheese, Inc., Richfield, Idaho.
 L & R Body Company, Michigan City, Indiana.
 Atkinson Industries, Inc., Pittsburg, Kansas.
 Murray Guard, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky.
 Gilman Electric Supply Co., Newport, Maine.
 Pinkerton's, Inc., Salisbury Maryland.
 Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Baraga, Michigan.
 Blandin Wood Products Co., Grand Rapids, Minnesota.
 Crown Press, Inc., Moberly, Missouri.
 Equity Supply, Co., Kalispell, Montana.
 Omah Door Company, Omaha, Nebraska.
 Burndy Corporation, Littleton Facility, Littleton, New Hampshire.
 Coca-Cola-USA, Kearny Branch, South Kearny, New Jersey.
 Desco, Inc., Salisbury, North Carolina.
 Vanguard Paints & Finishes, Inc., Marietta, Ohio
 Great Lakes Carbon Corporation, Kremlin, Oklahoma.
 Federal Express Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 Mueblerias Guamani, Guayama, Puerto Rico.
 Mulholland Construction Co., Warwick, Rhode Island.
 Peavy Building Supplies, Pierre, South Dakota.
 Central Texas College, Fort Campbell, Tennessee.
 Uniroyal Proving Grounds, Laredo, Texas.
 Omega Electric Construction, Co., So. Burlington, Vermont.
 Brown Electric & Machine Co., Star City, West Virginia.
 Gordon C. Flesch Company, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin.

VA Home Loan Program

Since the inception of the GI home loan program in 1944, administered by the Veterans Administration, The American Legion has endorsed the loan activity and supported bills in the Congress to improve the program.

Both the current economy and the high unemployment of veterans, especially those of the Vietnam era, has resulted in the greatest number of foreclosures on VA-guaranteed home loans since the depression. According to VA statistics, the number of foreclosures rose by an astonishing 63.4 percent between 1980 and 1982.

On May 24, 1983, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2948 to provide assistance to veterans facing foreclosure on their VA-guaranteed home loans. Under this bill, any unemployed veteran at least six months behind in his payments on his VA-guaranteed home loan could apply to the VA for assistance. This assistance would be either a single loan, or a series of loans up to a limit of \$8,400, with 48 months to repay.

The Administrator of the VA would have the power to determine whether a veteran would qualify for this mortgage assistance.

The American Legion supports this needed legislation and urges its swift passage.

Small Business Administration

Enacted as a result of Legion effort, Public Law 93-237 (Small Business Act of 1974), mandates the SBA to provide "special consideration" to veterans applying for loans. However, it was not until 1981 that the SBA began to effectively respond to Legion urging to provide meaningful "special consideration."

After earlier Legion testimony in 1981, and a subsequent SBA Task Force of representatives from veterans organizations and high level SBA staff covering its various programs, the SBA Administrator signed a policy statement on special consideration for veterans, articulating over twenty-five (25) recommendations to be implemented. One, now fully functional, was the establishment of a permanent Office of Veterans in Business within the SBA's Office of External Affairs.

Other recommendations which have been, or will be, implemented, to name a few, are: special veteran demonstration projects; appointment of Veterans Affairs Officers in all SBA field offices; new veteran handouts and brochures; and priority in loan processing.

Greater coordination between SBA field offices and Legion department and post officials has also been reported. Through joint efforts, Veterans Resource Councils are being formed nationwide in an effort to respond to veterans seeking small business loans.

Persistent high rates of interest have precluded many, including veterans, from capital resources. However, as there has been a steady decline of rates, more veterans are seeking SBA loan funds. Since fiscal year 1980, veterans received from 12 percent to, in fiscal year 1982, 22 percent of all direct lending funds, or nearly \$8 million of the \$34.1 million available, more than any other group. The average loan to a veteran was approximately \$150,000, for a twenty-year period.

One other significant development in the small business area for veterans was the passage of Public Law 97-72, which, among other things, established a \$25 million direct loan program for Vietnam era and disabled veterans. However, it was only funded in April of 1983 by Congress; thus, the SBA is experiencing some delays in beginning the program. The Economic Commission, in cooperation with the Legislative Commission, will attempt to assure that this program will continue in future years as regard funding.

Administrative and Legislative Appearances

The activities of the Economic Commission and the two committees—Employment and Veterans Preference—which the Commission supervises and coordinates are carried on by the Economic staff on a day-to-day basis. Over the period of this report there were over 5,000 pieces of mail coming into the office: inquiries and comments from Commission members, other Legion Commissions and Legionnaires and the public, as well as information and inquiries from government agencies on policies and procedures affecting veterans. Letters of comments and suggestions on Economic activities concerning veterans are always welcome; the Economic staff accepts, within the limits priority commitments, all possible requests and invitations for participation in Department and National functions and non-Legion activities that pertain to the Economic program, believing in the value of a mutual exchange of information and ideas.

The Special Committee also selected a runner-up company in each category in case either of the companies selected had been unable to accept the award. Both of the winning companies have accepted, however. In accordance with Legion policy for such awards, the company official attending the National Convention to accept the award will be given a stipend to defray expenses. After analyzing the nomination form, the Committee made no recommendations for changes.

Savings Bonds Program

As mandated over the years, and most recently, with Res. No. 298 of the 1982 national Convention, The American Legion continues to support the U.S. Savings Bond programs. Legislation has made these bonds competitive with other savings plans, without losing the longstanding advantages of savings bonds of convenience, safety, tax deferral and of serving as a patriotic investment.

Department Commanders, Adjutants, and Employment Chairmen were informed of The American Legion position in a letter of October 8, 1982. In addition, post commanders were appraised of this program by an article in the *Advance*; also, in cooperation with the Savings Bonds Division, post commanders have been mailed information on how they can support this vital program.

The Director for Economics serves as chairman of the National Organization Committee of the U.S. Savings Bonds Division, which encourages organizations to alert their membership buy U.S. Savings Bonds.

The Commission receives frequent requests from government agencies, members of Congress, Congressional Committees, private organizations and other groups studying new programs or proposed changes in current law procedures, rules and regulations that would affect the interest of veterans. These are answered as fully as possible in accordance with current mandates and/or established policy.

In addition to providing information and assistance, the staff interviews and counsels with individuals who come to the office seeking help. All paperwork relative to the three National employment award programs; for employers who hire and retain handicapped, older workers, and veterans, as well as the Citation of Appreciation program, is carried out by the Economic staff.

The National Convention in Chicago, Illinois was attended by the Director, Assistant Director, and the Division secretary. The Fall 1982 meeting of the National Executive Committee, and the Commanders and Adjutants meeting held in conjunction with it, was attended by the Director, who also attended the meetings of the Select Committee on Special Problems of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Economics Program held in conjunction with the Fall of 1982 NEC meeting. He also attended the meeting of the Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee February 20, as well as the meeting of a special subcommittee on veterans employment problems held April 21-22 in Washington, D.C.

The Director serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (PCEH), and as chairman on its Committee on Disabled Veterans; continued to serve as a member of the SBA Task Force, as well as the Veterans Advisory Committee of the Office of Personnel Management, and is Chairman of Voluntary Organizations for U.S. Savings Bonds. The past year has seen the creation of the Congressionally mandated Secretary of Labor's Committee on Veterans, of which the Director is a member, and, recently, he was appointed to the 16-member advisory committee on readjustment problems of Vietnam era veterans established by the Veterans Administration. He has attended various meetings in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere as part of these responsibilities.

In October 1982, the Director and Assistant Director presented American flags that had flown over the Capitol to those being honored as Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employees of the Year by the Office of Personnel Management as part of observation of the National "Employ the Handicapped" Week. On May 27, 1983, as part of the program of the U.S. Postal Service to honor its handicapped employees, the Assistant Director for Economics presented flags flown over the U.S. Capitol to six handicapped Postal employees.

In cooperation with Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and the Membership and Post Activities Committee, The American Legion Extension Program Study Course covering Economics is revised annually. The staff is always ready to furnish material to the departments on Economic matters for use at various meetings and to answer questions and furnish any possible information.

The Chairman of the Economic Commission participated with the Director in the meetings (reported earlier) of the Select Committee on Special Problems of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, and of the new Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee.

At the first meeting of this Committee, held February 20, 1983, veterans unemployment was identified as one of the most pressing immediate problems for the Legion. Subsequently, the Chairman of the Economic Commission served as the chairman of the April 21-22 meeting of a special subcommittee on veterans employment problems; two directors of state employment services have been appointed as consultants.

Besides making periodic reports to the National Executive Committee and the National Commander, the Economics Division maintains a close relationship with the Public Relation Division so that The American Legion News Service (ALNS), ADVANCE, National Adjutant's News Letter, and other American Legion publications will have all available, timely information. Liaison is also maintained with The American Legion Magazine, which receives all news of developments in the Economic Program, and forwards to the Commission pertinent letters received by the Magazine on Economic matters. The Commission puts out a newsletter, Economic Nuggets, every two months to keep those interested in the activities of the Economic Commission up-to-date. Now printed and mailed from the Indianapolis headquarters, the newsletter has doubled its readership in the past year.

The Economic Commission has available four publications of its own to help Employment Chairmen and others promote the full employment of all veterans. "The American Legion Manual for Employment Chairmen" covers the entire field of federal and private sources of employment help and information, as well as providing a survey of the Legion's Economic program. To supplement this, the Economic Commission has now three brief pamphlets available: "Job Sources," "Veterans Entitlements in the Job Market," and an awards brochure. The first identifies five federal agencies that maintain veteran programs, describes them, and tells where to go for more information; the second identifies veterans rights and benefits in federal employment, as well as provisions for veterans in the Job Service offices and the affirmative action required of federal contractors; and the last surveys the Legion's employer award programs. A detailed presentation of these employer awards program, complete with nomination forms, is also available as a brochure.

The three pamphlets, while providing ready reference for the Employment Chairmen, are also excellent for pick-up material at Legion exhibits, booths, and meetings. Over 80,000 of these pamphlets, as well as over 15,000 of the brochure on the Economic Commission, have been distributed.

Intended to recognize individuals and programs that promote the mandates and ideals of the Economic Commission, Citations of Appreciation have been available from the Economic Commission since January 1983. Nominations are to come through department officials, accompanied by an explanation of how the nominee has promoted the goals of the Commission. This program has been received enthusiastically.

In liaison with the Legislation Division, testimony is prepared for presentation before Congressional committees, background and pertinent material is supplied, and the appropriate bills required to satisfy resolutions are drafted. The Economic staff reviews and analyzes all Legislative matters pertaining to economic interests of veterans, particularly those for which The American Legion is already mandated. Information about various staff appearances and statements before Congressional Committees will be found under the section of this report on resolutions; testimony was submitted on ten occasions during the period covered by this report, but nine occurred between February 28 and May 9.

The Economic Commission actively participated in the briefing for those participating in the Legislative Rally held in conjunction with the appearance of the National Commander before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs in September, and "Hill Day" held as part of the Washington Conference in February.

Conclusion

The Commission and its affiliated Committees always welcome letters and reports on all activities on Economic activities at every level: post, district, county, and department. All contributions made to our programs by individual Legionnaires, officials of The American Legion and representatives of business, government, management, and labor are gratefully appreciated.

The Economic Commission and the affiliated committees express their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the splendid spirit of cooperation always received from the staffs of the Washington and Indianapolis offices, the National Commander, The National Adjutant, and staff members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Economic Division, who are responsible for the successful administration of The American Legion's Economic program.

The respective reports of the two committees assigned to the Economic Commission for supervision and coordination follow:

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

JAMES A. McMAHON, Maine, *Chairman*

Members of the employment committee met with the Economic Commission during the report year on two occasions. These meetings were held on August 21, 1982 in Chicago, Illinois prior to the convening of the 64th Annual National Convention, and again on February 21-23, 1983, in conjunction with the Twenty-third Annual Washington Conference. An employment panel was conducted at each of these meetings, which included participation of representatives from the various government and quasi-government agencies and bureaus with whom we work cooperatively on a day-to-day basis. The committee chairman and several members also met with the subcommittee of the Economic Commission in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October 1982 and May 1983.

The Employment Committee has, as its foremost responsibility, the objective of enhancing employment and job training opportunities for all war veterans, including young Vietnam era veterans, disabled veterans and older veterans of the Korean conflict and World War II. The Committee also seeks to effect the purpose and intent of National Convention and National Executive Committee resolutions on employment and related subjects, with administrative functions and day-to-day workload of the committee carried on by the Economic Division staff. The Employment Committee fully supports the employment programs sponsored and carried on by the Economic Commission through the total efforts of The American Legion departments and the United States Employment Service facilities.

The employment Committee under supervision of the Economic Commission, and in cooperation with the Legislative Division, has traditionally supported adequate funding by Congress for the Department of Labor to operate and carry on an effective job placement and employment counseling and job training placement program for veterans, as well as other programs designed to support and improve the economic capabilities of veterans.

Jobs for Veterans

"Jobs for Veterans" as a priority program of The American Legion was reaffirmed by resolution No. 67 approved at the 1982 National Convention. There have been many changes in this program since its inception in June 1970, but through them all the Legion has cooperated, and will continue to cooperate, with all enthusiastic individuals and groups, both public and private, in efforts to place any veteran requiring employment assistance in a job, particularly in the private sector.

The "Jobs for Veterans" program depends for success on activities at the post level, thus requiring an effective post employment chairman. The Economic Commission exerts every effort to provide necessary information and assistance to these post employment chairmen, channeling it through department officials. A basic tool for this is the American Legion Manual for Employment Chairmen. In addition, the new brochures cited elsewhere are available: Job Sources; Veterans Entitlements in Job Market; and Awards, as well as the Employment Awards kit.

By the end of this reporting period, 500 copies of the revised Manual, first available in January 1983, had been sent out. As far as possible, distribution was restricted to Employment Chairmen and those working closely with veterans employment/training programs. A section of the Manual directed at veterans on interviewing techniques, resume writing, etc., was excerpted and made available as "Looking for a Job" to over 8,000 individual veterans and program leaders. Well over 100,000 pamphlets, brochures, and award kits have been sent out over the past year in response to requests.

We should like to recognize and compliment The American Legion Magazine, The American Legion News Service, the Public Relations Division, and the various departments, districts, and posts for their efforts in publicizing our "jobs for Veterans" program.

Disabled and Older Veterans

The Employment Committee has traditionally been involved in employment programs intended to improve and expand employment opportunities for veterans of all wars, including the handicapped and older workers. Considerable time and effort have been devoted to developing and publicizing promotional programs to educate the employers and the general public to the advantages of employing disabled and older workers, especially veterans, in order to combat arbitrary employment policies which tend to eliminate the disabled and older workers in the labor force. During the Legion year 1982-83, the Employment Committee, in cooperation with the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, observed the 36th "Natural Employ the Handicapped Week," October 3-9, 1982. "National Employ the Older Worker Week" was observed for the 26th consecutive year March 13-19, 1983. These employment promotional programs are designed to encourage employers to hire and retain disabled and older workers by awarding National citations to an employer in each department of The American Legion who has done an exemplary job in employing and retaining the handicapped or the older worker.

To eliminate the need for the Legion to seek from Congress each year a designation of the second full week in March as "National Employ the Older Worker Week," a designation often too late to be an effective public relations tool, the Legion is mandated to seek a Senate Joint Resolution which would require the President to routinely designate such a Week each year. Joint resolutions to this effect have been introduced in both the House and Senate. The Department of

Labor has publicized this Week extensively within the employment security offices, but a formal, Presidentially proclaimed Week would be helpful to fully publicize "Employ the Older Worker."

Award program for hiring the handicapped

During the calendar year 1982, the following twenty-one (21) departments participated in the National Handicapped Award Program by honoring a firm with an exceptional record in hiring and retaining the handicapped, especially disabled war veterans: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Panama, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Award program for hiring the older worker

During 1982, the following twenty-seven (27) departments supported the National citation award program by recognizing an employer with an outstanding record in employment of older workers, especially war veterans: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training

Unusually high unemployment rates for Vietnam era veterans remains the top priority of the Employment Committee. Official rates of over 800,000 veterans unemployed, and nearly 500,000 termed "discouraged" have been reported by the Department of Labor. However, nationwide reports indicated far more are in need of economic assistance, especially the older and disabled veterans who are not officially counted.

Responding to this problem is the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training within the Department of Labor, which has responsibility to implement and monitor veterans employment/training programs. Mr. Plowden's duties were greatly facilitated by the appointment of a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, Don Shasteen.

Since assuming office nearly two years ago, the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training has made significant strides in management structure and policy, with clear lines of management duties, programs and responsibilities in place. Too, new responsibilities have been assumed, many of which have been previously recommended by the Economic Commission, such as total control over the Disabled Veterans Outreach program (staff and budget); control of the local veterans employment representatives, as well as securing an adequate budget and other items.

The passage of the Education, Compensation and Employment Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-306), which the Economic Commission assisted in drafting, also had a significant impact on how the affairs of the OASVET are conducted. That legislation, for example, placed the Office of Veterans Reemployment Rights under the OASVET; required secretarial assistance for State Directors of Veterans Employment and Training; imposed additional duties for State Directors; created by law a Secretary of Labor's Committee on Veterans Employment, and tightened administrative controls over the DVOP. With the enactment of PL 97-306, many longstanding Economic resolutions were satisfied.

Although the OASVET sustained no budget cuts in FY 1983, with all authorized positions left intact, it has experienced some field vacancies due to death and retirement. Most felt was the sudden passing of Sam Murphy, Director of Veterans Employment for Region I; that position is now filled on a temporary basis.

Of particular note was that during the first meeting of his Committee on Veterans Employment, Secretary of Labor Donovan signed an order renaming the Veterans Employment Service to the Veterans Employment and Training Service; and announced that the OASVET would be provided with \$500,000 to establish veterans employment/training programs in five selected states.

The OASVET has also moved ahead in creating cooperative agreements with the VA, SBA, and OPM and their respective veteran programs. This joint program effort has been long sought by the Economic Commission to provide the veteran with a more cohesive and complete program of services.

Job Training Partnership Act

Enacted in late 1982, the Job Training Partnership Act replaces the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) as the nation's federally funded manpower program.

Of particular concern to the Economic Commission was the inclusion of a separate and identifiable veterans program administered by the OASVET.

Encouraged by the mandate of Resolution 20 (1982 National Convention), "Seek Appropriations for Separate Veterans Employment/Training Program to be Administered by the Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment," the staff of the Economic and Legislative Commissions aggressively pursued a plan for such a veterans program. The American Legion was the only veterans organization initially in favor of such a proposal and persevered even in the face of stiff opposition.

The efforts of the divisions were rewarded in Title IV, National Programs, at Part C of the JTPA, which established a Veterans Program, the first veterans program in any national manpower program. Based on statutory formula, the OASVET will receive, beginning in fiscal year 1984, \$9.3 million for veterans employment/training programs. Of that amount, \$7.8 million will be available to states, with no state receiving less than \$50,000.

The staff of the Economic Commission has been steadily working with the OASVET in an effort to see that acceptable program regulations are promulgated. In keeping with the overall philosophy of the JTPA that state governments, and not the federal government, should decide programs, states wishing to have Title IV-C programs must provide or expend services in kind for veterans, thus doubling the amount a state is allocated. The proposed regulations also provide a role for private non-profit providers such as The American Legion operated Governor's Veterans Outreach Center in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

The Economic Commission for some time has alerted department officials and others of the need to become involved with the Private Industry Councils and State Advisory Committees to represent the views of veterans; to make their program wishes known; and to insist on veterans employment/training programs.

The JTPA also contained a provision which amended the Wagner-Peyser Act and how the State Employment Security Agencies are to conduct their affairs. Of particular concern to the Economic Commission was the elimination of priority services to veterans in counseling, testing, interviewing, and job referral and placement. In response to this serious problem, the Economic staff is working with the ASVET to impose these priority services on the SESAs.

Other Veterans Employment/Training Program

As funding for the veterans programs under Title IV-C of the JTPA is considered too small an amount to adequately respond to the magnitude of the problem, the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee's subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment, Marvin Leath, introduced H.R. 2355, which establishes a \$150 million temporary veterans employment/training program administered by the VA along the lines of its on-the-job-training program. In response to that measure, Senators Simpson and Cranston of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs introduced their respective bills, both temporary and costing \$150 million, but to be administered by the Department of Labor, to provide certain set funds to employers who hire and train veterans.

The American Legion testified on all three bills and worked closely with the respective staffs of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees in making program amendments and suggestions.

Mr. Leath's bill passed the full House, but no provision for funding was included in the House budget for fiscal year 1984. After consideration by the full Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, the bills introduced by Senators Simpson and Cranston emerged as S. 1033, with provisions that both the VA and Department of Labor administer the program, and with some technical changes. The full Senate passed the measure and the funds are included in the Senate's proposed fiscal year 1984 budget.

VETERANS PREFERENCE COMMITTEE

HENRY J. FIELD, South Carolina

An Executive Session of the Veterans Preference Committee met with the Economic Commission and the Employment Committee on two occasions during the report year. These meetings were held on August 21, 1982, prior to the convening of

the 64th Annual National Convention, Chicago, Illinois, and again on February 21-23, 1983 during the 23rd Annual Washington Conference, with the new chairman attending the latter. There was a veterans' preference and Federal employment panel at each of these meetings. The committee chairman and vice chairman also met with subcommittee of the Economic Committee in May 1982.

The Veterans Preference Committee is committed to remain constantly alert to ensure that none of the rights, privileges and benefits granted to veterans by Federal law are diluted. It continues to operate on the same philosophy held since The American Legion was founded, that "those who were preferred to serve their Armed Forces in time of war should be preferred to serve their Nation in a civilian capacity when qualified.

Federal Employment

While the Administration has announced its commitment to the hiring of veterans, individual agency budget constraints and personnel restrictions have taken their toll on hiring of veterans.

Overall, veterans hiring has been declining, although slightly, over the years, and now veterans make up approximately 43 percent of 2.3 million federal employees.

In March of 1983, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) reported that for the period October 1981 through March of 1982 149,300 new hires were made. Of that number, 47,800, or 32 percent, were veterans, with 73 percent being Vietnam era veterans. Through the special noncompetitive hiring program, Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) 7,400 veterans found federal employment, and the 30-percent special hiring program placed 1,600 disabled veterans in federal jobs.

The Defense agencies had the largest number of new veterans hires, with the VA making the second most use of new veteran hires.

The Economics Commission, in close and continuous cooperation with officials of OPM, regularly monitors veteran hearings by agencies. One significant achievement has resulted in OPM assuming responsibility from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the hiring and advancement of disabled veterans. All federal agencies are now to have in place an approved Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Plan (DVAAP) which, in part, part, provides for closer agency cooperation and liaison with the veterans organizations, the Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training (Department of Labor) and the Veterans Administration. Special DVAAP training seminars have been, and will be, conducted for Affirmative Action offices. The Economic Commission has been involved with these seminars as a guest presenter on The American Legion and veterans employment/training issues in general.

The staff of the Economic Commission will maintain close liaison with OPM to ensure that the DVAAP, VRA, and 30-percent hiring programs are implemented properly.

FINANCE COMMISSION

CHURCHILL T. WILLIAMS, Iowa, *Chairman*

WEBBER LAGRANGE, Indiana, *National Treasurer*

PAUL M. ALLEN, Minnesota, *Finance Director*

The primary obligation of the Finance Commission is to prepare a yearly budget for submission to the National Executive Committee and to exercise reasonable control to see that the various divisions and/or departments of the National Organization operate within the approved appropriations. The Finance Commission is composed of seven members with the National Adjutant as ex-officio secretary, and the National Commander and National Treasurer are ex-officio members. Also attending these meetings are both Executive Directors and the Finance Director.

The National Organization, in 1982, received \$3.50 dues per member, which is allocated as follows: \$1.75 to the General Fund; \$1.50 to the The American Legion Magazine; \$.25 to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. In 1983, the National Organization received \$5.50 dues per member, which is allocated as follows: \$2.75 to the General Fund; \$2.50 to the The American Legion Magazine; \$.25 to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The Finance Commission is pleased to report the 1982 deficit was \$98,234.09, which was almost \$2.4 million less than anticipated.

The income of the National Organization is derived from annual membership dues, interests on investments, Magazine advertisements, Emblem sales and contributions.

A full financial statement is incorporated in the Auditor's Report and in addition, your attention is directed to the reports of Committees and Trusts which are the responsibility of this Commission, and can be found elsewhere in this program.

AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION

ROBERT CHARLES SMITH, Louisiana, *President*

Foreseeing the necessity of a recurring income source for funding its war veterans rehabilitation and child welfare programs, The American Legion conducted a national campaign in 1925 which raised approximately \$5 million for this purpose. The funds contributed were entrusted to the custody of The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

The Corporation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in 1925 and a trust agreement between The American Legion and the Corporation was signed in accordance with which the funds are administered by the Corporation with the annual net investment income being paid to The American Legion for use in the two programs involved.

The operations and financial condition of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation for each of the last five years are summarized below (taken from the annual audit reports prepared by Geo. S. Olive & Co., Indianapolis, Indiana).

	Dec. 31, 1982	Dec. 31, 1981	Dec. 31, 1980	Dec. 31, 1979	Dec. 31, 1978
Total assets.....	\$7,310,964	\$7,316,357	\$7,294,883	\$7,297,577	\$7,258,445
Investments—at cost.....	\$7,221,538	\$7,120,407	\$7,170,044	\$7,205,633	\$7,048,669
Interest income.....	\$639,065	\$629,892	\$605,235	\$577,261	\$560,767
Expenses.....	\$20,920	\$25,712	\$26,866	\$18,232	\$14,841
Excess of income over expenses.....	\$618,145	\$604,180	\$578,369	\$559,029	\$545,926

(201)

	Dec. 31, 1982	Dec. 31, 1981	Dec. 31, 1980	Dec. 31, 1979	Dec. 31, 1978
Funds transferred to The American Legion	\$606,334	\$602,850	\$593,711	\$525,000	\$450,000
Average yield on book value of investments (percent)	8.85	8.73	8.67	8.46	8.14

EMBLEM COMMITTEE

CLAYTON C. SCHLICK, Iowa, *Chairman*

ALFRED L. LANKENAU, JR., Indiana, *General Manager*

Meetings

The Emblem Committee has met twice since our last report. The meeting of the Committee in August 1982, in Chicago, Illinois, was to consider bids, award contracts for 1983 requirements, and to carefully study operating policy. The second meeting in May of 1983 studied general operations and promotional plans for increasing Emblem Sales.

Catalog

The 1983 National Emblem Sales catalog combined American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion merchandise in sixty (60) pages. The catalog, with order blanks bound into the book, was shipped using a pre-printed indicia on the back cover and a simple mailing strip. The catalog was mailed to all departments, posts and units (approximately 65,000 copies) as soon as it was received from the printer. An additional quantity of approximately 30,000 was distributed to individual members in response to their requests and at department conventions where we had Emblem Sales displays.

Advertising

We used the ADVANCE for several promotions during this advertising year. Ads promoted Veterans' Day items, Past Officer merchandise, jackets, Memorial Day items and the 1983 catalog. In addition, a number of feature stories made mention of emblem merchandise, including Baseball Booster decals and the proper use of The American Legion emblem.

Advertising in the American Legion Magazine during this past year has been centered on one-page four-color ads featuring jackets and flags. Since the appearance of these ads, sales have increased significantly. We plan to promote other items in this manner in the future. A self-mailer to the member at home will be tested in September 1983.

The Emblem Committee continues to regularly review the advertising program.

Department Convention Exhibit and Display

The exhibit and display of official emblem merchandise at 14 department conventions was conducted during the year of 1982. These exhibits were at the invitation of department officials for the purpose of good-will and service to the individual Legionnaires. We have exhibited at 14 conventions in 1983 also by invitation.

Each purchaser benefits by the division's economical direct sales program and quantity purchasing power. The net profit derived from sales is paid into the general fund, which is expended under the direct supervision of the Finance Commission to promote the aims and programs of the organization, thereby further benefiting the individual member.

Sales Data

The gross sales, net earnings, etc., for the entire year of 1982 and for the first six months of 1983, for the Emblem Sales Division are as follows:

Jan. 1, 1982 to Dec. 31, 1982 (12 months)

Gross sales	\$4,462,448
Cost of goods sold.....	2,633,931

Overhead.....	1,125,925
Operating profit including discounts taken	702,592

The number of individual orders processed during the 12-month period was 55,001.

Jan. 1, 1983 to June 30, 1983 (6 months)

Gross sales	\$2,758,443
Cost of goods sold.....	1,667,303
Overhead.....	611,822
Operating profit including discounts taken	479,318

The number of individual orders processed during the 6-month period was 32,969.

LIFE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMMITTEE

HAROLD E. HEINLY, California, *Chairman*

GENE L. FATTIG, Indiana, *Director*

The American Legion life insurance plan produced its 25th consecutive year of growth and achieved many important goals. It has two definite and clear objectives: (1) to attract membership in The American Legion and (2) to provide funds for program activities in The American Legion. The insurance division is staffed by a national headquarters' employee who serves as director. The plan is administered by the Youngberg-Carlson Co. Inc., in Chicago, Illinois under contract. The American Legion life insurance and trust committee is composed of the chairman, vice chairman, national commander's representative, two consultants and eight other members. The committee met in August 1982, at the national convention and again in May 1983, at the spring conference held in national headquarters of The American Legion. This committee is assigned to the finance commission for jurisdictional purposes and provides that it shall report through the said finance commission to the executive committee of The American Legion, the governing body of The American Legion between national conventions.

Improvements

The plan, since its inception April 1, 1958, has continued to move forward and make improvements. An item of major importance was the approval of a resolution in 1971 by the executive committee to raise the amount of insurance offered by The American Legion life insurance plan to four full units. Legionnaires under age 30 (26 in Ohio) who were eligible for a maximum of one unit in the amount of \$10,000 before, were then eligible to apply for up to four units which provided a maximum of \$40,000 protection in Legion life benefits.

Effective January 1, 1974 protection under the plan no longer ceases at age 75. It will continue to be in force as long as premiums are paid and the insured remains a current member of The American Legion, and the plan stays in effect. At age 75 and over, a beneficiary will receive \$250.00 for each unit in force, up to the maximum four units.

At the national convention in 1975, the finance commission and the executive committee approved an amendment to The American Legion life insurance plan so as to make available a total of six units of coverage rather than four units. The additional coverage became available as of January 1, 1976. The finance commission and the executive committee at its fall meeting in 1979, approved an amendment to The American Legion life insurance plan so as to make available a total of eight units of coverage rather than six units.

The additional coverage became available as of January 1, 1980. Legionnaires under age 30 (26 in Ohio) who were eligible for the \$60,000 maximum protection before, can now apply for up to \$80,000 in Legion life benefits.

The finance commission and the executive committee at its fall meeting in 1982, approved an amendment to The American Legion life insurance plan which did make available a total of ten units of coverage in lieu of eight units. This additional coverage became available January 1, 1983. Legionnaires under age 30 (26 in Ohio) who were eligible for a maximum of \$80,000 protection before, can now apply for up to \$100,000 in Legion life benefits.

Of course, the most important news being that the cost per unit throughout all the years remains just \$24.00 per unit a year. This low cost, coupled with the long range value, makes this Legion life plan ideal for those you love and want to remember—whether it's a family, a charity, a foundation, or even your local Legion

post. It is not meant to replace any existing policies you may have. It simply gives you added protection at incredibly low cost.

The American Legion life insurance division is most pleased to report that for the fourteenth time in the 25 year history of the plan an increase in benefits is being provided to all insured legionnaires. The benefit increase, amounting to 20%, was effective January 1, 1983 and will be extended through December 31, 1983 on all losses during that period. The increase applies "across the board" and comes without additional cost. As with past increases, the bonus is a result of the claims experience under the plan being better—than—expected. With the newly instituted ten unit maximum benefit, the increase means that the maximum benefit is \$120,000 payable to a beneficiary of an insured member under age 30 (26 in Ohio) up from the Schedule—Benefit of \$100,000.

Since 1938, The American Legion has provided monies towards scholarships, to the high school winners of the national oratorical contest held annually. In order to assure a continued first class program, scholarship awards have been increased and this is made possible by contribution from The Life Insurance Trust Fund.

A resolution approved in 1970 by the executive committee increased the awards of the national oratorical contest and funds are derived from the Legion life insurance trust fund. The new awards were, 1st place, \$8,000; 2nd place, \$5,000; 3rd place, \$3,000; and 4th place, \$2,000. In addition each department (State) oratorical winner who is certified into and participates in The American Legion national high school oratorical contest at the regional level receives a \$500.00 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. A resolution was approved in 1980 by the executive committee which increased the awards of the national oratorical contest, and this is funded by The American Legion life insurance trust. The new awards are, 1st place, \$16,000; 2nd place, \$10,000; 3rd place, \$6,000; and 4th place, \$4,000. In addition the trust fund makes available to each department (State) oratorical winner, who is certified into and participates in The American Legion national high school oratorical contest at both the sectional and regional level, a \$500.00 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

A resolution was approved in 1982 by the executive committee to again increase some of the awards of the national oratorical contest. The new awards are 2nd place, \$14,000; 3rd place, \$10,000 and 4th place, \$8,000. In addition the awards to the department winners (51 departments) was increased to \$1,000 each. Also the eight contestants at the sectional level who did not make the final four in national competition was increased to \$1,000 each. The remainder of awards was not changed.

Since 1970 the Legion life insurance trust has provided the oratorical program a total of \$1,196,600. This amount does include the allocation of \$174,328 set aside for their 1983 program.

American Legion baseball became a national program by action of the National Convention in 1925. Professional baseball agreed in 1928 to underwrite the national program for \$50,000. Recently they commenced to provide \$100,000. As in the oratorical program, it was necessary to seek additional monies to keep this a first class program.

A resolution was approved in 1972 by the executive Committee to make available the needed monies from the Legion life insurance trust fund. Since 1972 the trust fund has provided to the baseball program a total of \$2,533,821.00. This amount does include the allocation of \$457,795 set aside for the 1983 baseball program.

A resolution approved by the executive committee in 1977 provides annually, monies necessary for support of the junior uniformed groups participating in competition at national convention each year. The sum of \$20,000 was set aside for this purpose to be used in 1983. Since 1978 a total of \$85,960.00 has been granted from the Legion life insurance trust fund.

A resolution was approved in 1982 by the executive committee to provide an annual \$2,500 scholarship award to the boy scout of year. This is become effective in 1983.

Further, the following expenses for calendar year 1983 were also placed in reserve and to be charged to The American Legion life insurance trust fund; legal service—\$4,800; accounting service—\$3,600; trust fee \$1,500; boys nation—\$114,453; and membership \$221,000. These facts establishes quite well that The American Legion life insurance plan makes it possible to continue these great Legion programs.

Insured Legionnaires Pay Dues Early

The insurance plan is underwritten by two large and reputable companies—in New York and Puerto Rico by The United States Life Insurance Company; and in all other areas by one of the largest companies in North America, Transamerica Oc-

cidental Life Insurance Company of California. Several thousand new members enroll each year, which replaces those who have died and those who failed to renew.

Claims

A dominant feature of The American Legion life insurance plan is in the benefits paid to the loved ones of deceased insured legionnaires. In twenty five years, claims were paid amounting to \$42,364,294 in benefits. These benefits were paid at no cost to the national organization of The American Legion and no expense to the general membership, other than certificate-policyholders. It can be properly reported that the insurance plan has proven to be a self-sustaining program. There is little doubt that by the end of 1983 the total benefits paid will be well over forty six million dollars.

Claims report, Jan. 1, 1983

1958	\$78,790
1959	159,410
1960	221,545
1961	257,970
1962	393,020
1963	561,574
1964	672,250
1965	730,910
1966	976,474
1967	1,230,968
1968	1,376,243
1969	1,489,100
1970	1,672,521
1971	1,955,909
1972	1,839,294
1973	1,917,345
1974	2,151,480
1975	2,096,983
1976	2,598,185
1977	2,662,192
1978	3,215,425
1979	2,898,141
1980	3,263,408
1981	3,855,550
1982	4,089,606
Total	42,364,294

Premium Growth

The premium growth is even more remarkable. Premiums or contributions paid for life insurance protection exceeded well over \$4,000,000 for calendar year 1977, 1978, 1979 and over \$5,000,000 for 1980 and 1981. In 1982 the total premium exceeded \$6,000,000. The American Legion life insurance plan is the largest (numerically) of its kind in the nation.

Premium growth 1958-82

1958	\$342,000
1959	390,000
1960	414,000
1961	450,000
1962	840,000
1963	1,178,000
1964	1,300,000
1965	1,412,305
1966	1,652,883
1967	1,829,728
1968	2,016,073
1969	2,066,583
1970	2,174,070
1971	2,669,473
1972	2,919,409

1973	3,216,594
1974	3,415,618
1975	3,539,989
1976	3,882,104
1977	4,367,713
1978	4,641,752
1979	4,854,524
1980	5,459,932
1981	5,834,993
1982	6,066,474

The American Legion Life Insurance Trust

Under the provisions of the trust agreement, an insurance trust is established for all States but: Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin. In these States, because of insurance laws, they are not included under the trust agreement.

At the close of each calendar year, after claims have been paid and all administrative costs deducted, the remaining contributions are transferred to the insurance trust. There is presently over five million dollars in The American Legion life insurance trust fund. The trustee is the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri.

Promotion of the Insurance Plan

Throughout the years, the promotion of the insurance plan among members has been in three forms: first, through repeated direct mailing of applications; second, intensified advertising in The American Legion Magazine, Advance, and department publications; and third, by the director, an employee who works with departments, districts and posts throughout all States. Department conventions, district seminars and conferences are attended for the promotion of the plan. During 1983 approximately four million applications will be mailed to legionnaires. Approximately \$300,000 will be expended for placement ads in The American Legion magazine during 1983.

Continually, since 1958, less than five percent of the insured members fail to renew insurance each year. Every year, on or about October first, tens of thousands of legionnaires are requested to report next year's membership card number and make insurance remittance before January first of following year. It provides early membership renewals. As the program grows, so will these many advantages magnify themselves throughout The American Legion.

All American Legion posts are urged to contact The American Legion life insurance plan, 222 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601 to learn how this remarkable life insurance does provide low-cost protection for members. This insurance is especially attractive to the Vietnam era veteran who joins The American Legion.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION

ROBERT P. FOSTER, Missouri, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Maryland, *Director*

The following annual report covers the activities of the Foreign Relations Commission and Council of The American Legion for the 1982-83 program year ending June 30, 1983.

Overview

Taken as a whole, The American Legion's foreign relations resolutions and activities continued strong support for peace through strength coupled with dynamic measures to defeat communist expansionism and improve Free World cooperation. Underlying that approach was an implicit imperative for development and execution of a consistent, coherent foreign policy based on a sound national strategy. Nuclear arms control and Central America were two important areas of emphasis.

During July and August, we worked against adoption of an immediate nuclear freeze resolution by the House of Representatives. This approach prevailed, as the House voted to adopt the Broomfield Resolution and rejected the Zablocki Resolution, which called for an immediate nuclear freeze. The Broomfield Resolution supported a nuclear freeze at "equal and substantially reduced levels." In September, a video cassette was distributed to all Departments for use in providing information on the nuclear freeze issue. The cassette contained the nuclear arms control debate shown on the BBC in June, 1982 between the Chairmen of the Foreign Relations and National Security Commission and members of the Morton Grove, Illinois Post 134 and two British proponents of unilateral disarmament. The cassette opened and concluded with statements by National Commander Al Keller, Jr., outlining our four-part policy (maintain a credible nuclear deterrent force; offset the Soviet SS-20 threat to NATO Europe; negotiate significant mutual reductions; and negotiate a nuclear freeze of equality). In the spring of 1983, the nuclear freeze issue once more came before the House. Once again, we expressed our views in a letter to every representative. Additionally, we presented testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. That testimony explained our position in detail and also pointed out the inherent dangers of an immediate nuclear freeze. Our position was also spelled out in an article published in *The American Legion Magazine*. The second vote by the House partially reflected our policy views. Although the House adopted an immediate nuclear freeze resolution, it was amended to incorporate several desirable features (the freeze was linked to mutual reductions, modernization was permitted, verification was emphasized, and U.S. unilateral disarmament was rejected).

National Commander Al Keller, Jr., responded with a detailed letter to President Reagan's Central American speech before a Joint Session of Congress on April 27. The National Commander expressed our support for President Reagan's program calling for democratic reforms, economic development aid, security assistance, and support for flexible negotiations consistent with U.S. goals. National Commander Keller stated:

Only determined, coordinated and resolute action under U.S. leadership can avoid a creeping Pearl Harbor—and this time not thousands of miles distant in the Pacific—but within several hundred miles of our shores. Bipartisan action, as you so rightly suggested, is most assuredly vital to promoting democracy in Central America.

Our mandates on Central America were also given wide distribution in an article carried in *The American Legion Magazine*, which analyzed the mistaken "lessons" from the Vietnam War often being applied incorrectly to El Salvador.

The United States drastically changed its policy toward Taiwan in the U.S.-China Joint Communique of August 17, 1982. It undermined the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, which called for the United States to provide Taiwan with defensive arms as determined by the President and the Congress. Regarding arms sales to Taiwan, the

communiqué stated: "The United States Government . . . does not seek to carry out a long-term policy of arms sales to Taiwan." The communiqué committed the United States to: limit the quantity and quality of arms sales to those furnished since January 1, 1979; gradually reduce arms sales "leading over a period of time to a final resolution;" and acknowledge the determination of the People's Republic of China to settle the issue of arms to Taiwan. National Commander Jack W. Flynt immediately stated The American Legion's position in a news conference during the 64th National Convention. He emphasized that the communiqué was contrary to the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979. Continuing, he pointed out the Legion favors sales of modern arms to the Republic of China (Taiwan) and resumption of full relations between the United States and Taiwan. National Commander Flynt also commented that news reports criticizing the communiqué showed that the vast majority of Americans regard Taiwan as a separate nation and favor continued U.S. arms sales.

Our positions on three other key issues were set forth in articles appearing in The American Legion Magazine. They concerned construction of the Soviet gas pipeline to Western Europe, the "successor generation" problem of assuring that young citizens of the NATO countries understand the Soviet threat and the need to defend freedom, and the Law of the Sea Treaty.

General Foreign Policy

Soviet Union

We called on the U.S. Government to exploit Soviet political vulnerabilities through radio broadcasts on the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. Believing that construction of the Soviet gas pipeline to Western Europe would provide hard currency to help finance the Soviet arms buildup, we opposed its construction and urged use of alternative sources of energy from Western Europe. We opposed Soviet intervention in Poland and suppression of Solidarity.

Protection of intelligence information

In an effort to protect intelligence information, we supported amendment of the Freedom of Information Act to permit withholding of sensitive information and data.

Peace Academy

Some people recommend establishment of a U.S. Peace Academy to promote peace through "peace learning." Fearing that such an institution would concentrate on "peace at any price" rather than "peace through strength," we recommended the academy not be created. Instead, we urged using funds to promote democratic ideals and practices as recommended in President Reagan's June, 1982 speech to the British Parliament.

African Affairs

South Africa

The American Legion reiterated last year's efforts to have the Administration and Congress take immediate bipartisan action, with or without United Nations approval, to (1) terminate all sanctions against South Africa; (2) establish full diplomatic ties with South Africa, designate South Africa as a "most favored nation" in all areas of trade and exchange of economic or military facilities, and provide tax incentives for U.S. industrial development in South Africa; and (3) enter into a mutually acceptable military alliance with South Africa.

The basis for our efforts were the extremely urgent need to support United States national security, industrial, and economic development interests and the continuation of unsettled conditions in Africa and the Middle East.

The American Legion also requested the United States to offer all assistance available to help the South Africa government implement its policy of training and self-help for its peoples.

Namibia

We supported an agreement on Namibian independence which is acceptable to the governments of the United States and South Africa. This was envisioned to include: free and fair elections, withdrawal of South African forces, and withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

Far Eastern Affairs

The Republic of China (Taiwan)

We adopted two resolutions stating our continuing, firm commitment to maintaining Taiwan's independence. Because of the coincidence of political, economic, and military interests between the United States and Taiwan, one resolution called for restoration of diplomatic and military relations between the two nations. The other resolution supported the sales of modern defense articles at levels necessary to maintain a self-defense capability for Taiwan.

Republic of Korea

We pointed out that the mutual defense treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea requires effective South Korean military forces in order to be effective. Consequently, we urged the sale of the necessary modern defensive military arms and equipment to South Korea to provide such capability.

POW/MIA

The American Legion continued its program in the forefront of the many organizations seeking a just resolution of the Southeast Asia POW/MIA issue. We called for diplomatic and economic pressures on nations hindering the search for MIA and forceful leadership by the Administration and Congress leading to the return of, or accurate accounting of, our POW/MIAs.

Terms of reference were promulgated, assigning the following functions to the Special POW/MIA Committee:

To work toward the return of, or accurate accounting for, all American POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia.

To keep the resolution of the POW/MIA issue in the forefront of American and world consciousness.

To assist Departments in the conduct of their POW/MIA programs.

To coordinate POW/MIA activities with the National League of Families and U.S. Government agencies.

Highlights of the Special POW/MIA Committee's activities included:

July.—Mr. Keith Baker (Iowa), Chairman, Special POW/MIA Committee, represented The American Legion at the National League of Families' (NLF) annual meeting.

A memorandum describing POW Recognition Day highlights was mailed to Department chairmen.

August.—Mr. G. Michael Schlee, Director, National Security-Foreign Relations Division, attended a POW/MIA planning meeting held by the VFW and the Air Force Association.

At the National Convention, Mr. Baker reported on the POW/MIA program to the Foreign Relations Commission, and Colonel Earl P. Hopper, (AUS-Ret.), Chairman, Board of Directors, NLF, spoke to delegates on POW/MIA matters.

November.—Mailed Department of Defense article "An Historical Perspective of the POW/MIA Issue" to Department chairmen.

The American Legion's float in the Washington, DC parade, "Salute to Vietnam Veterans," held in conjunction with the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, was dedicated to the POW/MIA issue.

December.—The American Legion Magazine published an article on the NLF-sponsored trip to Southeast Asia.

Received a letter from the National Security Council complimenting Legion program.

January.—The NLF held a meeting commemorating 10th Anniversary of the Paris Agreement to End the Vietnam War. Dr. Foster met with a high U.S. Government official and NLF leaders. Mr. Schlee attended key sessions, including a speech by President Reagan.

The National Commander sent congratulatory telegram to President Reagan.

February.—Report on meeting mailed to Department chairmen. The American Legion Magazine published an article on Vietnam POW's 10 years after their release.

At Washington Conference, Special POW/MIA Committee met to assess 1982 and plan for 1983, and Mrs. Griffiths, Executive Director, NLF, presented POW/MIA update to Foreign Relations Commission and National Security Commission at a joint meeting.

March.—Mailed results of Washington Conference meeting to the Department Chairmen.

May.—Mailed materials re NLF television public service announcements to Department chairmen.

Four articles were published in the National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin during the year.

The American Legion continued to provide office space for the NLF and to coordinate closely with it.

During the Washington Conference, the Special POW/MIA Committee adopted this program for 1983:

Continue the public awareness campaign.

Continue the "Write Hanoi" campaign.

Seek to have the POW/MIA flag flown over state capitol buildings to commemorate POW/MIA Recognition Day on April 9, 1983.

Send sample governors' proclamation and legislative resolutions to department chairman to commemorate POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Urge local TV stations to run the public service announcements produced by the NLF.

Seek to have articles on the POW/MIA issue published in The American Legion Magazine.

Inter-American Affairs

Western Hemisphere Task Force

In February, a study was initiated to evaluate U.S.-Mexican relationships in order to recommend appropriate resolutions on U.S. policy toward Mexico to the National Executive Committee. During the Washington Conference, members of the Western Hemisphere Task Force discussed U.S.-Mexican relations in meetings with U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States J. William Middendorf, II and Mr. Frank Crigler, Mexican Desk Officer, Department of State. In June, Dr. Foster and Mr. George Triplett (Mexico) conducted research for the study in Mexico. Afterwards they proceeded to Guatemala City, Guatemala where Mr. Roger Munson (Ohio), chairman, National Security Commission joined them for four days of research in Guatemala. In May, preparation for that trip included meetings with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Inter-American Affairs Nestor Sanchez and with Mr. Robert Blohm, Guatemalan Desk Officer, Department of State.

Caribbean Basin

We supported the Administration's Caribbean Basin Initiative but urged that it be enlarged into a "Marshall-type Plan" for the area. This would establish a long-term, comprehensive, adequately funded program dealing with the area's economic, social, and security problems in a coordinated, multilateral manner. We also urged the U.S. Government to develop adequate military and intelligence capabilities to accomplish its objectives in the Caribbean Basin.

Central America

We recommended that the Sandinista government of Nicaragua be isolated as a means of defeating its efforts to export communist subversion. We urged adequate economic and military aid to enable Costa Rica and Honduras to preserve their independence and solve their economic problems. We also recommended that the Administration work closely with the government of Guatemala to bring about conditions conducive to the resumption of military aid to Guatemala and expansion of economic assistance.

El Salvador

Our resolution pointed out that the Administration has publicly, clearly, and repeatedly "drawn a line" and pledged to defeat communist aggression in El Salvador, thus making U.S. resolve and success absolutely imperative. Consequently, we urged adequate economic and military assistance be provided in El Salvador. Additionally, we called for whatever action is necessary to redeem the U.S. pledge to defeat communist subversion in El Salvador.

Cuba

Due to Cuba's export of communist revolution to Africa and Central America, we urged continuation of economic sanctions against Cuba, undiluted U.S. control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, and intelligence gathering overflights to evaluate compliance with the Kennedy-Khrushchev Agreement of 1962.

Middle East

Support for Afghanistan Freedom Fighters

The Soviet Union's brutal suppression of freedom in Afghanistan continued unabated, including use of "Yellow Rain" in violation of earlier agreements. Since the Soviet invasion has caused millions of Afghans to flee as refugees to Pakistan, we urge the Free World to provide all possible humanitarian aid to the Afghans in Pakistan. Further, we urged the U.S. Government to initiate action for a peaceful withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Middle East

We urged the U.S. Government to adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East seeking to achieve three objectives: a secure Israel living within recognized borders, an uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf to the West, and restoration of Lebanese sovereignty accompanied by withdrawal of all foreign forces.

Treaties and Agreements

Nuclear Arms Control

We proposed a four-part policy on nuclear arms control, which would lead to equal nuclear forces at greatly reduced levels for the Soviet Union and the United States. Our program called for: maintenance of credible nuclear deterrent forces; offset of the Soviet SS-20 missile threat to NATO Europe by negotiations or deployment of U.S. missiles; mutual, significant reductions of U.S. and USSR nuclear forces to equal levels; and a verifiable freeze of equal nuclear forces as a final step. In all phases, we recommended maximum emphasis on equality and verifiability of any nuclear arms control measures, including fullest consideration of on-site inspection by both sides.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Recognizing that defense of the United States depends on a strong and unified NATO, we urged continued U.S. support of NATO and encouragement of military exercise to maintain battle readiness.

Law of the Sea Treaty

We concluded that the Law of the Sea Treaty negotiated under UN auspices contained many desirable features such as delineation of territorial seas, transit rights, and establishment of economic zones. However, the treaty's deep seabed mining provisions were unacceptable because they would subject deep seabed mining to a share-the-wealth scheme controlled by an international bureaucracy. Accordingly, we supported the Administration's decision not to sign the treaty. We called on the Administration and Congress to take steps so the United States could benefit from the acceptable parts of the treaty but could engage in deep seabed mining outside the treaty's provisions.

United Nations

We urged the administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient UN operations consistent with the UN Charter's stated purposes. We also called for the Administration to take the necessary actions to eliminate espionage operations against the United States perpetrated through foreign agents acting under UN cover.

Support by National Commander Keller

The Foreign Relations Commission sincerely appreciated the leadership of National Commander Al Keller, Jr., in placing major emphasis on foreign relations. The National Commander explained The American Legion's nuclear arms control position on the video cassette mentioned earlier; gave prominence to foreign relations issues in several of his monthly Commander's Messages in the American Legion Magazine; and placed emphasis on foreign relations issue in his speeches, press conference, and press releases. National Commander Keller gained a personal understanding of many world issues in his trips to the Far East, Latin America, and Europe. The National Commander set forth The American Legion's positions on foreign relations in meetings with President Reagan, Deputy Secretary of State Dam, and Counselor to the Secretary of State Derwinski. National Commander Keller's emphasis on foreign affairs and strong leadership significantly improved the success of the Foreign Relations Commission's programs.

Commission Meetings

64th National Convention

On August 21, 1982, members of the Foreign Relations Commission met jointly with the National Security Commission in Chicago, Illinois to hear two speakers.

Ambassador-at-Large Vernon A. Walters presented a comprehensive report on the status of key foreign policy issues. Mr. Robert T. Grey, Deputy Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, gave a most thorough update on both nuclear and conventional forces arms control negotiations.

Fall National Executive Committee meeting

The Foreign Relations commission met at National Headquarters on October 13-14, 1982 to consider five resolutions properly before then and to discuss pertinent issues of foreign relations.

At the Monday meeting, five resolutions were consolidated and recommended for approval.

The Commission considered a proposal by the Department of Texas endorsing an on-site investigation of the massacre in West Beirut. After considerable debate, the Commission decided to receive and record that proposal.

The Commission discussed the intention of the Western Hemisphere Task Force to focus its attention on the critical situation in Mexico. Mr. George Triplett (Mexico) briefed the group on the current situation in Mexico and future prospects. Mr. Keith Baker (Iowa), Chairman of the Special POW/MIA Committee, discussed the ongoing "Write Hanoi" campaign and the recent successful trip of four representatives of the National League of Families to Laos and Vietnam. The Commission had an in-depth discussion of the four-step policy proposed in the resolution on nuclear arms control. The Commission noted with concern the growing demand expressed by some groups and through various election results for an immediate nuclear freeze. The group also discussed the situation in the Middle East and Taiwan.

On Tuesday, the Commission viewed the video tape of the BBC "Man Alive Debate" on nuclear arms control, which was filmed at Morton Grove Post No. 134 in Chicago. The group noted that the tape can serve the multiple uses in every Department of explaining Legion positions, recruiting new members, and encouraging more participation in the Foreign Relations Program.

Washington Conference

The Foreign Relations Commission met in general session during the Washington Conference on Monday, February 21; Tuesday, February 22; and Wednesday, February 23, 1983.

During the Monday morning meeting, the Foreign Relations Commission and the National Security Commission met in joint session. The featured speakers attracted a large, enthusiastic audience.

The opening speaker was The Honorable Vern Orr, Secretary of the Air Force, who spoke on "The Current Strategic Situation." Secretary Orr stated that many Americans do not appreciate the growing scope of the Soviet threat. He explained how the USSR has developed the world's largest armed forces over the past 35 years. He pointed out that America's customary technological edge over the Soviets is being eroded by growing American scientific illiterary, growth in the Soviet research and develop effort, and Soviet acquisition of U.S. technology. After explaining the Air Force's role in US defense policy, Secretary Orr identified three misperceptions that encourage cuts in the U.S. defense budget: that U.S. forces are intended for war fighting rather than deterrence, that the defense budget is excessive, and that an immediate nuclear freeze will prevent nuclear war. Secretary Orr closed with a plea to Legionnaires to help correct these misperceptions and inform the American people about the growing Soviet threat.

The second speaker was the Honorable Thomas O. Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. Mr. Enders explained the insurrections supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union in Central America. He examined the situation in El Salvador in detail. He stressed that "the stakes are very high in this struggle" and that if the United States does not succeed in helping to halt communist insurgency "four or five years from now we'll find we will be fighting on the Canal or on the Mexican border." Secretary Enders highlighted the important role the Caribbean Basin Initiative could have in restoring economic prosperity and political stability to the region.

The final speaker was Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director of the National League of Families, who provided an update on efforts to resolve the POW/MIA issue. Mrs. Griffiths described the events and results of the recent trip by four members of her organization to Laos and Vietnam.

On Monday afternoon, the Foreign Relations Commission met in separate session. The first presentation was a pro-and-con discussion of the Law of the Sea Treaty by Ambassador James L. Malone, U.S. negotiator for the Law of the Sea Treaty and the former U.S. negotiator, Ambassador Elliott L. Richardson. Ambassador Malone explained and defended the Administration's decision not to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty because it would stifle deep seabed mining and would create a collectivist organization to control such mining. Ambassador Richardson, believing that no U.S. deep seabed mining will be feasible outside the treaty, recommended that the United States avoid undercutting the Law of the Sea Treaty and seek beneficial changes in it.

The second presentation was by Dr. James E. Muller of Harvard University Medical School, representing the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Dr. Muller gave "A Soviet-American Medical Viewpoint on the Nuclear Arms Race." Dr. Muller urged an end to the nuclear arms race through a freeze, followed by mutual, verifiable disarmament by the Soviet Union and the United States. He praised The American Legion for showing an open mind by inviting an "anti-nuclear" speaker like himself.

The afternoon session concluded with a POW/MIA question-and-answer period in which Mrs. Griffiths answered queries stemming from her remarks during the morning session.

On Tuesday morning, the Foreign Relations Commission participated in the legislative rally. In addressing the rally, Dr. Robert P. Foster, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission, urged those visiting The Hill to point out the dangers of an immediate nuclear freeze, seek support for Taiwan, and urge passage of the trade and investment provisions of the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Later on Tuesday morning, President Reagan presented a major foreign policy address to the Washington Conference participants, entitled "Progress in the Quest for Peace and Freedom." The President's speech was a "report on the progress we have made in the past two years in our quest for peace and freedom in an uncertain world." After discussing the deterioration of U.S. foreign policy and military preparedness in the 1970s, President Reagan outlined five components of the Administration's foreign policy strategy. They were: restoring relations with allies, peacemaking, strengthening the international economic system, promoting progress in developing countries, and fostering the global growth of democratic institutions.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Foreign Relations Commission and National Security Commission met in joint session in the Cannon House Office Building.

Mrs. Allison Fortier, consultant to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, discussed U.S. interests and policies in the Middle East. She analyzed President Reagan's peace initiative of last September in detail. She also explained U.S. security assistance and economic aid programs for the area.

Congressman William Carney, representing New York's First Congressional District, presented a detailed analysis of Congressional proposals for an immediate nuclear freeze and pointed out the dangers such an approach hold for U.S. national security.

On Wednesday morning, Mr. David S. Sullivan, Legislative Assistant to Senator Steve Symms, discussed "Verification of Arms Control Agreements." He maintained that the Soviets have "evaded or circumvented every international treaty they have signed since 1917." Mr. Sullivan stated that the United States has acquiesced in Soviet cheating because of concern over jeopardizing future agreements. Mr. Sullivan explained in detail the seven Soviet violations which have been militarily most significant.

The Foreign Relations Commission conducted a business meeting. The agenda included: presentation of the chairman's report on recent activities, promulgation of new terms of reference for the Special POW/MIA Committee and appointment of four new members, consideration of two resolutions, and presentation of excerpts from the new foreign relations briefing.

An ad hoc group of Foreign Relations Commission members met on February 22, chaired by Dr. Robert P. Foster. The group discussed the feasibility of testing a newly developed program which provides for small group discussions of foreign relations issues by Legionnaires at the post level. The group agreed to study the proposal and make a decision at the pre-national convention meeting.

Spring National Executive Committee meeting

The Foreign Relations Commission met at the National Headquarters on May 2-3, 1983.

At the Monday meeting, the Commission reviewed actions taken to implement Foreign Relations Resolutions. Next, POW/MIA activities were discussed, including

the recent mailing of material to department POW/MIA chairmen. The Western Hemisphere Task Force informed the Commission of plans for the ongoing study of U.S.-Mexican relations. The Commission assessed the report of the Scowcroft Commission on strategic policy with particular emphasis on the report's implications for nuclear arms control policy.

The Monday session concluded with a detailed discussion of key Foreign Relations issues including nuclear arms control; the Soviet SS-20 missile threat to Western Europe; President Reagan's speech on Central America; the breakdown of negotiations in the Middle East; policy toward Taiwan and Mainland China; and continued Soviet direct or indirect aggression in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Poland.

On Tuesday, the Commission, together with the National Security Commission, viewed an excellent U.S. Air Force film entitled: "POWs: NOT FORGOTTEN," which depicts the experiences of our returned POWs in the 10 years since they were released. The film is available for showing by American Legion Posts. The Commission also discussed the questions: is El Salvador another Vietnam? and What are U.S. interests in Central America?

Foreign Relations Commission—Staff Activities

The Washington staff operates Washington, D.C. as a combined division serving both the Foreign Relations and National Security Commissions, under the overall direction of G. Michael Schlee. Mr. Harry E. B. Sullivan is the Assistant Director for Foreign Relations. Miss Bonnie Johnson provides administrative support. Miss June Bancroft, secretary of the director, does considerable work for Foreign Relations as does Mr. Spencer H. Leopard, Research Analyst, whose administration skills proved most effective in providing source material for this annual report.

The staff services

The Foreign Relations Washington staff during the past year performed the following functions for the Commission, the National Commander, and the Legion's 58 Departments and approximately 17,000 Posts:

- (1) Preparation of policy papers supportive of the Legion's Foreign Relations mandates;
- (2) Preparation of background papers and speeches on foreign policy matters for the National Commander, Foreign Relations Commission, and individual Legionnaires;
- (3) Liaison with U.S. agencies in the executive branch, such as the Departments of State and Defense, and other federal agencies involved with international relations;
- (4) Preparation of Congressional testimony on international affairs;
- (5) Staff assistance for major activities, including the National Convention, National Executive Committee meetings, the Washington Conference and the Western Hemisphere Task force;
- (6) Liaison with foreign diplomatic personnel as appropriate in the support of Legion mandates;
- (7) Preparation of speeches, articles, and interviews as required;
- (8) Preparation of articles for the bi-monthly National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin, which is sent to 1,500 Legion and Auxiliary members; and
- (9) Administrative duties such as answering correspondence, keeping posted on current international events and coordinating foreign affairs securities with other staff divisions, especially the Legislative and Public Relations Divisions.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

JAMES P. DEAN, Mississippi, *Chairman*

RAYMOND C. PATTERSON, Iowa, *Director*

The National Internal Affairs Commission is responsible for policies relating to the internal structure and operation of The American Legion at all levels. In addition, all resolutions and other official matters not falling within the area of assigned duties of other national commissions or committees are handled by the Internal Affairs Commission.

Four national standing committees are assigned to the commission for "supervision and coordination": Constitution and By-Laws; Membership and Post Activities; Resolutions Assignment; and Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials. The Internal Affairs Commission is also the supervisory body for the Sons of The American Legion organization, and the commission's full-time staff at National Headquarters in Indianapolis (the Internal Affairs Division) provides staff services for the National Contests Supervisory Committee, which itself reports to the National Convention Commission.

Sons of The American Legion

The Sons of The American Legion continued to grow during 1982. Final membership for 1982 totaled 59,577, a gain of 7,344 over the 52,233 final count for 1981. SAL National Conventions are held in conjunction with the National Conventions of The American Legion. The 12th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will begin its second half century of service. This year the SAL has concentrated its efforts throughout the nation to support Special Olympics.

Consolidated Post Reports

For the eighth year in a row, Posts of The American Legion were asked to file a Consolidated Post Report, which allow the national organization to obtain a standard report on all major programs.

Approximately 47.78 percent of all Posts submitted reports. Reporting Posts represented approximately 61 percent of the total membership, with assets in excess of \$629,775,000. Some of the figures were truly outstanding, such as the following: Cost of athletic teams, 6 million dollars; aid given to benefit children and youth, 5.3 million dollars; hours given to community service, 2.8 million hours; cost of uniformed groups, 1.5 million dollars.

Much of the money raised by American Legion Posts is on a volunteer basis, and programs are very rarely supported by the amount of dues collected. This points to one of the great strengths of The American Legion-service work to veterans, children and youth, and communities.

Paid-Up-For-Life

The Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Plan is showing a steady gain in acceptance and participation. Since its beginning in July of 1975, approximately 26,000 Legionnaires have utilized the availability of the PUFL Plan.

Energy Policy of The American Legion

Over six years ago the National Executive Committee assigned to the Internal Affairs Commission the primary responsibility for all resolutions concerning energy and environment. A subcommittee of the Internal Affairs Commission was formed for the purpose of researching all resolutions.

The basic policy of the Energy Subcommittee is one that supports the concept of a national policy to decrease our reliance on foreign fossil fuels and to develop our proven and potential domestic resources.

The direction of The American Legion's involvement in the energy program will remain one of concentration on conservation. We will, however, continue to broaden our monitoring of alternative energy sources in search of energy independence. We recognize that our national security, as well as our economy, is dependent upon our success and the success of other organizations who are beginning to join us in this important national challenge.

Direct Renewal

The retention of members in The American Legion is vitally important, and it is the responsibility of every Legionnaire to take an active part in this issue. A strong membership is one of the measures this organization uses to gauge the success of the various programs.

To assist and support the efforts of local and state membership teams, the National Direct Renewal Program was implemented in the mid 1970's as an organized, uniform, and simple method to retain those who now belong.

The program has been very successful, and effective with the 1984 Direct Renewal Program, the entire funding for the program will be at no cost to Departments or Posts. Also effective with the 1984 program, there will be only three mailing dates for the receipt of renewals for participating Posts and Departments. First, second, and third renewal notices will be received on or about August 1, November 1, and February 1, respectively.

Along with personal one-on-one contact between members at the local Posts, these new developments will provide interesting and exciting membership challenges for future years.

Gordon's Dry Gin Good Neighbor Award

In 1983 five outstanding Legionnaires were presented the Gordon's Dry Gin Good Neighbor Award for volunteer service. The award, a cooperative effort between The American Legion and Gordon's Dry Gin Company, Ltd., consisted of a suitable plaque and \$1,000 check payable to the winner's favorite charity. Each recipient was honored at a special luncheon in his local community.

Winners were: Christian W. Bretall, Post 8, Baltimore, Maryland, for work with veterans; Harold A. Spies, Post 226, Clyde, New York, for volunteer service; Richard Edlebeck, Post 434, Oak Creek, Wisconsin, for heroism; Grant Cushiberry, Post 319, Topeka, Kansas, for community service; and Robert Burns, Post 13, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for youth activities.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Project

The American Legion has thus donated more than 1.2 million dollars to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The Legion was also well represented at the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans held in Washington, D.C., in November, 1982. National Commander Al Keller, Jr. hosted a reception in honor of POW/MIA families and a Music of the Era program featuring Wolfman Jack.

All Legionnaires are to be commended for their participation in this project, and, again, we thank them for making it happen.

Research and Development

The results from The American Legion's direct marketing test to acquire new members are being analyzed. Thus far, more than 14,500 members have been obtained through the program. The program is proving viable and worthy of further study.

An additional project under study is an on-line electronic communications system with Departments. The Research and Development Management Review Board is studying the results of a survey of Departments and some computer applications that could be made available if such a system was implemented.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

WILLIAM W. GREEMAN, Indiana, *Chairman*

The National Constitution and By-Laws can be amended only by action of a National Convention. However, a Constitution and By-Laws Committee does review and make recommendations on all proposed amendments.

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

DOUGLAS W. HENLEY, Maryland, *Chairman*

JAMES L. ADCOX, North Carolina, *Director*

A report of the Membership and Post Activities Committee will be found separately in this publication.

RESOLUTIONS ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

ALEX M. GEIGER, South Carolina, *Chairman*

The Resolutions Assignment Committee meets only at the annual National Convention. The committee has the responsibility of assigning all resolutions to the appropriate convention committee for report to the convention.

TROPHIES, AWARDS AND CEREMONIALS COMMITTEE

EARL D. FRANKLIN, JR., Colorado, *Chairman*

This committee supervises all official national awards (with the exception of those related to uniformed group competition) and recommends to the National Executive Committee recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal, the International Amity Award, and the Canadian Friendship Award. This committee also presents to the National Executive Committee its recommendations for miscellaneous awards that have been made since the last meeting of the National Executive Committee.

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

DOUGLAS W. HENLEY, Maryland, *Chairman*

JAMES L. ADCOX, North Carolina, *Director*

Membership strength

Total official membership, 1982.....	2,591,789
1982 membership as of June 1, 1982.....	2,536,984
1983 membership as of June 1, 1983.....	2,502,655

The 1983 membership year has been one of continued implementation of innovative redirection within the organization. It is quite evident that our membership is becoming younger and more visible as our nation's leaders among veterans. Our enrollment of Vietnam Veterans is increasing and numerous special Vietnam Veteran Posts have been established throughout the organization.

Membership eligibility

There have been no changes in eligibility dates for membership since the 1979 National Convention in Houston, Texas where new dates were established for Vietnam Veterans (December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975).

1983 Theme Department Commander Awards

"Mr. District Commander" Competition Rules

Competition will be divided in five categories based on the District membership without regard to geographic locations. Based on final 1982 totals, District Commanders competed in each of the following categories. A top District Commander for the national award was selected from each of the five categories. Second and third place awards were also presented in each category.

First place awards were presented to the District Commander in each category whose 1983 District membership represents the greatest percentage increase over the final 1982 District membership ¹ on May 2, 1983.

Second place awards were presented to the District Commander in each category whose 1983 District membership represents the second highest percentage increase over the final 1982 District membership ¹ on May 2, 1983.

¹ Final 1982 membership as of Dec. 31, 1982.

Third place awards were presented to the District Commander in each category whose 1983 District membership represents the third highest percentage increase over the final 1982 District membership¹ on May 2, 1983.

Categories:

- I—Districts of 15-1,499 members.
- II—Districts of 1,500-2,999 members.
- III—Districts of 3,000-4,999 members.
- IV—Districts of 5,000-7,499 members.
- V—Districts of 7,500 and above members.

"Mr. District Commander" Competition Winners.—First place awards were a choice of National Convention trip which includes transportation for winner and spouse as well as 7 days, 6 nights hotel accommodations while attending The American Legion's 65th Annual National Convention in Seattle, Washington. Also, tickets to the National Commander's Banquet and "Distinguished Guest" status while attending National Convention activities; or a special "Surprise Get-Away" weekend which includes transportation for winner and spouse as well as 3 days, 2 nights resort hotel accommodations plus \$50 per day to spend as desired.

Winners:

Categories:

- I—Emilio Garcia, 10th District, Department of New Mexico, 114.73 percent.
- II—Tom Ruff, Western District, Department of Alaska, 112.93 percent.
- III—Ed Shugzda, 2nd District, Department of Arizona, 105.93 percent.
- IV—Paul Rugers, 8th District, Department of Florida, 102.44 percent.
- V—Gary L. Hoffman, Sr., 3rd District, Department of Maryland, 102.24 percent.

Second place awards included an American Legion uniform consisting of blazer, trousers, cap and tie.

Winners:

Categories:

- I—Robert Scofield, Schuyler County, Department of New York, 109.90 percent.
- II—Roger N. Messier, 3rd District, Department of Virginia, 104.29 percent.
- III—Paul Britt, 6th District, Department of Mississippi, 105.36 percent.
- IV—Ray Duhon, 7th District, Department of Louisiana, 102.37 percent.
- V—John L. Nickoson, 3rd District, Department of Ohio, 101.82 percent.

Third place awards included an official American Legion blazer.

Winners:

Categories:

- I—Mitchell R. Griffith, 14th District, Department of Virginia, 108.58 percent.
- II—Elmer R. Sweeney, 6th District, Department of New Hampshire, 103.55 percent.
- III—Joseph F. Murphy, 5th District, Department of Vermont, 102.10 percent.
- IV—Hugh Short, 8th District, Department of Nebraska, 101.51 percent.
- V—Frank H. Wilfinger, 16th District, Department of Florida, 101.44 percent.

Department

Department Commanders who qualified for 1983 "We Help America Work" honors are identified among those whose Department achieved 100 points or better.

20th Annual National Membership Workshop

Two National Membership Workshops were held this year in preparation for the 1984 membership year. The workshops were held at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, July 21-22 and 28-29. The goal of the National Membership Workshop was to achieve a greater participation by individual Legionnaires in examining the membership objective of The American Legion. This exchange of ideas on a national scale continues to be one of the best methods of determining the future of The American Legion. Workshop participants left National Headquarters motivated and prepared to begin another successful membership year.

We are again looking forward to our eight National Leadership Workshops during which we will take our Membership Workshop to the field.

New posts chartered May 30, 1982 to May 30, 1983

Number of Posts as of May 30, 1982.....	15,742
Number of Posts canceled as of May 30, 1983.....	127
Number of new Posts chartered as of May 30, 1983.....	68

Total number of Posts as of May 30, 1983..... 15,683

New Post formation in urban areas is one of the most difficult tasks confronting The American Legion. The Membership and Post Activities Committee, developed a "Metropolitan New Post Marketing Plan." This plan has been proven successful and is now being implemented in several Departments. The premise of the plan is that any organization, no matter how great its programs or how large its membership, must continually adjust to the changes of the society it serves. The American Legion and its "Metropolitan New Post Marketing Plan" sets forth a procedure for organizing the core city and reorganizing once active Posts.

Operation "Welcome Back"

Operation "Welcome Back" has significantly surpassed last year's success. This reinstatement program for delinquent members has resulted directly in the renewal of over 26,000 delinquent members. Individual certificates of accomplishment for this program have been mailed to 3,100 Legionnaires in appreciation of their participation and dedicated effort in reinstating delinquent members. This is also a significant increase over last year's 2,500 certificates.

This program continues to prove valuable also by assisting National Headquarters in keeping its membership mailing list up to date through changes of address and deletion of deceased members reported on "Welcome Back" cards.

1984 Membership Promotion

During the annual planning session of the Membership and Post Activities Committee held in Indianapolis, January 13-14, 1983, the Committee formulated the membership promotion plan for the 1984 membership year. Several changes have been incorporated in the National Membership Awards Program for 1984 which we felt more effectively and economically recognized outstanding membership accomplishments.

Also, during the M&PA planning session, it was the consensus of the Committee to retain our present theme for the 1984 year. The theme is, "We Help America Work." We believe this theme expresses as concisely as possible the value of our great organization. It is our hope that this membership theme and the promotion program which is built around it, along with the several other national membership tools, will help us create the environment necessary for successful membership years in the future.

Unofficial Membership Awards

Early Bird Awards

Forty-five Departments qualified for Early Bird awards by surpassing the assigned membership total by the September 24, 1982 Target Date. Awards were earned by: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Veterans Day Awards

Twenty-five Departments qualified for Veterans Day awards by surpassing the assigned membership total by the November 15, 1982 Target Date. Awards were earned by: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

Goose Egg Competition

Awards were presented to Department Commanders in each of six categories who had the highest percentage of Posts reporting some 1983 membership to National by November 15, 1982. Winners were: Category I—Minnesota; Category II—Florida; Category III—North Dakota; Category IV—New Hampshire; Category V—Delaware; Category VI—France.

Certificate of Most Distinguished Service

Special certificates were presented to 929 Posts who had re-enrolled by November 15, 1982 their entire previous year's membership for 1983.

Big Ten Competition

Winning Departments for the 1984 Big Ten Competition are: Category I—Texas; Category III—North Dakota and West Virginia; Category IV—New Hampshire and Arizona; Category V—Alaska.

Year End District Commander Award

Forty-nine Departments had District Commanders who qualified for Commander Keller's December 31st District Commander Awards. Awards were shipped to the following Departments for appropriate presentation to the winning District Commander: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Post Honor Ribbon

Post honor ribbons were shipped to 2,043 Posts whose 1983 membership as of December 31, 1982 equaled or exceeded their total 1982 membership.

Certificate of Meritorious Service

These certificates were awarded to 482 Posts which by December 31, 1982 had enrolled an advance membership for 1983 equaling or surpassing the Post's previous All-Time High.

The American Legion Birthday Award

5,018 Posts qualified for the above award by having enrolled by March 17, 1983 a membership for 1983 equaling or exceeding the total 1982 membership in addition to carrying on basic programs throughout the year.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

GARRY W. SAMMONS, Michigan, *Chairman*

E. PHILIP RIGGIN, Maryland, *Director*

Foreward

This report covers the activities of the National Legislative Commission from August 1, 1982, through July 31, 1983. During this period, the Commission or Subcommittees thereof met three times to review the legislative program and made recommendations to the National Executive Committee. Reports of these meetings are contained in the published proceedings of the National Executive Committee.

Purpose, Personnel and Organization

The National Legislative Commission represents The American Legion before the Congress of the United States, and each Committee thereof, on all legislative matters in which the Legion is officially interested and assists the National Executive Committee in formulating an appropriate legislative program for each session of Congress. The Commission consists of thirty-one members, three consultants, four National Executive Committee liaisons and a representative of the National Commander.

To further assist the Commission in its activities with the Congress, the National Executive Committee at its meeting of April 30—May 1, 1975, adopted Resolution Number 45 authorizing the establishment of a National Legislative Council, composed of Legionnaires who are politically active in their states and or Congressional districts and whose judgement and advice are respected by their elected representatives. The Council is headed by a National Chairman, who is an ex-officio member of the National Legislative Commission, and is assisted by a Vice Chairman for each Legion Department. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and general membership of the Council are appointed by the National Commander upon recommendations by the Departments. The Spring 1977 meeting of the National Executive Committee further assisted the Commission by adopting a resolution to require additional Council members who have influence with the Senators from their respective states. During its existence to date, the Council has been of invaluable service to the organization.

The professional staff of the Commission (the Legislative Division) concentrates on implementing the legislative mandates of The American Legion which are expressed in resolutions adopted at National Conventions and by the National Executive Committee at each of its regularly scheduled meetings. The Legislative Division, located in Washington, DC includes the director, a deputy director, two assistant directors, an executive secretary, a research analyst and three secretaries. The staff maintains close liaison with all divisions of The American Legion, The National Legislative Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Legislative Committees in each Department.

Legislative News Bulletin

The Legislative News Bulletin, a publication on legislative activities affecting American Legion mandates is published by the Legislative Division monthly at a cost of \$5 per year. The News Bulletin keeps its readers informed on the status of The American Legion's legislative program and serves as an excellent source of material for speeches, articles and reports by the officers and members of both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

97th Congress—Second Session

Congress completed its work in 1982 amid political and economic confusion. Presidential supporters on Capitol Hill successfully maintained the Republican/conserv-

ative Democratic coalition on key legislative matters, sufficient to protect the basic elements of the Administration's economic recovery program.

Some Congressional members who supported the President in 1982 did so at great political risk since voters in certain districts were becoming increasingly convinced that the President was largely responsible for the sustained recession and high unemployment. Since the November elections in many parts of the country were shaping up as a test of the Reagan economics program, his supporters on Capitol Hill were reluctant to approve even deeper domestic spending cuts before seeking re-election. Developing strength among moderate and liberal Democrats contributed to the emerging anti-Reagan contingent in Congress and the combination of these factors once again created extended delays in the legislative agenda. Buoyed by the prospect of major gains at the polls, the Democratic leadership joined with nervous Republicans frantically seeking re-election and agreed to recess Congress in early October. They returned home with the federal government moving into Fiscal Year 1983 under the authority of a temporary continuing appropriations resolution.

Despite objections by many on and off Capitol Hill, final decisions on budgetary matters affecting more than 80 percent of the federal government would be left to a post election "lame duck" session. Fortunately, one of the three formal appropriations measures for Fiscal Year 1983 which had received pre-recess approval included VA funding. The list of remaining agenda items was highlighted by the defense budget, a matter which was encumbered by the nuclear freeze debate and voter referenda across the nation which sought public opinion on nuclear arms production.

Election results, essentially consistent with non-Presidential elections following a change in the White House, provided modest Democratic gains in the House while the Republicans retained majority control in the Senate. As expected, the House Democratic leadership hailed the elections as voter rejection of Reaganomics. The House Speaker immediately called upon his colleagues to approve major jobs legislation during the "lame duck" session to soften the impact of an unemployment rate which was higher than any rate during the previous four decades.

The President responded by saying that reliable indicators clearly showed the onset of economic recovery and that he would not accept any comprehensive jobs bill at that time. He promised, however, to seriously consider such a proposal in the 98th Congress. This created a virtual standoff during the "lame duck" session and, as predicted by many, Congress was unable to complete its work on the remaining appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 1983.

Despite the relative certainty that Fiscal Year 1983 would produce a federal deficit approaching \$200 billion, Congress no longer seemed to be as concerned about controlling the deficit as it was about federal spending initiatives to put Americans back to work.

Although no comprehensive jobs bill was enacted in 1982, it was clear that Congress was beginning to perceive the President's economic program as a contributor to the nation's continuing economic lethargy. It was also clear that the President's coalition on Capitol Hill was beginning to disintegrate and that the 98th Congress would scrutinize in greater detail any further proposals to make domestic spending cuts.

Since Congress had failed in 1982 to adopt a second and third budget resolution to better to define spending priorities for Fiscal Year 1983, there was speculation that the entire budget process would fall victim to partisan politics during the 98th Congress. Failure to reach budgetary agreements in several critical areas produced yet another stop gap funding measure, a continuing appropriations resolution, which constituted spending authority for most of the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Congressional frustration with its own behavior and deteriorating relations with the White House led to a decision that no further efforts would be made to act on formal fiscal year 1983 appropriations bills.

The American Legion determined during the summer of 1982 that Congress would be unable to complete its normal legislative agenda. The organization then began to employ a "two track" approach in pursuit of its principal spending objectives. The following summary will show that some of our attention was necessarily diverted toward the stop gap funding initiative and, while we achieved reasonable success in that regard, we repeatedly expressed our desire that Congress demonstrate greater discipline in 1983 in order to meet its self imposed budgetary deadlines.

Several issues of importance to The American Legion were not acted upon by Congress at the time of last year's National Convention. Following is a short review of the more important issues and their eventual outcome in the 97th Congress.

In the area of Americanism, immigration reform was one issue which saw great promise initially but ended in a less than optimistic note. The Immigration Reform

and Control Act of 1982, S. 2222, was passed by the Senate but was not acted upon adjournment by the House. While generally being the most comprehensive immigration reform package yet considered by Congress, Legion support waned when a controversial amnesty provision was included. This provision would effectively legitimize all illegal aliens in this country. This single provision made Legion support for S. 2222 very tenuous. Supporters of the reform package have vowed to try again in the 98th Congress.

A major concern in the area of Children and Youth was another Administration attempt to eliminate funding for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Strong Legion lobbying efforts resulted in the inclusion in Public Law 97-377 of full funding at a level of \$70 million for OJJDP. With increasing numbers of juveniles being arrested for serious and violent crimes, OJJDP programs aimed at juvenile delinquents are vitally important to The American Legion.

Several enactments of legislation were viewed as definite victories by those concerned with the Economic area. One of these was passage of Public Law 97-253, the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1982. One of its provisions reversed an inequity resulting from an enactment during the First Session of the 97th Congress, specifically aimed at eligibility criteria for veterans receiving food stamps. Public Law 97-35, while making general cuts in the food stamp program, also created grave inequities which impacted unfavorably on needy and disabled veterans receiving VA pensions or disability compensation. Public Law 97-253 corrected these inequities and clearly defined the criteria for veterans who need food stamps to make ends meet.

With passage of Public Law 97-306, all veterans employment programs in the Department of Labor have been consolidated under the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment (ASVE). Previously veterans programs were dispersed throughout the Labor Department and were largely uncoordinated.

Another important issue concerns veterans employment/training programs. With the expiration of CETA, there was strong Legion backing for a replacement program. This was realized with the enactment of Public Law 97-300, the so-called "son of CETA." Specific funding was set aside to be used by the ASVE to carry out national veterans employment programs. The ASVE would make grants to community based veterans organizations interested in establishing local jobs programs aimed at disabled and Vietnam-era veterans and those veterans recently separated from the military.

In the First Session of the 97th Congress, Public Law 97-35 had totally eliminated Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Military Personnel (UCX). The Legion and other veterans groups pressed the view that comparing military personnel ending their enlistment terms honorably to workers in the general economy quitting their jobs was absurd. As a result, a partial restoration of UCX was accomplished with the enactment of Public Law 97-362. Ex-service personnel can now receive up to 13 weeks of unemployment compensation.

One issue of vital importance of The American Legion's Internal Affairs program area was legislation relating to copyright royalty fees paid by non-profit organizations (including the Legion). Public Law 97-366 provides an exemption from royalty fees when an individual Legion Post is presenting a program of live music to raise funds for local charities and welfare. Though there are other conditions attached (performances may only be for Legion members and their guests and not the general public), this law is viewed as a major victory for the Legion's community based charity programs.

One of the highest priorities in the National Security area is a national program to combat drunk and drugged driving. Public Law 97-364 established a three-year incentive grant program to encourage the states to crack down on drunk driving. This program, funded by \$125 million from the Highway Trust Fund, will make states eligible for grants of approximately 30 percent of their regular federal highway safety funds. The eligible states must also satisfy four criteria: (1) establish 1/10 of 1 percent of blood-alcohol concentration to determine legal intoxication, (2) prompt suspension of the driver's license for a minimum of 90 days for a first offense and a minimum of one year for a repeat offender, (3) require a minimum mandatory jail sentence of 48 consecutive hours or ten days of community service for repeat offenders, and (4) increase enforcement of state drunk driving laws supported by public information.

One of the problems plaguing the VA health system is the recruitment and retention of qualified nurses. In some cases nursing shortages have caused some VA hospitals to close down beds so that proper care can be given to those patients already in the system. With the passage of Public Law 97-251, the VA now has greater flexibility in offering benefits and incentives to VA nurses, including more flexible work-

ing hours, increased weekend overtime premiums, and liberalized nurse scholarships.

98th Congress—First Session

Congress convened in early January 1983 and spent the first several weeks organizing itself for the upcoming sessions and waiting to receive the President's Fiscal Year 1984 federal budget approval. As expected, the House Democratic leadership began immediately to consolidate the moderate gains produced by November's elections. Caucus activity was principally confined to revising House rules in order to establish higher Democratic ratios on key committees and to install, wherever possible, Democratic loyalists on those committees. All of these actions sought to (1) create a stronger nucleus of Democratic leaders, (2) reinstate party loyalty among those who supported President Reagan in 1981 and 1982, (3) re-establish the Speaker's control over the movement of legislation, and (4) break the President's momentum on Capitol Hill.

As legislative activity commended, the President was immediately called upon to honor his earlier commitment to support a comprehensive jobs bill. The White House responded and after several weeks of negotiation, a compromise measure was enacted in late March.

However, simultaneous to these developments, the President presented his budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year—a proposal which once again called for a significant defense spending increase and deeper domestic program cuts. His proposed budget was at once described as having no chance of gaining Congressional approval—a reaction which expectedly came from most Democrats on Capitol Hill, but a reaction which was unexpectedly shared by most Republican leaders in both chambers.

Once again, after several months of absence from Congressional debate, the projected federal deficit became a matter of concern. Republicans and Democrats alike, while reassured by continued indicators of economic recovery, voiced their beliefs that astronomical deficits (with persistently high interest rates) would stunt economic growth. Congressional leaders appealed to the President to compromise by accepting a smaller defense spending increase, by considering more domestic spending and by considering several alternatives to increase tax revenues. The White House refused to demonstrate any willingness to compromise and challenged Congress to develop its own budget, while reminding Congress that the President would veto any and all individual bills which he believed to be inconsistent with his economic recovery plan.

As the House and Senate began the process of setting budgetary guidelines for Fiscal Year 1984 by developing their respective versions of the first budget resolution, it seemed that there would be relatively no chance of reaching agreement between them. However, in late June a compromise was worked out, one which called for a defense spending increase of 5 percent (compared to the President's request of 10 percent, substantially more domestic spending than requested by the President, and a stated commitment to increase tax revenues in Fiscal Years 1985 and 1986. Although the budget resolution was not subject to Presidential consideration, the President expressed its opposition to its budgetary guidelines and reiterated his intention to veto all individual appropriations bills which he considered to be "budget busting".

It is unlikely that any major appropriations measures will clear Congress with a sufficient majority to override expected veto action. Therefore, the stage is once again set for an extended budget battle. Budgetary deadlines will be missed and another "stop gap" appropriations resolution (to keep the federal government operating after October 1 of this year) is a certainty. As debate intensifies throughout the summer and early fall, Republican loyalists will point to continued economic recovery as vindication of the President's program and Democratic spokesmen will cite persistently high unemployment rates as a repudiation of the President's program.

The America Legion will again be employing a "two track" approach to insure that individual appropriations bills, as well as any continuing appropriations resolution, contain the spending levels we seek. The following summary will clearly show that our expectations at this point are somewhat mixed. We are confident that VA spending totals for the upcoming fiscal year will be generally adequate, although several specific accounts are still in doubt. However, other priorities such as the maintenance of nonprofit postal rates and several defense items are very much in jeopardy.

Americanism

A primary concern in the area of Americanism remains the comprehensive immigration reform measure currently before Congress. The respective bills, S. 259 and H.R. 1510, have each received extensive consideration during which their provisions have been substantially amended.

The Senate measure, S. 529 was passed by that body on May 18, and is far more restrictive than its House companion. As passed by the Senate, this measure would establish a ceiling on legal immigration at a level of 425,000 per year, not including refugees or immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. This exclusion has been opposed by the Legion since it could potentially result in the doubling or tripling of the legal ceilings in any given year.

Sanctions against intentional hiring of illegal aliens are of primary importance to any immigration reform measure if its provisions are to be effective. S. 529 contains such provisions and would impose civil penalties for a first time violation with criminal penalties for repeat offenders. To complement employer sanctions a tamper proof ID system for verification must be put in place as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, this bill relies heavily on existing documents, most of which are easily forged, requiring later development by the President of a more effective verification system within three years.

In addition, S. 529 contains a somewhat limited two-tier amnesty which could grant legal status to as many as an estimated 14 million illegals currently living within our borders. The cost of this vast legalization program has yet to be estimated; however, its toll on both our economy and unemployed citizens will be great.

Since the Senate has passed its version of an immigration reform package, movement toward enactment becomes the responsibility of the House of Representatives. Even as introduced, H.R. 1510 differed greatly from the Senate measure and amendments at both Subcommittee and Committee level have driven the differences even farther apart.

H.R. 1510 does not establish a ceiling on legal admissions of aliens per year. In essence, the level of legal immigration would largely depend on the number of applications since one of the primary goals of such legislation is to regain control of annual immigration.

Moreover, the employer sanction provisions of H.R. 1510 are so liberal and provide so many exemptions that they are little more than unenforceable rules. In fact one provision would exempt the employer from sanctions against the hiring of illegals if the potential employee is referred by a State Employment Security Agencies (SESA). The job service, therefore, becomes the enforcement agency and at the same time is forced to reduce its services to unemployed citizens. This provision will be challenged by amendments by the Education & Labor Committee during floor debate on H.R. 1510 and will be firmly opposed by the Legion.

Probably the least desirable element of this measure is the general amnesty provision. Under H.R. 1510, every illegal who entered the country before January 1, 1982, will be granted permanent resident status. Clearly, this provision is tantamount to an open border, again defeating the very purpose of an immigration control package.

As this bill awaits full House consideration it is neither capable of stemming the flow of illegal aliens across our borders nor does it attempt to realistically reform current immigration practice. On the House floor and when the bills go into conference, the Legion will promote amendments to include employer sanctions and a verifiable ID system, both aimed at stemming the flow and employment of illegals. Amendments which strike the amnesty provisions in these respective bills will also receive support in an effort to help reduce the burden on our nation's unemployed. As this writing, H.R. 1510 awaits action by the House Committee on Rules, which will produce the rule controlling floor debate of the measure.

On June 9, 1983 the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution reported to the full Judiciary Committee an administration backed proposal, S.J. Res. 73. This bill would amend the Constitution with regard to volunteer school prayer. Inasmuch as this proposal addresses the issue of school prayer, the American Legion has supported it. However, Legion mandate provides only for support of the more expedient approach of legislatively limiting Supreme Court jurisdiction over cases involving voluntary school prayer. The Constitution has provided Congressional authority to accomplish this through the language, "the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction . . . with such Exception and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make." Clearly, there is little need to alter the Constitution. And while, S.J. Res. 73 has been favorably reported by the Subcommittee, its members agree that it has little chance of surviving full Judiciary Committee consideration.

However, a July 5th Supreme Court decision upholding the Constitutionality of the use of a paid Chaplain to open legislative sessions may enhance the outlook for such legislation.

Children and Youth

Children and Youth programs have received ample consideration during the first session of the 98th Congress as well. Responding to pressures from a variety of groups with an interest in the special needs of the juvenile justice system, the Reagan Administration nominated a permanent director to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Despite intense criticism and controversy surrounding the nomination, it was confirmed. The change in focus planned by Director Regnery for OJJDP is one which the Legion supports. The emphasis will be diverted from delinquency prevention, children's rights and youth advocacy to dealing with more serious juvenile crime problems. The Legion has long felt that while it would be desirable to fund the entire spectrum of juvenile justice programs, budgetary constraints require the selection of priority programs. For this reason our support has been necessarily redirected toward those programs which deal with the serious and violent juvenile offenders. Funding for OJJDP, despite a third attempt by the Administration to zero fund it, will likely remain at a level of \$70 million for fiscal year, 1984.

Consistent with the ongoing concern for the Children and Youth of our nation, the Legion has become an active participant in the development of a comprehensive Directory of Juvenile Justice Information Sources. Once published, this directory will provide a description of organizations involved, at least in part, in the broad scope of programs which address juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. The Legion, significantly, is listed in this directory.

A measure (S.J. Res. 45) which will designate the week of November 20, 1983 through November 26, 1983 as "National Family Week" has been passed by the Senate and sent to the House for consideration. The Legion has communicated its support for this initiative to the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service and urged their expedient and favorable consideration of the measure.

In an effort to heighten public awareness of the childhood illness known as Reye's Syndrome, both the House and Senate have passed S.J. Res. 34. This measure designates the week of November 7 through November 13, 1983 as "National Reye's Syndrome Week." While largely memorial in nature, this legislation represents the concern and commitment of Congress to help the public deal with and eventually defeat this deadly childhood disease.

Shortly, after the start of the 98th Congress the House of Representatives established a Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. The Committee was not established to have specific jurisdiction over legislation, but rather to conduct oversight hearings and studies on the multiplicity of federal programs that directly and indirectly affect the education, employment, health, nutrition, welfare, recreation and development of America's 64 million children and their families.

Economics

Economic issues of interest to The American Legion during the First Session of the 98th Congress have taken on a special significance because many of them have been spurred by recession and unacceptably high veteran unemployment over the last 18 to 24 month period. In that regard, it should be noted that Legion activities this year in the area of Economics have been carefully tailored to consolidate gains in legislation enacted last year and to promote lasting relief for veterans having suffered economic reversals in the current recession.

It will be recalled that Congress passed legislation last year to replace the expiring Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). That legislation, now Public Law 97-300, was designed as a program to train individuals for meaningful employment in the private sector rather than simply hiring people to fill federally created public service jobs. As part of that law, veterans are to receive a percentage of all funds set aside for national programs.

The inclusion of a specific program for veterans within the new program was a major gain for veterans. However, the program was not scheduled to begin until fiscal year 1984. This meant that veterans who might have participated in the new program during the current recession were unable to do so.

As part of last year's employment/training activities for veterans it will be recalled that the Office of Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment (ASVE) was consolidated under the control of Assistant Secretary William Plowden. Now the ASVE has direct control over the Veterans Employment Training Service

(VETS), the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) and the Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) located in job service offices across the country. It is heartening to note that full funding for the new Job Training Partnership Act as well as for the office of the ASVE has been recommended for fiscal year 1984. In that regard, no Labor Appropriations measures have been acted upon as yet this year, but there is little reason to suspect that less funding will be made available than requested. Thus far this year, the Legion has testified before the Labor Appropriations Subcommittees of the House and Senate and in each case the Subcommittees have been receptive to Legion views.

Consistent with Legion efforts to consolidate last year's gains, a development this year within the House Immigration Reform legislation, which could have a deleterious effect on employment programs for veterans, has had to be addressed. One of the amendments to that legislation, H.R. 1510, added at the Judiciary Committee's mark up would in effect require local job offices to certify illegal alien eligibility for amnesty.

Apart from staunch Legion opposition to amnesty generally, this provision would act to gut the employer sanctions portion of the bill as well as detract from job office services to veterans. The Legion testified to this effect before the House Education and Labor Committee last spring. Moreover, the Education and Labor Committee, having asked for a sequential referral of H.R. 1510, recommended that job service offices not be used in the immigration reform program. The final outcome of this issue must still await House floor action.

Turning to programs promoted this year to alleviate the hardships of recession, the Legion has been in the forefront of efforts to establish a new two year emergency job training program for veterans. At the present time, legislation to accomplish this end has been passed by the House and Senate on June 6 and June 15 respectively.

Specifically the new program would assist veterans having been unemployed for 15 of the last 20 weeks at the time application to participate in the program was made. In effect, the VA would pay an employer a percentage, up to a maximum amount, of the wages paid the veteran during on the job training. Importantly, the VA would share administration of the program with the Department of Labor (DOL) and Small Business Administration (SBA).

Since the DOL, through the office ASVE, already has an infrastructure of veterans employment specialists, the need for DOL involvement is obvious. SBA involvement is predicated on the fact that most new jobs in the private sector are created by new small businesses. Therefore, SBA, which claims to be seriously interested in assisting veterans, will be required to provide information on new small businesses that could participate in the emergency program.

Earlier this year, the Legion sought to have the new program established as an entitlement rather than an authorized program. Had this effort been successful, it would have been unnecessary to worry that full appropriations would be made available to carry out the program.

Unfortunately, the program has been passed as a discretionary authorization and no funds have been included in the VA appropriation passed by Congress on June 29. This is precisely why the Legion sought an entitlement, but at present there is good reason to believe that full funding at a level of \$150 million in fiscal year 1984 will be made available. Later this year it will almost surely be necessary for Congress to adopt an Omnibus Continuing appropriation in lieu of regular appropriations having failed to be acted upon favorably by Congress. In that regard, assurances have been made that the funding will be made available assuming the program legislation is enacted into law.

Another recession related initiative promoted by the Legion would provide home loan foreclosure relief to veterans having sustained economic reversals through no fault of their own. Unfortunately, the current recession has brought about the highest home loan foreclosure rate for veterans with VA guaranteed mortgages in history.

If enacted this modest program would authorize the VA Administrator to assist veterans up to a maximum of \$8,400 if the veteran were likely to gain his or her economic footing sufficiently to repay the VA within 48 months. Funding for the program would be made available by using the VA's revolving fund. In that regard, this program as currently designed would likely save the federal government money it would have spend on home loan delinquency charges, property reacquisitions and resale if the program were not in place.

Thusfar, the House has passed the program. On the other hand, no similar action has taken place in the Senate, but Senator Arlen Specter has expressed interest in amending a veterans bill during a Veterans Affairs Committee mark up with a pro-

gram similar to that passed in the House. Naturally, the final outcome is uncertain but there is reason to be optimistic, especially since this initiative would do so much good at so little if any expense.

For several years, matters concerning the Small Business Administration's dealings with veterans have been critically important to the Economics program of The American Legion. This year is no exception, but it is heartening to report that SBA has taken great strides toward honoring its statutory obligation to provide special consideration to veterans seeking to establish small businesses.

It may be recalled, however, that earlier this year the Administration sought to defer \$25 million in direct loan funding provided to SBA for the purpose of providing direct loans to veterans. That deferral attempt was defeated, however, on March 10 with the passage of H. Res. 73.

Subsequently the Administration has sought to completely remove all direct loan authority from SBA. The reason for this is the apparent burrowing of bad debts which neither SBA nor the Federal Government can realistically hope to see repaid. That notwithstanding, younger veterans are at prime small business establishing age and should be given the same opportunities as have been afforded other categories of individuals over the years.

While the Administration's efforts to remove SBA direct loan authority will likely proceed, it is encouraging to note that legislation reported to the Republican controlled Senate to reauthorize SBA programs generally contains a provision to reauthorize SBA direct loan authority for veterans in each of the next two fiscal years at a rate of \$25 million. Before any funds are actually loaned to veterans, Congress must agree in conference to the reauthorization as well as to direct loan levels. This must then be followed by adoption of the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriation by each chamber. While this action is likely to occur, the precise timing will remain unclear for the next several weeks.

Another matter has arisen this year which involves veterans preference in Federal employment. This involves specific jobs protected by law for veterans under section 3310 of title 5 United States Code. It may be recalled from last year that the General Services Administration (GSA) sought to contract out to the private sector, under the auspices of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76, four categories of jobs protected by law for veterans preference eligibles. These jobs include elevator operators, maintenance personnel, security guards and messengers.

Fortunately, contracting out of these jobs has been prohibited in the current fiscal year because of an amendment attached to last year's omnibus appropriations measure preventing GSA from spending any of its funds to implement the contracting out plan. This year, the Legion has again sought a contracting out prohibition by pursuing legislation on two tracks. The first of these would simply duplicate last year's prohibition of GSA expenditures for contracting out and the second would provide a permanent solution.

In that regard, the Legion has presented testimony in support of two bills, H.R. 828 and H.R. 829, introduced by Representative Marvin Leath which would protect not only the elevator operators, maintenance personnel, security guards and messengers employed by GSA, but those employed government wide. If successful this approach will not only prevent further losses of these jobs, but recapture those jobs already contracted out.

Importantly, there is more at stake here for veterans preference than the jobs currently held by veterans. Another existing program, designed to assist veterans by placing them non-competitively in Federal service would also be saved. That program is the Veterans Readjustment Appointment Authority Program (VRA). Under this program veterans may be placed in Federal jobs up to the level of G.S. 7. In reality, however, most of the placements resulting from the VRA program range from G.S. 3 and below. What this means is that if the four job categories protected for veterans are contracted out, the pool of jobs available under VRA would shrink so precipitously as to render VRA meaningless. The outcome of this effort will likely remain unclear for the next several months, but if unsuccessful, veterans preference in Federal employment will have been dealt a severe blow.

Foreign Relations

The Legion's involvement in matters of Foreign Relations has increased substantially since the release of its Western Hemisphere Task Force concerning the nations of the Caribbean. These findings closely parallel the views of the Reagan Administration on the strategic importance of this largely impoverished area of our hemisphere. The primary focus of Legion activity has been on the President's three part Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). Designated to assist these nations to become

economically healthy and politically capable of resisting the intrusion of Communism, the CBI will provide direct assistance in the form of foreign aid and indirect assistance in the form of tax incentives for American industry and tariff reductions.

In a statement to the House Ways and Means Committee the Legion supported the tax incentive portion of the CBI, which the Committee has subsequently approved. The provisions of the measure, H.R. 2769, will provide duty-free entry for Caribbean exports and will create the needed stimulus for health economies. The remaining portions of the CBI will continue to receive the full support of The American Legion in an effort to prevent the evolution of "more Cubas" in the Caribbean. Such actions could pose a serious threat to the stability of the entire region which largely constitutes the southern most border of our nation.

Along a similar line, aid requests for El Salvador have found themselves mired in heated controversy. The major objections to increased aid for El Salvador stem from charges of widespread human rights violations and resistance to enact social and political reform on behalf of its people. However, information to the contrary has substantially deflated these arguments. Unfortunately, concerns over covert actions in Central America and those who insist on drawing unsubstantiated parallels between El Salvador and Vietnam, continue to threaten our foreign policy in this region.

The American Legion will continue to echo current Administration policy regarding Central America and more generally, the CBI. The security of our nation and the stability of our economy are too closely tied to the small portion of the world to allow the continued increase of Soviet influence.

Following six days and more than 42 hours of debate, the House of Representatives adopted a nuclear freeze resolution by a vote of 278-149. All were quick to claim victory; however, neither side of the debate enjoyed a clearly definable success. And while H.J. Res. 13 would carry force of law if enacted, the chances of favorable consideration by the Senate are virtually non-existent, with a presidential veto a certainty in any case.

Taken at face value, the provisions of this measure appear as a sensible approach to arms control. Unfortunately, upon closer examination it becomes evident that in every instance this resolution calls for an immediate, mutual and verifiable freeze in nuclear weapons. At no point in the resolution is either the possibility, practicality or the means of assuring the "mutual and verifiable" elements of the proposal mentioned. Further, the fact that this measure has been adopted by a governing body of our nation, binding or not, sends an inappropriate signal to the Soviets concerning our national resolve.

The Legion's position on a conditional nuclear freeze remains firm. First, the U.S. must modernize its nuclear forces to restore the efficacy of its nuclear deterrent. Then the Soviet SS20 missile threat to NATO Europe must be offset, followed by a significant, mutual, equitable and verifiable reduction in nuclear forces (including fullest consideration of on-site inspections to ensure compliance). The final and fourth step would be movement toward a nuclear freeze. Only through these sequential steps will the strategic situation of our nation not be placed in a position of perilous vulnerability.

The Senate Committee on Labor & Human Resources currently has before it S. 564, a measure which would establish a U.S. Academy of Peace. Concerned that such an academy would unnecessarily duplicate academic and research programs of numerous universities, senior colleges of the armed forces and the Foreign Service Institute, the Legion has provided its support for an alternative to the Peace Academy. The Committee was informed that the Legion's goal is for peace based on preserving the American way of life, protecting our national interests and furthering the cause of democracy throughout the world. Legion opposition to the academy will continue as the Senate Labor & Human Resources Committee moves to consider S. 564 and will carry the suggestion that the proposed funds be used to promote democratic ideals and practices world wide instead.

Internal Affairs

The concern of the Legion's Internal Affairs program with non-profit postage rate hikes continues to require the attention of the Legislative Division. Over the last several years escalating postage rates have had a negative impact on Legion community based volunteer programs (CBVP) and publishing activities. Fortunately, as a result of the year long efforts by The American Legion, in conjunction with other non-profit organizations, adequate funding for non-profit mail subsidies was contained in Public Law 97-377, the fiscal year 1983 Continuing Appropriations package, for the current fiscal year.

However, the Administration was displeased with the level of funding for the postal subsidy which exceeded its own request by nearly \$300 million. Although the President ultimately signed the Continuing Appropriations bill, he made his displeasure, with the bill's provisions, known in a letter to Congressional leaders specifically citing the postal subsidy and several other provisions with which he disagreed.

This is not, of course, the first time that the Administration has tried to reduce funding for the postal subsidy. During the last two years the Administration has attempted on several occasions, to accelerate the phase out of the subsidy. The chief rationale used by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been that the subsidy is unnecessary and that current economic conditions necessitate that preferred rate mailers share in the burden of reducing the Federal deficit. Countering this argument, Legion representatives have presented testimony to three key Congressional committees explaining how the cost-benefit ratio of the Revenue Foregone Postal Subsidy, dollar for dollar, makes it one of the soundest investments any government has made toward the health and well-being of its citizens and communities. Legion representatives also cited specific examples of how reduced subsidy appropriations have negatively affected Legion publications and programs across the country. These arguments, as well as others presented by the Legion have resulted in a Congressional budget allocation of \$879 million, the amount necessary, as determined by the U.S. Postal Service, to maintain non-profit postage rates at their current levels through the upcoming fiscal year. However, the President has only requested \$400 million for the subsidy in fiscal year 1984 and threatened to veto any appropriation bills which exceed his budget request. Attempts to convince the White House of the importance of postal subsidy funding to non-profit organizations as well as the recipients of volunteer program benefits have not been successful. Quite the contrary, the day after the Administration received a letter from the National Commander detailing the impact of escalating postage rates on Legion Departments and Posts, OMB Director David Stockman submitted a legislative proposal to create a ceiling of \$400 million for Revenue Foregone appropriations to Congressional leaders. Fortunately, the Administration has yet to find anyone to sponsor such legislation. Clearly, the Administration and Congress are at odds over the postal subsidy issue.

The Administration's budget request is also at odds with the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, Public Law 91-375 and as amended by Public Law 93-328. Originally, Congress established rate adjustments for 2nd, 3rd and 4th class preferred rate mail to cover a period of 5 years for news bulletins and magazines and 10 years for non-profit organizations and educational institutions, during which postage rates would be gradually increased. After examining the financial status of preferred rate mailers, Congress determined that non-profits would need additional time to develop new sources of revenue to offset the steadily increasing postage rates. The Congressional solution was to extend the subsidy phase out schedule from 5 to 8 years for publishers of news bulletins and magazines, and from 10 to 16 years for non-profit organizations and educational institutions. In addition, the Postal Reorganization Act Amendments provided that, the "President shall include these amounts, (sums to be appropriated for the Revenue Foregone Postal Subsidy) with his recommendations but without revision, in the budget transmitted to Congress. . . ." Thus, the amount of money needed to offset the subsidy revenue loss would be appropriated by Congress each year until the subsidies were phased out in fiscal year 1988. The legislative history of Public Law 93-328 clearly shows that the intent of Congress was to prevent increased postage costs from hampering the community based volunteer program activities of non-profit organizations.

Congress now recognizes that the massive unplanned rate hikes which resulted from the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, have had a disastrous effect on volunteer programs across the country and are examining the wisdom of further reductions in postal subsidy appropriations. Part of this examination has been to conduct a series of hearings in both the House and the Senate specifically looking at the postal subsidy issue. This is the first time in ten years that such extensive hearings have been held on the issue of non-profit postage rates. In fact, the Legion deserves a large portion of credit for the renewed interest in the postal subsidy because it was the Legion's arguments in support of stabilized non-profit rates that changed the course of the issue from what was perceived as a management problem into a people issue with a high level of Congressional interest. Now, instead of simply thinking about stabilizing non-profit rates, Congressional interest has gained sufficient momentum that both houses of Congress are considering developing legislation to remedy the myriad of problems confronting non-profit organizations because of

the burdens brought about by increased postage expenditures. It is significant, in this regard, that the Legion has been asked to help develop the proposed legislation.

Although it is still too early to ascertain the exact level of funding that will be provided for the postal subsidy for fiscal year 1984, it is clear that Congress will provide far more money for the postal subsidy than requested by the Administration.

The ability of the Legion to seek Congressional support on the postal subsidy and other legislative initiatives of interest to the membership was upheld recently by the U.S. Supreme Court. In a landmark decision, the nation's highest court upheld the right of tax-exempt veterans groups to lobby Congress, even though other tax-exempt organizations were prohibited from conducting such activities. The Court's review of the issue came after a lower court ruling that it was unconstitutional for Congress to grant one tax-exempt group (veterans organizations) lobbying privileges while restricting the lobbying activities of other tax-exempt organizations. In essence, the Court was asked to decide whether such lobbying restrictions abridged the Constitutional guarantees of "free speech and expressions" contained in the First Amendment.

In rendering its decision, the Court held that Congress has acted properly in taking into consideration the "past contributions of veterans." The unanimous decision, delivered for the Court by Justice William H. Rehnquist, stated in part that "our country has a longstanding policy of compensating veterans for their past contributions by providing them numerous advantages. . . . It is not irrational for Congress to decide that, even though it will not subsidize lobbying by charities generally, it will subsidize lobbying by veterans organizations." It is interesting to note that the Court's ruling closely follows the arguments set forth in the Legion's Amicus Curiae brief which stated, in part, that the right of veterans organizations to lobby Congress ". . . does not impose a direct burden on appellee's First Amendment rights but only involves unequal levels of governmental subsidy of First Amendment rights."

During the course of the Court's deliberations Congress prepared, and introduced, legislation in both bodies that would protect the tax-exempt status and lobbying activities of veterans organizations if the High Court's decision had gone against veterans groups. The Court's decision has, of course, obviated the need for such legislation and means that the tax-exempt status of the Legion's lobbying activities can proceed, as they always have, unrestricted.

National Security

Programs concerning National Security have received extensive consideration thus far in the 98th Congress. One of the most controversial issues has been the firm stand of President Reagan for a minimum increase of 10 percent in defense spending for fiscal year 1984. Administration requests for defense had been set at \$280.5 billion in budget authority for fiscal year 1984, representing 10.2 percent real growth (accounting for inflation). Despite continued pressure from the White House, both the House and Senate adopted a budget conference agreement (H. Con. Res. 91), which will provide national defense with \$268.6 billion, a 5 percent real increase over fiscal year 1983.

Of particular concern to The American Legion is where cuts in the defense budget will be made to accommodate the reduced funding levels. These concerns were stated in testimony before both House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense. In each instance the Subcommittees were cautioned against the temptation to reduce funding for operations and maintenance (O&M), which includes everything from vehicle and jet fuel to spare parts for repairmen. More than any other funding areas in defense, monies for O & M directly impact on troop morale and must be retained. Also receiving Legion support were the B1-B manned bomber and deployment of the MX missile in accordance with the Presidential Commission Report.

Following the release of the report of the special Presidential Commission assigned to restudy basing modes for the controversial MX missile, a series of clear victories were realized by the Administration. In rapid succession the House and Senate voted to release \$625 million for the continued development and flight testing of the missile. These monies had been approved in December of 1982 but later suspended until an acceptable basing mode could be developed. The MX program has received the full support of the Legion and thus far its success is attributed largely to the President's willingness to bring his arms policy into line with the findings of the Commission.

Representing a thoughtful approach to stabilizing the nuclear balance between the U.S. and the Soviets, the recommendations include the basing of 100 MX missiles in hardened, existing Minuteman silos. This would be followed by the development of a smaller, highly mobile, single warhead missile which has adopted the title of Midgetman.

While this segment of the battle over the MX has proven successful, opponents of the MX have promised to escalate their challenges based on charges that the Administration is not committed to serious arms negotiations. These challenges, primarily emerging from the House, have persisted despite repeated attempts to negotiate arms reductions with the Soviet Union. In almost every instance these attempts have been met by complete rejection, often before the formal proposals had been presented. The historical fact that the Soviets have never seriously negotiated arms controls until given an incentive to do so along with this current inflexibility must be met with firm national resolve. The rapid deployment of the MX will not only provide a potent incentive for negotiations but it will also help to close the current window of U.S. vulnerability.

A variety of threatening blows have been dealt against the Selective Service System and have thus far been successfully repelled. The first is a bill, H.R. 1050, which would recind \$4 million in fiscal year 1983 funding for Selective Service, effectively abolishing peacetime registration. The Legion countered this attempt during testimony before both House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on HUD/Independent Agencies. Discussing the potential threat to our national security, the Subcommittees were reminded of the need to quickly mobilize forces during a national emergency. Following these hearings, this legislation received no further consideration.

Another challenge which would seriously undermine the success of the registration program would reverse current law prohibiting federal educational assistance to those who refuse to register with Selective Service. This movement was begun almost simultaneously with an injunction by a federal judge in Minnesota against enforcement of the law. Clearly such action is sending an inappropriate message to the youth of our nation. Not only are they being told to ignore the law, but they are also being allowed to enjoy the generosity of their nation while breaking its laws and refusing a primary responsibility of citizenship. Fortunately, only days before the adjournment of the recent session of the Supreme Court, without recorded dissent, the justices set aside the effect of the federal judge's injunction until the Court could consider a formal appeal to be filed by the government. This review could take up to an entire year during which the Legion will continue to support a fully operational Selective Service System and peacetime registration.

Another issue of interest to the Legion has received favorable consideration by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice. This measure, H.R. 1280, is largely the result of the Presidential assassination attempt and would change the plea of not guilty by reason of insanity to guilty and mentally-ill with an appropriate sentence to fit the crime. Prior to Subcommittee hearings on this bill the Legion adopted resolution consistent with such an initiative was transmitted and favorably received by the Subcommittee. Further hearings on this measure by the full Committee have yet to be scheduled.

Preliminary consideration of a peacetime GI Bill has been given by both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. Legion support and recommendations for such legislation was provided in testimony before the two Committees. Refocusing its support for a peacetime GI Bill, primarily because of the dramatic successes of recruitment and retention, the Legion views such an initiative as an incentive program for Active and Reserve forces, funded by the Department of Defense (DOD) and administered by the VA. In light of current budgetary restraints and rates of success of recruitment/retention enactment of such legislation is questionable. It must be kept in mind, however, that if these successes fall short of manpower requirements as the economy recovers and the 18 year old male population begins to shrink, as projected, we will no longer be able to depend on an all volunteer military to meet our needs.

All of these factors lead to the undeniable conclusion that within only a few years the U.S. will be forced to either return to conscription or provide an effective incentive for enlistment; possibly both. Committed to strong national defense, the Legion will continue to take an active part in the steps necessary to maintain the strength of our military forces.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

Legislative matters of interest to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division (VA & R) during the First Session of the 98th Congress are many and progress has proceeded apace. As of July 31, 1983 the final disposition of several of these await further Congressional action. On balance, however, prospects are good that most of the VA & R related legislation supported by the Legion this year will be favorably acted upon.

As the 98th Congress opened last January, the Administration released its budget request for fiscal year 1984 to Congress. That request proposed generous funding for VA which exceeded that of the previous fiscal year by \$1.1 billion. As part of the same request, it was proposed that a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 5.1 percent be approved for disabled veterans receiving compensation for service connected disabilities. This COLA, however, would be delayed by six months in accordance with the President's proposal that all federal COLA's be frozen for six months.

Notwithstanding the obvious sensitivity to the needs of veterans contained in the budget submitted to Congress, The American Legion did register a few reservations. The most important of these was that if any exceptions to the proposed six month freeze on COLAs were made, veterans should also be excepted. At the present time, no exceptions have been made, but the percentage of increase in compensation has been reduced from what was originally proposed on two occasions since January.

Early last spring, with inflation having been significantly reduced, it was suggested by the Administration that a 5.1 percent COLA was no longer justified. Instead a 4.1 percent adjustment was proposed. The Legion had no quarrel with this reduction, since economic recovery in conjunction with reduced and seemingly controlled inflation legitimately warranted a 1 percent reduction in fiscal year 1984 adjustments.

More recently, however, a further reduction from 4.1 percent to 3.5 percent has been announced. To this second downward adjustment proposal, the Legion objected. In making its case, Legion spokesmen have pointed to the fact that every other post World War II recession recovery has seen dramatic increases in inflation. Therefore, a projected rate of inflation for all of fiscal year 1984 pegged at 3.5 percent can be expected to fall short of actual costs of living next year.

Despite these arguments, the First Concurrent Budget Resolution, H. Con. Res. 91, adopted by Congress on June 23 authorizes a spending ceiling sufficient to cover a 3.5 percent increase only. Separate legislation authorizing a COLA has yet to be acted upon by either the House or Senate, but it now seems doubtful that any more than 3.5 percent will be available on April 1, 1984, when the six month delayed adjustment becomes effective.

Apart from compensation increases, several matters of interest are contained in respective House and Senate versions of the Veterans Health Care and Programs Improvements Amendments of 1983. Each version represents the product of numerous hearings on a variety of bills which were amalgamated into one legislative vehicle in each chamber. The House version, HR 2920, was adopted by that body on May 23 and the Senate version was amended to the House passed bill on June 28. At present, conference action will be required to iron out differences before a final conference report can be acted upon by each chamber and sent to the White House for enactment into law.

Each respective version would reauthorize the highly successful psychological re-adjustment, "Vet Center" program. The House version calls for a three year reauthorization while the Senate calls for only one additional year.

Both versions of this omnibus health legislation also address the gender related health problems of female veterans. Specifically, VA would be authorized to provide contract health care through private facilities if the needed medical service for women veterans were unavailable at local VA facilities. Also, an advisory committee would be established in the VA to make recommendations on how VA should proceed in its efforts to accommodate the needs of women veterans.

The House and Senate versions of H.R. 2920 agree that per diem rates paid by the VA to states for care afforded veterans in state homes should be increased. The House version, however, would provide a greater increase than would the Senate. With agreement that an increase is needed, only the percentage of increase remains unclear at the present.

The Senate version contains several additional provisions not included in the House measure. However, since H.R. 2920 must now go to conference, the House can legitimately consider these provisions even in the absence of previously held hearings on specific legislation conforming to the Senate passed initiative. One of these would grant VA the authority to reimburse veterans for the cost of adult day care

as well as permit the establishment of a pilot project of this type within the VA itself. The need for this and other kinds of care alternatives is grounded in estimates of the health care demands which will soon be placed on the VA by the huge World War II generation of veterans.

Another provision not included in the House passed version of this legislation would clarify current law, Public Law 97-37, relating to former prisoners of war. If adopted in conference, the new provision would make it easier for former POW's with depressive neurosis to receive disability compensation.

Yet another provision not included in the House version would express the sense of Congress that the Administrator of VA should be given Cabinet level rank and stature. While a sense of Congress expression is not binding, The American Legion has supported this type of change for years.

Finally, the Senate legislation contains two provisions viewed unfavorably by the Legion. This includes a cap on the amount VA could spend for beneficiary travel allowances awarded to veterans having to travel long distances to VA medical facilities and an authority for VA to pay up to \$400 per year for certain veterans using the services of chiropractors. While the overall outcome of the conference agreement is unclear at the present time where specific provisions to be included or deleted are concerned, it is near certainty that agreement will be reached and that the health legislation will be enacted within the next several months.

In the area of construction of VA facilities, a controversy grew last year out of the absence in the fiscal year 1983 appropriations of any funding for the Minneapolis VA hospital. At the time it was assumed that the money could not be spent during fiscal 1983 because of planning procedures and was therefore omitted from the legislation. Many veterans, including those of the legion, looked upon this as a breach of faith, especially since the Minneapolis replacement hospital had been the subject of numerous challenges in recent years.

To assuage any doubts concerning Congressional intent that the Minneapolis VA hospital be built, a colloquy on the floor of the Senate was staged at the time of Senate passage of the fiscal year 1983 VA appropriation. Members of the HUD/Independent Agencies Appropriation Subcommittee and members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee discussed the matter and offered mutual assurance that funds for Minneapolis would be added to the first available Supplemental Appropriation.

As it happened, the first Supplemental Appropriation came in the form of H.R. 1718, the Emergency Job Appropriations of 1983. This measure, supported by both Congress and the Administration, was intended to afford recession relief in the face of the highest unemployment levels since World War II. The intention was to provide temporary jobs to hundreds of thousands of unemployed individuals by accelerating federal construction projects, including VA facilities.

Minneapolis funding was, however, dropped from this measure as it had been from the original fiscal year 1983 VA appropriation. Once again a colloquy was staged. This time members of the Appropriations and Veterans Affairs Committees as well as members of the Minnesota delegation participated. As a result, a commitment was made to put the Minneapolis funding in the next fiscal year 1983 Supplemental Appropriation. Fortunately, this has been accomplished and funding for Minneapolis is included in the House and Senate passed versions of H.R. 3069. The respective versions must now go to conference before finally passed and enacted into law. This action is expected in the near future.

Perhaps one of the most nettlesome issues for both veterans and Congress concerns the dual questions of disability caused by exposure to Agent Orange and whether or not sufficient scientific evidence exists to warrant VA compensation. This year much legislation has been introduced in both chambers to resolve this matter and the Legion has testified in favor of two of these bills.

In the House, Representative Tom Daschle introduced H.R. 1961, a bill to allow a presumption of service connection for three disabilities evidence strongly suggests are caused by Agent Orange exposure. These include Chloracne (a severe skin rash), Prophyria Cutanea Tarda (a rare liver disorder) and Soft Tissue Sarcoma (a rare form of cancer). The bill also authorizes VA to add disabilities to this list as scientific evidence accumulates and warrants.

The American Legion has supported this legislation as a rational interim solution to the problems of Agent Orange exposure claims pending the outcome of numerous federally sponsored epidemiological studies. The other bill supported by the Legion, S. 786, is identical to the Daschle initiative and was introduced in the Senate by Senator Larry Pressler. The outcome of these measures in Congress is unclear at present and will likely remain unclear for at least several more months.

Like the problems associated with Agent Orange exposure, health problems sustained by veterans exposed to low levels of ionizing radiation is also a concern of the Legion this year. Legislation to correct this problem has also been introduced, but like Agent Orange legislation the final resolution of this problem too is unclear.

One matter that has been taken care of, with regard to radiation exposure, is legislation to establish July 16, 1983 as Atomic Veterans Recognition Day. That legislation, S.J. Res. 68, was passed by Congress and sent on to the President for signature, Public Law 98-54 on June 30, 1983.

Yet another matter surrounded by considerable controversy which has been progressing through Congress this year is the question of whether or not VA adjudication decisions should be subject to federal judicial review. For years The American Legion has opposed this since among other objections little benefit would likely accrue to veterans and because a backlog in federal courts would endlessly delay final award of compensation, pension or DIC.

The Senate in each of the last two Congresses has altered the legislation introduced to permit judicial review so as to accommodate specific Legion objections. Subsequently, the legislation has been passed by the Senate unanimously. This year is no exception.

On June 15, 1983 the Senate passed its refined judicial review legislation, by amending a previously passed House bill intended to expand the VA's Board of Veterans Appeals from 50 to 65 members. This action means that judicial review is not a conferenceable item between the House and Senate without the House Veterans Affairs Committee having been given an opportunity to hold a single hearing on the subject.

Prior to the Senate action the House Veterans Affairs Committee has scheduled a hearing on judicial review. What the Senate action means, however, is that much pressure will be placed on the House Committee to report some form of judicial review legislation if it hopes to see passage of legislation to expand the Board of Veterans Appeals.

In one final matter, on July 12, 1983 the Congress passed and the President signed into law H.R. 3133, the HUD/Independent Agencies Appropriations for fiscal year 1984. This appropriation, Public Law 98-45, sets aside \$25.1 billion for expenditures by the Veterans Administration in carrying out its program and responsibility next year. Like last year, the VA appropriation has been the first of 13 regular appropriations to be enacted.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

ROGER A. MUNSON, Ohio, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Maryland, *Director*

I appreciate the support that is continually expressed by The American Legion for a strong defense. Articulating it in your outstanding magazine, as you have done in this instance, reinforces the partnership in patriotism and national security that exists between the Legion and the Department of Defense.

(By Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger in a letter written in response to American Legion Congressional testimony.)

The National Security Commission has a long tradition of staying informed on issues in order to recommend responsible policy to the government bodies of The American Legion. In keeping with this tradition annually it conducts a series of regular meetings wherein the members of the Commission are briefed by government officials on the important issues of the day. Three of these regular meetings take place in conjunction with meetings of the National Executive Committee each spring and fall and immediately prior to the National Convention. The fourth meeting is held during the annual Washington Conference.

64th National Convention

On Friday, August 20, 1982, members of the National Security Commission visited Glenview Naval Air Station for a briefing and tour of the Reserve and National Guard activities at that facility. While there, Commission members inspected a number of aircraft belonging to the Navy, Air Force and the Marine Corps Reserves, and Air National Guard. Since this facility is staffed entirely by Navy and Marine Corps personnel, the members of the Commission were able to obtain first hand information on the status of this part of our armed forces.

Members of the Commission then traveled to the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois and were guests for lunch and a graduation ceremony held for 800 recruits. The ceremony guest of honor was Mrs. Romaine Roethel, National President, American Legion Auxiliary.

On Saturday, August 21, the National Security Commission met in joint session with the Foreign Relations Commission for a comprehensive briefing on U.S. foreign policy and its effects on each area of the world by Ambassador-at-Large Vernon A. Walters. Following the Ambassador's address, both Commissions were briefed by U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Deputy Director Robert T. Grey, on our initiative, prospects and objectives in negotiating with the Soviet Union.

On Saturday afternoon, the National Security Commission was addressed by Maj. Gen. John J. Koehler, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, Aberdeen, Maryland, who is responsible for comprehensive testing of all improvements to existing Army equipment, and all new equipment which the Army has under development. His topic was Army modernization.

The Commission then heard from Rear Adm. James H. Flatley, the Commanding Officer at Great Lakes, who spoke on Navy modernization.

National Executive Committee, October 13-14, 1982

The National Security Commission met on October 11-12, 1982 at the National Headquarters to consider resolutions properly placed before it. Nine resolutions were considered, four of which were recommended for, and subsequently approved, by the National Executive Committee.

This Commission continues to believe that the long-term problems in providing manpower for the armed forces have not been solved. As of right now, none of the services are having trouble recruiting the numbers necessary to meet the Congressionally authorized end strengths. However, we have said in the past that as the economy improves, recruiting problems will increase. This belief has now been rein-

forced by data recently released by the Army Research Institute. Two economists with that organization have found a formula to measure the impact of unemployment rates on military recruiting. They found that a one percent decline in the unemployment rate will reduce the number of yearly enlistments of male high school graduates by 7,100 or 8.8 percent for the Army; 4,300 or 6.8 percent for the Navy; and 4,400 or 6.7 percent for the Air Force. Only the Marine Corps would not be affected.

If the jobless rate declines as fast as the administration expects, the Army could miss its recruiting goal for male high school graduates by 3,400 or 35 percent by 1986. That shortfall is extremely serious and points again to the necessity to return to a fair and equitable draft as the primary source of manpower for the armed forces. The National Security Commission will continue to monitor this situation and will recommend further action as necessary.

The American Legion is on record supporting a nuclear freeze under certain specific conditions. This position was reaffirmed at the Chicago National Convention. The necessity for involvement in this issue is simple: Evidence of public concern with nuclear weapons strategy is mounting daily. Control of nuclear weapons is rapidly becoming the key issue of public discussion, debate and agitation.

Resolutions supporting a "Nuclear Freeze" have been submitted in the U.S. Congress and numerous versions have been proposed and some approved at various levels of government. While a great number of these proposals represent the best of intentions, most call for a freeze in place or unilateral freeze by the United States.

The National Security Commission believes that a freeze at existing nuclear levels would have adverse implications for international security and stability would frustrate attempts to achieve the goal on which we all agree; the negotiations of substantial reductions in the nuclear arsenals of both sides.

Washington Conference, February 21-23, 1983

Monday, February 21

The Commission met in a joint morning session with the Foreign Relations Commission. The opening speaker was the Honorable Verne Orr, Secretary of the Air Force, who spoke on the Strategic Situation of the United States versus the Soviet Union. His message outlined the necessity to rearm America and ensure that any freeze negotiations concerning nuclear weapons should proceed from the premise of equality of forces on both sides, a situation which does not now exist.

Secretary Orr was followed by the Honorable Thomas O. Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. His topic was the future of the countries in the Caribbean Basin. He outlined the threat which the free nations in that area are facing and the need for the United States to counter that threat by working with the existing governments while attempting at the same time to encourage a more democratic means of self-government among those nations.

Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director of the National League of Families of POW/MIAs, then updated the members of both commissions on efforts by the Administration and the League to ensure a full accounting of all those Americans who are still missing in Southeast Asia. Mrs. Griffiths expressed her thanks on behalf of all the families of the missing to The American Legion for our assistance in that effort.

At the Commission's afternoon session, Gen. Edward C. Meyer, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, spoke on the several initiatives undertaken in the recent past to modernize the Army and update its doctrine and tactics in order that it might be made as effective as possible on any future battle field. General Meyer stressed the general quality of U.S. troops and stated that they were the best motivated and most well-trained of any he had seen during his career as an officer in the Army.

Following General Meyer, Congressman William Carney from the First District of New York, briefed on the nuclear freeze resolutions introduced in the Congress and what effects they would have on the arms limitation talks underway in Geneva. He praised The American Legion for taking a positive position on the issue of arms reduction.

Tuesday, February 22

The National Security Commission again met in joint session with the Foreign Relations Commission on Capitol Hill where both groups were briefed by Mrs. Allison Fortier, Consultant to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East. Mrs. Fortier explained some of the major difficulties which hinder the efforts to bring peace to that troubled area of the world. She stressed the cultural, religious, and economic issues upon which any peace agreement must be based.

Congressman William Carney also briefed both Commissions in more detail on the nuclear freeze issue, and the need for the U.S. to accept no agreement which is based on unequal numbers or unequal capabilities of Soviet and U.S. weapons.

Wednesday, February 23

Members of the National Security Commission traveled to the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a tour of the facilities and briefings by Oliver B. Revell, Assistant Director, Investigation Division, who talked on Internal Security, and Edward J. O'Malley, Assistant Director Domestic Intelligence Division, who briefed on domestic intelligence and terrorism in the United States.

Following lunch, members of the Commission were briefed by staff on plans for a trip to Fort Lewis, Washington as part of the 65th National Convention activities. Two resolutions were considered, and will be reviewed for presentation to the May meeting of the National Executive Committee.

National Executive Committee, May 2-3, 1983

An executive section of the National Security Commission met at 9:00 a.m. on May 2-3 in Room B-10, to consider resolutions properly before them and to discuss a variety of issues affecting our defense posture.

Nine resolutions were considered during these sessions. Recommended action was as follows: four for approval; two to be received and recorded; one to hold for further study, and two for rejection. In addition, two resolutions were considered during a business session of the Commission held during the Washington Conference in February 1983. Both resolutions were recommended for rejection.

Of the resolution recommended for approval, Resolution 5 on the subject of elimination of the Chaplains Corps came as a result of the National Adjutant bringing it to the attention of the Commission. This resolution was coordinated with the Americanism Commission and had their concurrence. Resolution 6, concerning the construction of two nuclear carriers, if implemented, will save the taxpayer \$700 million—the additional amount necessary to build the carriers at separate times. Resolution 7, Agreement of Understanding Between The American Legion, the Auxiliary and the four major blood banking organizations, officially sanctions the cooperative effort underway to ensure an adequate supply of safe blood for all veterans in need, as well as the population at large. Resolution 8, concerning widows of members of the armed forces reserves, brings relief to a group who were left out of a program through no fault of their own.

The National Executive Committee approved the report of the National Security Commission to include the disposition of resolutions and adopted the resolutions recommended.

National Security—Foreign Relations Division

Responsibility for the daily conduct of the extensive work of The American Legion in defense and foreign policy is assigned to the National Security—Foreign Relations Division located in the Washington, D.C. office. The staff of the division consists of: G. Michael Schlee, Director; James B. Hubbard, Deputy Director; Harry E.B. Sullivan, Assistant Director for Foreign Relations; Spencer H. Leopard, Research Analyst; and a secretary to the Director, Miss June B. Bancroft, and secretary Ms. Bonnie Johnson.

During the year, the combined Division has endeavored to not only fulfill its responsibility to implement the mandates and policies of The American Legion relating to national defense and foreign affairs, but to constantly expand and improve the ways and means of projecting our interest in these two important areas. The duties have consisted of answering correspondence; telephone inquiries; maintaining liaison with the Departments of Defense, State, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps; the American National Red Cross; the American Blood Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These contacts related to a variety of matters, some of which involved members of the armed forces.

Liaison also is maintained with a host of military and quasi-military organizations with whom common goals are shared. Among these are: Reserve Officers Association; Air Force Association; Navy League and Association of the U.S. Army. Most importantly, the National Security-Foreign Relations Division provides a steady flow of information on defense matters to members of both commissions and the leadership at all levels of our organization. Writing and delivering speeches, preparing reports and preparation of testimony, is also a duty of the staff. Additionally, promotional material is prepared and distributed to support the five national programs in the national security field.

National Security—Foreign Relations Bulletin:

While continual use is made of all national publications, such as *Advance*, *The American Legion Magazine* and the *American Legion News Service*, the principal means for the distribution of factual information and program support in the fields of national defense and foreign affairs is the bi-monthly *National Security—Foreign Relations Bulletin*.

The 1,550 recipients of the *Bulletin* include: National Department Officers; NECmen; Department Security Chairmen; National and Committee leadership of the *American Legion Auxiliary*; National Security and Foreign Relations Commission and Committee members and many other interested Legionnaires. Accompanying the *Bulletin* have been timely enclosures including the monthly *Washington Report* prepared by the *American Security Council*. Excerpts from the numerous appearances of Legion representatives before the Committees of Congress are also featured in the *Bulletin*.

American Legion Magazine

We are truly indebted to the entire staff of *The American Legion Magazine* and the *Magazine Commission* for the extensive coverage given to *National Security* programs during the year.

American Legion Auxiliary

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the *American Legion Auxiliary* for its continued cooperation in support of the Legion's defense programs and objectives. We express our deep thanks for their personal interest and involvement in the defense programs of the Legion.

Distribution of materials

A statistical summary of correspondence and materials sent by the Division between July 1, 1982 and June 30, 1983 is as follows:

Individual letters (NS-FR)	554
Pages of copy	1,468
ROTC Medal awards brochures	2,909
Blood donor booklets	13,443
Police/fire certificates	4,166
Disaster relief understanding	7,165
NS-FR bulletin (bimonthly)	12,400
Crime resistance booklets	22,127
NS Summary of Resolutions booklet	19,653
FR Summary of Resolutions booklet	19,553

Our Appreciation

The Legislative Division through its bulletin has provided excellent coverage of appearances of *American Legion* witnesses in support of positions adopted by the National Convention. We express our thanks to Mylio S. Kraja, Executive Director of the Washington Office; and to the Directors and members of their staffs of their respective Divisions for their valuable help. Gratitude is expressed to the Public Relations Division, who through the *American Legion News Service* has carried information on *National Security* and *Foreign Relations* to the members.

We extend thanks to Frank L. Megnin, Editor of *Advance*, for presenting factual information on the conduct of *National Security* programs at the Post level. Such helpful support has resulted in substantial growth in the *Blood Donor* and *ROTC Medal Awards* programs in particular.

The *National Security* Division is indebted to our military liaison officers in the Departments of Defense, Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps whose help has been invaluable in handling hundreds of requests from in-service personnel and assistance securing military speakers for various functions.

Also, the *National Security* Commission recognizes and appreciates the interest and support given by the National Commander, the National Adjutant and the National Executive Committee, particularly those members who serve on the *National Security Liaison Committee*. We gratefully acknowledge the valuable help and cooperation rendered by national department officials of *The American Legion* and *Auxiliary* in the promotion and advancement of our vital interests in the area of defense and foreign policy.

Committee Reports

The following reports, received with grateful appreciation, were prepared under the leadership and guidance of the following Committee and Council Chairmen:

James E. Starr-Aerospace; Frank D. Riccardi-Defense Civil Preparedness; W. Dudley Robbins-Law and Order; William D. Horan-Merchant Marine; Donald D. Hildebrand-Military Affairs; David E. Munter-National Security Council, and John J. Wrenn-Naval Affairs.

AEROSPACE COMMITTEE

JAMES E. STARR, Minnesota, *Chairman*

During the past year, the Aerospace Committee continued its efforts to insure that the United States does not become a second-rate power in modern air power or advanced aerospace technology. The authority for the Committee's efforts are the resolutions adopted at the 64th National Convention. These policies are listed in the Summary of Proceedings section of that report. The efforts to implement these positions requires both administrative and legislative activities.

Legislative Activities

Implementation of these policies necessitates frequent correspondence and testimony to the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees of both the Senate and the House in coordination with our Legislative Division. In addition to correspondence, the principal appearance was before the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Ten of the resolutions on aerospace were presented to the Subcommittee in its consideration of Fiscal Year 1984 defense appropriations. Of particular emphasis was adequate provision for Operations and Maintenance funding, the M-X missile and the B-1 bomber. Additionally, support for adequate airlift for the Rapid Deployment Force was highlighted.

Civil Air Patrol

Pursuant to Resolution 14 adopted by the Denver National Convention, appropriate certificates have been prepared for Departments to recognize the outstanding CAP squadrons in their states. All Department Adjutants have been notified of the availability of the certificates and many requests have been received during this reporting period.

DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

FRANK D. RICCARDI, New Jersey, *Chairman*

The American Legion continues to advocate adequate staffing, adequate budgeting and adequate technical and research support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In an era when Soviet civil defense efforts are far greater than those of the United States, it becomes imperative that planning for emergencies to include a nuclear exchange be enhanced.

Support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Civil Defense Program in general, stems from Resolution 3 passed by the 64th annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois. The resolution calls for the public to be educated in the need for an adequate civil defense program, by:

- (1) Recognizing that civil defense in this nuclear age is as important as the weapons of war and that failure of the United States to have a credible civil defense program could lead to a miscalculation by any potential adversary;
- (2) Giving increased funds, support and assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- (3) Taking advantage of the current over-abundance of grain by stocking/restocking shelters and warehouses with survival food and plan to rotate those stocks when responding to requests for assistance to natural disasters around the world, and
- (4) Reinitiating public and private works programs that will provide jobs while providing civilian protection to include underground and inmountain facilities.

Disaster Relief Understanding

The role of Posts and Units in disasters of all types is spelled out in the Disaster Relief Understanding between The American Legion, the Auxiliary and the American National Red Cross, first established in 1926. The agreement, expanded to in-

clude the American Legion Auxiliary, was given a mass distribution to every Post and Unit. Presidents and Commanders alike are aware that this Understanding is merely a collection of words until it is put into action in their communities. Once disaster strikes, it is too late to identify facilities, train members or integrate Posts and Units into the over-all disaster relief operation.

It's impossible to predict the time and place a disaster may strike, bringing loss of life and property. However, it is possible to avoid some of the hardships of the aftermath of disaster through planning with the local Red Cross chapter. Under the agreement's broad framework, Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units and Red Cross Chapters can work out cooperative preparedness and relief plans best suited to their respective areas. It outlines the uses of physical facilities and human resources of the Legion and the Auxiliary. The pact also spells out details of fund raising and clothing collection with which the leadership of each Post and Unit should be familiar. The agreement has been updated during calendar year 1980 and the new agreement was signed by the National Commander.

Blood Donor Activities

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary continue to be principal sources of supply for blood. Through our vast network of Posts and Units organized into Department programs, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members through a variety of programs continue to supply the blood needs, of their own members, hospitalized veterans and through cooperative agreements to patients in civilian hospitals. In the past year, the program has continued to grow.

National Commander Awards

To stimulate activities on the part of Departments and Posts, annual awards are made by the National Commander. In the period from June 1, 1982 through May 31, 1983, 36 Departments of the American Legion actively participated in the Blood Donor program. The Department of Illinois received the first of two National Commander blood awards for the highest percentage of Post participation—36 percent.

The Second National Commander award was for the largest percentage of membership participating in the Blood Donor program. Again, the Department of Illinois was the winner of the second award with .05 percent of their membership participating.

Each participating Department will receive a certificate of recognition signed by National Commander Al Keller, Jr. and National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle.

Holiday Blood Drive

During the 1983 Holiday Season, American Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary will be urged to give a gift of life—blood. For the past several Christmas seasons, demands for blood were exceptionally high while supplies were so critical that only emergency operations could be performed.

Numerous Departments and Posts have actively publicized the "Holiday Blood drive" noting that this was an opportunity to establish closer ties with the community.

The October 1982 edition of "Advance" featured a four-page insert which contained complete instruction on how to go about setting up a blood program sponsored by American Legion posts in a community. Copies of this insert were sent to all of the blood banks sponsored by the American Association of Blood Banks, the American Red Cross and the Council of Community Blood Centers. All of these blood banking facilities were notified of the interest of The American Legion in ensuring a safe, adequate supply of blood for the community.

The American Blood Commission

During this past year, The American Legion has continued its participation as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Blood Commission. Established in 1975, the American Blood Commission is comprised of national organizations whose goal is the implementation of the National Blood Policy. The current designated representative of the American Blood Commission is Deputy Director James B. Hubbard, who currently serves as Vice President of the ABC board.

LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE

W. DUDLEY ROBBINS, North Carolina, *Chairman*

The Law and Order Committee continued this year to place emphasis on crime prevention by promotion of the Crime Resistance Program and urged the participa-

tion of each Post and Department. It further advocated distribution of each Post and Department. It further advocated distribution of the The American Legion's Crime Resistance Program booklet by each Legion Post to civic organizations and law enforcement officials for dissemination to American citizens.

Resolution 205 advocates continued citizen participation in The American Legion Crime Resistance Program.

American Legion Departments, Posts and individual citizens have been overwhelmingly responsive to the Legion's Crime Resistance Program. Requests for our booklet have come from state and local law enforcement officials; from senior citizens groups; from libraries; and from school children. Our crime resistance tips have been published in local newspapers, broadcast on local radio and TV programs and Post newsletters. Since the announcement of our program in February 1977, some 600,000 copies of this crime resistance booklet have been mailed. This program is viable, on-going and important to our national interest. The Law and Order Committee will continue to promote our goals in this area.

The Chicago National Convention adopted Resolution 151 which reiterates and confirms our opposition to gun registration and harassment of law abiding gun owners and called upon Congress to cease pursuing enactment of such laws. Resolution 344 places The American Legion on record in favor of mandating jail sentences for those who commit crimes and kill with guns.

The Chicago Convention also acted favorably on a resolution placing the Legion in favor of an amendment to the insanity defense statutes. The resolution calls for the replacement of the plea of "not guilty by reason of insanity" with a plea of "guilty but insane." The Legion will continue to monitor legislative action in this area.

Youth Programs

The American Legion in its efforts to better educate our young people in regard to laws which govern our society, and the agencies which enforce those laws, has developed several programs which feature law enforcement training. At least eight Departments, in cooperation with state law enforcement agencies, sponsor youth programs designed to acquaint the participants with methods of basic law enforcement. The young people actually spend time with state troopers, at the various police academies, learning about such diverse subjects as traffic law, police ethics, traffic control, unlawful drugs, court procedures and the responsibility of citizenship.

Our coloring poster, "Your Friend—the Policeman," continues to be a successful program. Well over 45,000 copies have been distributed to elementary school teachers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE

WILLIAM D. HORAN, New York, *Chairman*

Since its founding, The American Legion has realized the importance of a strong American merchant marine and the indispensable role of this "fourth arm of defense." Today, the ever-increasing dependence of the U.S. economy on raw materials from Third World and overseas areas demand renewed efforts to build up our merchant fleet.

The privately owned, deep-draft fleet of the U.S. merchant marine totaled 711 vessels with a carrying capacity of 24.7 million deadweight tons (dwt.) on March 1, 1983, according to the Commerce Department's Maritime Administration. The total comprises 568 ocean-going ships and 143 Great Lakes vessels.

Compared with March 1, 1982 totals, the number of ships in the U.S. fleet decreased by 4 ocean-going vessels, but the fleet's capacity increased by nearly 70,000. As of May 1, 1983, 19 merchant ships totaling 603,080 dwt. were under construction or on order in U.S. shipyards. The shipbuilding order book then consisted of 8 tankers, 3 intermodal carriers, 2 incinerator ships, 1 dry bulk carrier, 1 dredge, 3 tub/barges, and 1 research vessel. One additional vessel was undergoing conversion.

Retaining American merchant marine independence in supplying our economy and the added demands of military sealift spurred this Committee's support for expanding our fourth arm of defense during the past year. Our effort to inform our membership, the general public and the Congress of our views were guided by the four resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the 64th National Convention.

Maritime power

Throughout our history, maritime power has been a key element in the growth and strength of America. Moreover, the new sealift demands of the Rapid Deploy-

ment Force makes the fourth arm of defense even more imperative in our strategic planning. We must rebuild our merchant marine if we are to maintain free use of the seas in the face of the challenge presented by Soviet sea power in every corner of the world.

The changes in National Maritime Policy now being implemented by the Reagan Administration have been noted. The Merchant Marine Committee intends to monitor these policy changes as they are implemented to ensure that the United States Merchant Marine is once again pre-eminent on the seas.

National Maritime Day—1983

The Committee continues to support participation in National Maritime Day to evoke public awareness of the need for a strong merchant fleet. Promotion of the annual event was done through distribution of the National Maritime Poster. Legion members participate in the observance in New York, Baltimore and other key cities.

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DONALD D. HILDEBRAND, Tennessee, *Chairman*

During the year, your Military Affairs Committee has directed its major efforts toward attaining and then maintaining a strong and modern United States Armed Force, second to none in the world. We believe the times deserve no less. Our activities have been guided by the resolutions adopted by the 64th National Convention and subsequent National Executive Committee action. Wide dissemination was given those resolutions to Congressional, government, military and industry leaders to inform them of our mandates for supporting a strong and modern military force and Reserves. A bound volume of the resolutions was presented to the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and to the Secretary of Defense.

Press conferences/legislative activities

The staff has kept up-to-date by attending press conferences on various subjects of interest, including the press conference sponsored by the Atlantic Council on the Draft, several Congressional press conferences, and American Enterprise Institute sessions.

Through the Legislative Division, correspondence with Members of Congress and Congressional staff was initiated and followed through in other areas as follows:

Armed Forces quality of life aspects.

Military pay.

Armed Forces medical care.

Changes in retired pay programs.

Educational incentives for Active and Reserve Forces.

Additionally, testimony was presented before the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in support of needed weapons systems and over-all modernization of the force. Portions of that testimony are quoted for information:

"Mr. Chairman, The American Legion is pleased to once again be provided the opportunity to share with you the concerns of our membership on the Fiscal Year 1984 Defense Budget. At the outset, it must be emphasized that the United States really has no choice except to spend what is necessary to protect its national interests. The hard part, of course, is determining 'what is necessary.' However, accepting undue and unnecessary risks would ultimately result in the worldwide erosion of freedom and democracy and control by unfriendly governments of the world's natural resources on which our prosperity depends. A dramatic redirection of the American way of life would result—a redirection which is totally unacceptable to the 2.6 million members of The American Legion.

"Also, it is important to recognize that the annual debate over the defense budget is really a debate of national will, a debate of how far we are willing to go in terms of the allocation of taxpayers dollars to ensure the continuation of our way of life on this continent, and how best to encourage the spread of democracy elsewhere in the world.

"Further, we would caution against the propensity to defer procurement of modern weapons systems in favor of newer, more expensive systems to be deployed sometime in the future. Debate is now occurring in this area concerning the B-1 bomber in favor of Stealth technology, and will shortly get underway on the M-X versus the proposed single warhead missile advocated by the recent Presidential Commission. The Legion firmly believes that this nation cannot deter war and ensure peace with vast collections of engineering drawings on new systems and old,

marginally capable weapons designed and deployed decades ago. We need to modernize now.

"The President's Commission on Strategic Forces stressed that all recommendations in its report must be taken together, and that no single recommendation was an acceptable separate solution." It is useful at this point to quote from the Commission Report:

"The Commission has concluded that the preferred approach for modernizing our ICBM force seems to have three components: Initiating engineering design of a single warhead small ICBM, to reduce target value and permit flexibility in basing for better long-term survivability; seeking arms control agreements designed to enhance strategic stability; and depolying MX missiles in existing silos now to satisfy the immediate needs of our ICBM force and to aid that transition. . .

"In the meantime, however, deployment of MX is essential in order to remove the Soviet advantage in ICBM capability and to help deter the threat of conventional or limited nuclear attacks on the alliance. Such deployment is also necessary to encourage the Soviets to move toward the more stable regime of deployments and arms control outlined above.

"The Commission stresses that these two aspects of ICBM modernization and this approach toward arms control are integrally related. They point toward the same objective—permitting the U.S. and encouraging the Soviets to move toward more stable ICBM deployments over time in a way that is consistent with arms control agreements having the objective of reducing the risk of war. The Commission is unanimous that no one part of the proposed program can accomplish this alone."

Mr. Chairman, The American Legion supports this conclusion of the President's Commission on Strategic Forces. We have long believed that the only way to bring the Soviets to the bargaining table to discuss meaningful arms control is to show them that their unwillingness to bargain will not be met with unilateral disarmament but with ever-growing American strength and determination.

Deployment of 100 M-X missiles in existing silos will demonstrate to the Soviets that we do not intend to concede many years of Soviet advantage in these highly accurate systems. The committee is reminded that the only thing which has brought the Soviets to the bargaining table on the anti-ballistic missile treaty in the past was our continued development of an ABM system and finally, the decision to deploy such a system.

It is useful at this point to examine a quote from the separate statement of former Secretary of Defense, Harold Brown, a consultant to the President's Commission:

"Recall that we said in the early 1970s that we would modernize with a new missile in the late 1970s. In the mid-1970s, we said that we would do so in the early 1980s, and in the late 1970s that we would in the mid-1980s. We have failed so far to do any of those things, even while the Soviets were deploying over 600 new ICBMs, each with a payload equal to or greater than that of MX, and with accuracies now matching those of the most accurate U.S. ICBMs.

"To say that the United States will modernize in the early 1990s with a small single-warhead missile will just not be believable. The Soviets would be justified in calculating that any new U.S. ICBM system will be aborted by some combination of environmental, doctrinal, fiscal, and political problems."

Our second area of concern, Mr. Chairman, is the Administration's request for \$5.6 billion for procurement of the B-1B bomber. The aircraft will be fully capable of penetrating the Soviet Union well into the 1990's. This will allow designated B-52's to be employed for the cruise missile carriage mission. To keep the B-52's as a viable penetrating weapon system over the next decade and beyond would require numerous expensive modifications. As these airframes age, their operation and maintenance costs grow at an increasing rate. Therefore, the timely retirement of some of these airframes will result in substantial cost savings.

Our area of concern is Operations and Maintenance funding for fiscal year 1984. We are aware of the widespread sentiment in Congress to cut the defense budget. As you know, there are essentially three ways to accomplish this. Cutting procurement, which saves very little in outlays for the current year. Reducing personnel levels which not only sends the wrong signal to the other side, but also increases the reliance on the strategic nuclear forces thereby lowering the nuclear threshold and increasing the danger of an exchange. The only other area where cost savings can be realized is Operations and Maintenance.

It is no secret that O&M is the life blood of military readiness. It impacts directly on the day-to-day operations of every unit commander at all levels of command.

Without a steady stream of spare parts, neither equipment nor weapons systems can be relied upon to perform when needed.

Moreover, it may be advanced that O&M funding has risen dramatically over the years, but just as with every other segment of our economy this is attributable to spiraling fuel costs. Denial of adequate fuel for regular operation of our weapons systems can only be expected to compromise the readiness of the professionals on whom our defense rely.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

DAVID E. MUNTER, Illinois, *Chairman*

The American Legion over the past year has continued to support the concept of Universal Military Training and the Selective Service System by applying the following principles:

(1) Maintenance of the Selective Service System as a viable preparedness measure; (2) the re-establishment of a completely operational Selective Service System in compliance with existing law, including Presidential induction authority; (3) retention of the System even when in a standby basis, supported by an active state Selective Service headquarters with a state director in charge who is responsible for the maintenance of military mobilization plans and operations for the state; (4) a local board in a registrant's own community with the responsibility for determining his availability and the issuance of induction orders rather than depend on an untried, centralized computer system; (5) training of a pool of Reserve and National Guard personnel in Selective Service Manpower Mobilization Procedures, and a Selective Service System as an independent agency; (6) Congress implement a system of Universal Military Training that will require every able-bodied man between the ages of 18 and 23 to serve a period of military training; and, (7) the President and Congress provide the necessary directions and budgetary support to the Selective Service System so the mandates of the Military Selective Service Act are enforced so the Selective Service System is able to meet the manpower requirements of the Department of Defense when called upon.

Reserve Officers Training Corps program

The historic support The American Legion for a strong and viable Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) was reaffirmed by Resolution 367-76, adopted at our 59th National Convention, and Resolution 474 adopted by the 64th National Convention. We resolved to staunchly support both the Reserve Officers Training Corps and the Junior ROTC as exemplifying strong links in the traditional role of the citizen-soldier in this country and as one of the most outstanding programs for producing military officers and future leaders of our nation. We also strongly recommend that all colleges and university students take advantages of the tremendous opportunity for training, leadership and achievement which the ROTC represents.

Department and post activity

Departments having ROTC units supported ROTC programs by either awarding or encouraging Posts under their jurisdiction to award and participate in The American Legion's ROTC Medal Program. Response to this program has been outstanding. During the period from July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983, 1,170 medals have been awarded to deserving ROTC and Junior ROTC candidates. Presentations of medals were made to 415 ROTC units in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy

The National Executive Committee at their October 1975 meeting approved Resolution 21, which established the Paul H. Griffith Trophy for the ROTC program in their states during the year. The trophy honors the memory of Past National Commander Paul H. Griffith, who served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense and throughout his life maintained an active interest and participation in our nation's defense.

Criterion for judging the winner of the trophy is based on the Department giving the greatest degree of support to the Reserve Officers Training Corps Programs to include, but not be limited to, the number of medals presented and Legion participation in awards day ceremonies this year.

NAVAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JOHN J. WRENN, Massachusetts, *Chairman*

Guided by the six resolutions adopted at the 64th National Convention, the Naval Affairs Committee has worked to strengthen the U.S. Navy during the past year. We begin with the premise that sea lanes are the life lines of America, both in peacetime and war. Additionally, with the advent of President Reagan's election, the United States entered a period of more forceful diplomacy. The United States is no longer hesitant about sending powerful signals to aggressors that we will not stand idly by and watch while they conduct violent takeovers of legitimate governments, particularly when those take-overs are contrary to the national interests of the United States. This new diplomacy requires a more mobile, more flexible and more capable armed force; in particular, an expanded United States Navy.

The Secretary of Defense is faced with the decision on how best to expand the strength of the Navy in a fairly rapid manner. Expansion means an increased number of combatant ships and the choices are relatively limited. The Navy can build new ships, a time consuming process, or it may opt to remove ships from the "mothball" fleet, a process that will take substantially less time than the new construction. We suggested that both options be undertaken simultaneously. In the short term, modernizing older ships with updated communications, command and control equipment and modern weapons systems is the only reasonable option currently available until such time as new ships are built and deployed.

We continue to believe our fleet should be increased to 600 ships. Over the long term this will require 20 new ships per year to modernize the fleet. Moreover, developments in the Persian Gulf and deployment of a naval task force there highlights the imperativeness of "getting on" with a vigorous shipbuilding program.

The United States Coast Guard has faced the same rising costs associated with inflation as the other services. The problem of funding has become so crucial in the Coast Guard that this service is barely able to perform its statutory mission and in some cases, has had to reduce some of its enforcement activities to stay within the funding limitations imposed by Congress. At the Boston Convention, the delegates adopted a resolution calling for adequate financial support for the Coast Guard.

Legislative activities

During the reporting period, testimony was presented before the House and Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittees to rebuild the fleet. Testimony pointed out that the British experience in the Falklands presented the best evidence that there was definitely a place in the U.S. Navy for large deck carriers and refurbished battleships.

Adequate funding must be provided to the Navy for the continued development of its forces on and under the sea, and in the air, so that strong, modern, effective sea power can be effectively deployed with the forces of other services. The Naval Affairs Committee will continue to direct its efforts toward this goal.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

WILLIAM M. DETWEILER, Louisiana, *Chairman*

HUBERT R. DAGLEY II, Indiana, *Director*

The Public Relations Commission oversees and coordinates all activities and programs designed to publicize the work of The American Legion among members and non-members alike. Positioning The American Legion properly and accurately before these two "publics" is the established goal of the Public Relations Commission and its staff in Indianapolis and Washington, and significant progress has been made during the last year in achieving that goal.

Personnel changes made since the previous report have resulted in meaningful increases in fundamental understanding of American Legion programs and policies and the levels of skill available for solving communications problems.

Staff Coordination

The Commission has emphasized its role as a service arm of the organization by increasing cooperation with the program divisions of The American Legion in producing materials to publicize programs and activities. Scheduled for completion this year are audio-visual productions on Economics Commission programs, the Americanism and Children & Youth commission, and the Magazine Commission. In addition, slide presentations for the National Security/Foreign Relations programs and Internal Affairs have been undertaken.

Perhaps the most meaningful area of cooperation is the emerging relationship between the Membership and Post Activities staff and Public Relations. The Public Relations staff provides assistance in the Direct Mail Solicitation program, membership recruitment by means of a fact card prepared for use by membership workers, and through a coordinated and consistent design effort for advertisements and displays.

Communication Efforts

A highlight of the 1982-1983 Legion year in Public Relations was the production of "Marching Along Together Again," a 28-minute film/video tape chronicle of the five-day National Salute to Vietnam Veterans. The production—written, edited and produced entirely by the Public Relations staff—was unveiled during the 1983 Washington Conference and has since received wide exposure through showings by American Legion posts and on cable and over-the-air broadcast systems. Reaction has been consistently favorable and the production is considered by professionals to be an outstanding example of work in the genre.

Following detailed study of the use and cost of several internal communications tools, most notably the Hotline, The American Legion News Service and the syndicated National Commander's Column, work continues on a project to improve the quality and circulation of the ALNS. Communication between National Headquarters and Legionnaires is constantly being evaluated, with an eye toward direct communication.

The Public Relations staff continues to provide consistent, effective and accurate support for Legion speakers, most notably the National Commander. However, the staff, when called upon, also provides research and writing assistance to all national officers and others speaking on behalf of The American Legion. Suggested addresses and speeches for special days and patriotic holidays, along with specially prepared holiday artwork and advertisements remain available from the staff.

Recognition and Challenges

Awards and recognition for outstanding accomplishment conferred during the Legion year included the National Commander's Public Relations Award, presented to Eunice Kennedy Shriver on behalf of Special Olympics during the 1983 Washing-

ton Conference, and this year's Fourth Estate Award to the Sacramento Union for a series of articles exposing practices in the welfare system that protect wanted felons from the criminal justice system.

The 1982-1983 Legion year has been one of re-assessment, challenge and thoughtful planning to carry the Commission and its staff to the forefront for the 1980s. Communication with increasingly sophisticated publics and by means of rapidly expanding technologies presents significant challenges, but brings with it unprecedented opportunities. The Public Relations Commission and staff are moving to meet those challenges and opportunities.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE COMMISSION

MILFORD A. FORRESTER, South Carolina, *Chairman*

DEAN B. NELSON, Iowa, *Publisher*

This year appears to have marked the turning point in The American Legion Magazine's financial status, primarily due to the increased per capita allocation that went into effect last year, a stable advertising base and fairly stable postal rates. However, the current postal situation is uncertain at best.

The so-called "1¢ Summer Sale," a postage discount we enjoyed last year, was originally scheduled for August and September only, but was extended through December and ended on January 9, 1983, when the Postal Service increased the rates from Step 13 to Step 14 of their 16-step rate phasing schedule. This increase was anticipated and appropriate budget allocations were made for 1983.

Although the current rates will remain in effect through this fiscal year, there is a distinct possibility of a substantial increase in third-class non-profit rates in October. The amount of increase depends on the amount of postal subsidy approved by Congress for preferred rate mailers. The subsidy now under consideration ranges from \$802 million to \$400 million. We, of course, advocate adoption of the former in that \$802 million would raise rates about 8 percent versus as much as 77 percent if only \$400 million is approved. Clearly, this is a volatile situation, and one that the Commission and publisher are following closely.

Printing Contract

The Magazine is currently undergoing a major production change in that a new printing contract was awarded to Foote & Davies/Atlanta. The previous contract, which was with Lehigh Kansas Color, expired in July. Late last year, the Magazine Commission authorized the solicitation of sealed bids from prospective printers. Of the 14 bids considered, Foote & Davies/Atlanta seemed the best for the Magazine due to cost, location and equipment. While there are inherent difficulties to be expected whenever such a change is made, the transition is progressing smoothly and we fully expect that there will be no adverse change in the quality of printing in the Magazine.

Readership Survey

We continue to be pleased with both the graphic presentation and the editorial content of the publication. However, there is an old saying to the effect that when you stop going forward, you start going backward—and that's something the Magazine wants to avoid. Therefore, the polling firm of Starch-INRA-Hooper, Inc. of New York was hired to conduct a comprehensive editorial survey, beginning with the January issue. The survey consists of four separate initiatives, in each of which a randomly selected group of Legionnaires are interviewed about specific issues and about their overall perception of the publication.

The first segment of the process has been completed and the second is well under way. To date, however, we have some encouraging results which, are told by the experts, at Starch, are scientifically valid. Some interesting highlights include these facts:

The publication is thoroughly read, with the average respondent reading about 70 percent of every issue.

The average reader reads three-and-a-half of the five features articles every month, and is very satisfied with the average selection.

The most widely read standing column is the "Parting Shots" page (89 percent read it every month), followed by the "Commander's Message" (with seven out of every ten readers reading it every month).

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The lowest read columns are "Books," "Life Insurance Box Score," and "Life Members." Even these, though, garner a readership in excess of 20 percent.

When asked how the Legion Magazine compared to other publications in providing information about veteran benefit and veteran legislation, 94.8 percent said it was as good or better than anything else they read. Interestingly, among those surveyed who are also members of the VFW, 93.5 percent rated The American Legion Magazine as good or better than anything else they read in this area. We think that speaks well of our efforts in relation to those of the competition.

On the graphics side, we are currently working with a graphics consultant in an effort to keep our publication the best looking one in its field. Early indications are that we are maintaining a contemporary "look," but some fine tuning is in order. We're now looking at things such as type size, by-line positioning and use of second color.

The Talking American Legion Magazine Program

There is one other significant area of editorial concern and that is "The talking American Legion Magazine." This service, through which visually impaired Legionnaires can receive at no additional cost their monthly national magazine on disc recordings, was begun slightly more than a year ago. To date we are pleased with the success it is enjoying. so far, there are nearly 400 subscribers—in excess of seven times the number previously serviced by the Braille edition, and for about the same cost—and the number of subscribers continues to grow.

In order to increase the Legion's exposure in this area of service to the visually impaired, the Magazine Commission opened the eligibility field to include any visually impaired or physically disabled veteran who is able to meet the requirements set by the Library of Congress's Talking Books Program, since it is the Library of Congress that supplies the necessary phonographic equipment, free of charge.

Though the program of the Legion has been operating smoothly, we have encountered one problem. It affects only those Legionnaires who are not American citizens and who reside outside of the United States—mainly our Philippine Legionnaires. The Library of Congress will not supply phonographic equipment nor permit membership in their extensive program to those disabled veterans who are not American citizens and do not reside in the U.S.

However, the Legion Magazine does accept those subscribers in its Talking Magazine Program and suggests that local Legion Posts in the Philippines investigate getting institutional subscriptions to the Library of Congress's Talking Books Program, thereby enabling them to receive phonographic equipment. The alternative is to have ineligible veterans use VA equipment at VA facilities, or purchase equipment at a cost of about \$200 per unit.

The American Legion Magazine Commission continues to be pleased with the product the staff is producing, and we look forward to another year of meeting our organization's need for a professionally produced publication which is both informative and entertaining.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

W. F. LENKER, South Dakota, *Chairman*

R. E. LYNCH, Colorado, *Director*

During the year that has transpired since the last National Convention, The American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has continued to support and defend the veterans program, both legislatively and through direct assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors.

In October 1982, Congress adopted and the President signed Public Law 97-306, the Veterans Disability Compensation and Survivors' Benefits Amendments of 1982. The Legion strongly supported this measure, which provided a 7.4 percent increase in compensation for the service disabled and for the survivors of the service deceased.

Among the other legislative proposals, your Commission has submitted to the current Congress a realistic and equitable pension measure providing for certain improvements in the veterans and survivors pension program.

For the period July 1, 1982, and ending June 30, 1983, the program activities of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, and its staff are as follows:

Beginning with the 1982 National Convention, the Commission received a total of 99 resolutions for appropriate action and consideration. There follows a breakdown of these resolutions by source and type:

From the 1982 National Convention	78
Approved resolutions	45
Referred resolutions	33
From the National Executive Committee	7
Approved at the meeting of Oct. 13-14, 1982	3
Approved at the meeting of May 4-5, 1983	4
From the National Adjutant ("register resolutions")	14

The status of each of the 99 resolutions as of the end of the report period is set forth below, beginning with those covering the 1982 National convention, followed by those presented and referred by the National Executive Committee and those register matters from each of the National Executive Committee meetings.

1982 National Convention Approved Resolutions

Policy

Resolution No. 17 (Florida).—Support legislation concerning space available travel on military aircraft for 100 percent disabled veterans.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 43 (District of Columbia).—Urge the VA to plan and develop a comprehensive health care program and related services for the aging veteran.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. Also, the Deputy Director presented the views of The American Legion on this subject when appearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on March 10, 1983.

Resolution No. 54 (Nebraska).—Oppose those reorganization plans that would transfer from the Veterans Administration sole jurisdiction of any veterans benefits and service programs.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983.

Resolution No. 56 (Nebraska).—Oppose any proposal that would consolidate or centralize the operations of the Veterans Administration Regional Offices.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983.

Resolution No. 112 (North Dakota).—Urges Congress to adequately fund the Veterans Administration Health Care System construction program.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. In addition, the Director and Deputy Director presented the views of The American Legion on this subject when appearing before the following Congressional Committees: the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 16, 1983; the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 17, 1983; the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on March 23, 1983, the House Committee on Appropriations on April 14, 1983; and, the Senate Committee on Appropriations on May 23, 1983.

Resolution No. 119 (North Dakota).—Oppose legislation providing for third party reimbursement of cost of medical care provided by the Veterans Administration to veterans who are eligible and apply for such care.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. Also, the Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 126 (Ohio).—Urge the President to provide full funding for all veterans programs.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. In addition, the National Commander in his appearances before the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs on September 21, 1982, informed each Committee of the Legion's opposition to any budgetary reductions, and urged full funding for all veterans programs. The budgetary needs of the Veterans Administration were further addressed when the Director and Deputy Director appeared before the following Congressional Committees: the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 16, 1983; the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 17, 1983; the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on March 16, 1983; the House Committee on Appropriations on April 14, 1983; the Senate Committee on Appropriations on May 23, 1983.

Resolution No. 140 (Ohio).—The American Legion Policy regarding Federal Social Security Programs.

This resolution required no legislative consideration. It is, however, administrative in nature, and its approval served to complete the required action.

Resolution No. 141 (Ohio).—Oppose legislation which would authorize judicial review of the decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. Further, the Director when appearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on March 23, 1983, informed the Committee of the Legion's views on this subject.

Resolution No. 181 (Massachusetts).—Oppose any attempt to eliminate or delay renovation or replacement projects at Veterans Administration Medical Centers.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. Also, the Deputy Director when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on March 16, 1983; the House Committee on Appropriations on April 21, 1983; and, the Director when appearing before the Senate Committee on Appropriations on May 23, 1983, expressed the views of The American Legion on this vital subject.

Resolution No. 280 (Pennsylvania).—Urges that veterans compensation, pension and readjustment allowances not be considered as benefits and entitlements, but shall be considered as rights.

This resolution requires no legislation at the present time. It is however, administrative in nature, and its approval served to complete the required action.

Resolution No. 283 (Georgia).—The American Legion Policy on National Health Insurance.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983.

Resolution No. 284 (Georgia).—Support legislation so as to make the Veterans Administration an Executive Department of the Federal Government.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. In addition, the Deputy Director presented the views of The American Legion on this subject when appearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on March 10, 1983.

Resolution No. 385 (New York).—Oppose any proposal that would merge the administration and payment of veterans benefits from the VA with those now administered by the Social Security Administration, or any other Federal agency.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 393 (Wisconsin).—Seeks funding for the Veterans Administration Nurse Scholarship Program, and the establishment of innovative and stimulating programs to attract nurses into the VA system.

The intent of this resolution has been satisfied with the passage of Public Law 97-251, approved September 9, 1982.

Resolution No. 409 (Iowa).—The American Legion Policy on Radiation Exposure Cases.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. The Deputy Director when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on March 10, 1983; and again on May 24, 1983; and before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on April 6, 1983, made known the views of The American Legion on this subject.

Resolution No. 410 (Iowa).—The American Legion Policy on Agent Orange.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. Also, the Deputy Director appeared before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on April 26, 1983; the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on June 22, 1983; and, also submitted statements to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on May 3, 1983, and to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on June 15, 1983, expressing the views of The American Legion on this subject.

Resolution No. 411 (Iowa).—Oppose Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery contracting out of services deemed essential for delivery of integrated quality medical care to eligible veterans.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983.

Claims and Ratings

Resolution No. 58 (Nebraska).—Support legislation to provide for the payment of a clothing allowance to any veteran with a compensable skin condition when it is determined there is clothing spoilage due to the use of prescribed medication.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 59 (Nebraska).—Support legislation to amend section 314 of title 38, USC, to increase the monthly rates of disability compensation.

This resolution was partially satisfied with the passage of Public Law 97-306, approved October 14, 1982. In addition, the Deputy Director when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on April 19, 1983, and before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on June 8, 1983, informed the Committees of The American Legion's position on this matter.

Resolution No. 78 (Colorado).—Oppose any proposal to weaken the Disability Compensation Program or dilute benefits payable to disabled veterans under laws and regulations administered by the Veterans Administration.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 79 (Colorado).—Support legislation to increase by a reasonable amount the maximum payment by VA of specially adapted housing assistance to certain veterans.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 99 (Oklahoma).—Sponsor and support legislative to amend 38 USC 3104 so as to remove the restriction against the receipt of Armed Forces retirement pay, due to length of service, concurrently with VA compensation.

H.R. 468 was introduced on January 6, 1983, at the request of The American Legion. The Deputy Director when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on April 19, 1983, informed the Committee of The American Legion's position on this subject.

Resolution No. 136 (Ohio).—Sponsor and support legislation to provide a seven year presumption period for Syringomyelia.

H.R. 1367 was introduced on February 10, 1983, at the request of The American Legion. Also, the Deputy Director when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on April 19, 1983, informed the Committee of The American Legion's position on this subject.

Resolution No. 137 (Ohio).—Amend section 314, title 38, USC, to provide a two year presumptive period for psychosis in the case of a veteran who served 90 days or more during a period of war.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committee of our views.

Resolution No. 282 (Georgia).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to provide a special pension program for veterans of World War I.

H.R. 1369 was introduced on February 10, 1983, at the request of The American Legion. No hearings have been held, to date, by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 290 (California).—Support legislation to amend 38 USC 411, so as to increase the monthly rates of dependency and indemnity compensation.

While this resolution was, for the most part, substantially accomplished with the passage of Public Law 97-306, approved October 14, 1982, additional legislation under consideration by the current Congress would make further upward adjustments in DIC payment rates. The Deputy Director when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on April 19, 1983; and before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on June 8, 1983, reaffirmed the Legion's position supporting further cost-of-living increases in service-connected disability and death benefits.

Resolution No. 291 (California).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC 314(k) to include the loss of one lung or loss of one kidney to the list of anatomical loss or loss of use disabilities.

H.R. 1368 was introduced on February 10, 1983, at the request of The American Legion. The Deputy Director when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on April 18, 1983, expressed the views of The American Legion on this subject.

Resolution No. 294 (California).—Support legislation to amend 38 USC 110 to provide that a disability rated at or above a certain evaluation for 10 or more years shall be protected, except when it is shown that such rating was based upon fraud.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 394 (Wisconsin).—Sponsor and support legislation to restore the payment of burial allowance; and to increase the burial allowance for veterans to \$400 plus the \$150 plot allowance.

H.R. 1479 was introduced on February 15, 1983, at the request of The American Legion. In addition, the Director and Deputy Director presented the views of The American Legion on this subject when appearing before the following Congressional Committees: the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 16, 1983; and again before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 17, 1983, and April 14, 1983.

Resolution No. 395 (Wisconsin).—Oppose adoption and application of any VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities which is not based upon the average impairment of earning capacity resulting from pathological conditions in civil occupations.

The American Legion remains constantly alert to any proposed changes in the VA Rating Schedule. In the implementation of this resolution, letters have been forwarded to the Veterans Administration, relative to proposed changes, expressing the views of The American Legion.

Resolution No. 401 (Iowa).—Oppose the decision by the VA to deny payment of a burial allowance to veterans who die in a private nursing home while under VA Contract.

This resolution was satisfied with the passage of Public Law 97-306, approved October 14, 1982.

Resolution No. 405 (Iowa).—Urge that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs implement more equitable regulations for use in considering waiver of overpayments.

On advice of counsel, staff has concluded that only solution to this problem, is a legislative one. Staff is attempting to devise a plan that could lead to a successful legislative effort.

Resolution No. 408 (Iowa).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC, section 3203 so as to increase the amount of pension payable to certain veterans who are furnished domiciliary, hospital or nursing home care.

H.R. 1366 was introduced on February 10, 1983, at the request of The American Legion. No hearings have been held, to date, by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 489 (New York).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend title 38, USC, Chapter 15, to further improve the disability and death pension program for veterans and their dependents.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. Also, H.R. 1370 was introduced on February 10, 1983, at the request of The American Legion. No hearings have been held, to date, by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Medical and Hospital

Resolution No. 9 (Philippines).—Support legislation to restore the grants-in-aid program and nursing home care to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in the Philippines.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 74 (Colorado).—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, section 5031, to permit States to receive VA assistance for the acquisition and rehabilitation of certain facilities.

The Deputy Director when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 16, 1983, expressed the views of The American Legion on this subject.

Resolution No. 144 (South Dakota).—Support an annual review and revision of the rates of reimbursement by the Veterans Administration for the care provided veterans in State Veterans Homes.

The Deputy Director when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 16, 1983, expressed the views of The American Legion on this subject.

Resolution No. 396 (Wisconsin).—Urge Congress to authorize adequate budget funding for the Veterans Administration medical research programs.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on February 22, 1983. Also, the Director when appearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 16, 1983; and before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 17, 1983, informed the Committees of the Legion's views on this subject.

Resolution No. 450 (Minnesota).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC, so as to provide that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs may provide certain benefits to Canadian Armed Forces veterans.

H.R. 1383 was introduced on February 10, 1983, at the request of The American Legion. No hearings have been held, to date, by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 451 (Minnesota).—Support legislation to provide adequate funds for the construction, remodeling and renovation of State Veterans Homes.

The Deputy Director expressed the views of The American Legion on this subject when appearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 16, 1983.

National Cemeteries

Resolution No. 384 (New York).—The American Legion Policy on improving the National Cemetery System and death and burial benefits for veterans.

The Director and Deputy Director presented the views of The American Legion on this subject when appearing before the following Congressional Committees: the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 16, 1983; and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 17, 1983, and April 14, 1983.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

Resolution No. 130 (Ohio).—Sponsor and support legislation to increase allowances in education and training under Chapter 34, title 38, USC.

A Bill, S. 9, although not introduced at our request, would, if enacted satisfy the intent of this resolution.

Insurance

Resolution No. 80 (Colorado).—Amend 38 USC to provide Mortgage Life Insurance for those veterans unable to acquire Commercial Life Insurance because of service-connected disabilities.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 292 (California).—Support legislation to amend 38 USC, Chapter 19, so as to provide a special Government Life Insurance Program for Vietnam Era veterans.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

1982 National Convention Referred Resolutions

Policy

Resolution No. 21 (Louisiana).—Urges The American Legion to commend members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees of the State of Louisiana Legislature.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be returned to the originating Department (for action on their part).

Resolution No. 47 (District of Columbia).—Seeks the establishment of a Federal Government special health task force to provide civilian protection measures against exposure to chemical warfare agents, and that disability compensation rates be established to be available should military personnel be exposed to such chemicals.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 72 (Colorado).—Urges The American Legion to place greater emphasis on suggesting improvements in the methods and internal policies of the Veterans Administration.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (returned to Department because of multiple subjects).

Resolution No. 77 (Colorado).—Oppose any legislation which proposes to limit the annual adjustment in benefits to military disabled retirees and other retirees who are in receipt of VA compensation in lieu of military retirement pay.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (returned to Department because of multiple subjects).

Resolution No. 213 (Illinois).—Oppose granting a Federal Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

This is now Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee meeting on October 13-14, 1982 (see Resolution No. 9 of this report for further disposition).

Resolution No. 327 (Texas).—Urges that necessary funds be appropriated for the planning and construction of a new Veterans Administration Medical Center at Houston, Texas.

This is now Resolution No. 11 of the National Executive Committee meeting on October 13-14, 1982 (see Resolution No. 11 of this report for further disposition).

Resolution No. 357 (Maryland).—Seeks the establishment of a Federal Government special health task force to provide civilian protection measures against exposure to chemical warfare agents, and that disability compensation rates be established to be available should military personnel be exposed to such chemicals.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 399 (Iowa).—Oppose granting a Federal Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

This is now Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee meeting of October 13-14, 1982 (see Resolution No. 9 of this report for further disposition).

Resolution No. 412 (Iowa).—Support the Disabled Veterans Recreation, Inc., in its endeavor to utilize resorts purchased by the Federal Government as a facility for disabled veterans.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 449 (Minnesota).—Supports the Disabled Veterans Recreation, Inc., in its endeavor to utilize resorts purchased by the Federal Government as a facility for disabled veterans.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 454 (Minnesota).—Urges the National Staff to investigate the Minneapolis VAMC pilot program relative to the recovery of medical reimbursement from certain third party payees.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (the matter was resolved with the sponsoring Department).

Resolution No. 492 (South Carolina).—Sponsor and support legislation to exclude all VA benefits in the determination of income for entitlement to Medicare benefits for nursing home care under title 23, USC.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 493 (South Carolina).—Sponsor and support legislation to exclude all VA benefits in the determination of eligibility and entitlement to Federal entitlement programs such as food stamps and housing subsidies.

As its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

National Cemeteries

Resolution No. 441 (Michigan).—Urges the Veterans Administration to continue the use of grave liners at the Fort Custer National Cemetery at Battle Creek, Michigan.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded (VA will use grave liners in the new burial section of the Fort Custer National Cemetery).

Medical and Hospital

Resolution No. 129 (Ohio).—Urges action which would eliminate the requirement for looking behind the oath of inability to pay when a veteran is seeking admission to a VA hospital.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in a study status.

Resolution No. 215 (Illinois).—Urges action to provide that the VA Canteen Service work a seven day week.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (the matter was resolved with the sponsoring Department).

Resolution No. 239 (Tennessee).—Oppose any action to make the Nashville VAMC a "dual-access" facility.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that the resolution be received and recorded (there is no indication at the present time of the Nashville VAMC becoming a "dual-access" facility).

Resolution No. 278 (Pennsylvania).—Support legislation which would restore the prior admission requirements for those veterans seeking admission to VA facilities.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in a study status.

Resolution No. 289 (California).—Urges that a National Soldiers Home be maintained on the Wadsworth VA Hospital grounds, and that admission requirements to said home revert back to the original status.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (the matter was resolved with the sponsoring Department).

Resolution No. 378 (New Mexico).—Urges the development of long-term care facilities for spinal cord injury disabilities.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded (VA currently operates a substantial number of long-term SCI beds, and is expanding the program each year).

Resolution No. 488 (Missouri).—Rename the VAMC, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, the "John J. Pershing Veterans Administration Medical Center."

This is now Resolution No. 10 of the National Executive Committee meeting of October 13-14, 1982 (see Resolution No. 10 of this report for further disposition).

Veterans Administration Hospitals

The following resolutions were recommended for referral to the Standing Commission for presentation to the Veterans Administration. Each resolution relates to the construction or remodeling of hospital facilities, additional beds, or other matters relating to medical care facilities. The resolutions were referred to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, and his reply in each instance was furnished the Department sponsoring the resolutions. The resolutions and the Administrator's reply are as follows:

Resolution No. 178 (Massachusetts).—Build a Chapel at the VAMC, West Roxbury, Massachusetts.

The VA reply: "The Veterans Administration Medical Center at West Roxbury, Massachusetts, presently has a Chapel approximately 300 square feet in size and a separate Eucharistic Room occupying 290 square feet. In addition, religious services are conducted for the patients on a regularly scheduled basis and in an auditorium located therein which is approximately 1900 square feet in size. Renovation of the auditorium for use as a Chapel is planned as part of a major construction project scheduled to begin in fiscal year 1985. When the construction and renovation project is complete there will be approximately 2,074 net square feet provided for religious activities. The improvement includes a Devotion Room, Sacristy, Eucharistic Room, Chancel, and offices for the Chaplains adjacent to the renovated auditorium."

Resolution No. 185 (Massachusetts).—Urging use of former VA hospital at Rutland Heights, Massachusetts, for a domiciliary home.

The VA reply: "The VA's first Medical District Initiated Program Plan (MEDIPP) received by VA Central Office in December 1982, from VA Medical District No. 1 (which includes Massachusetts), identified the need for an additional 179 domiciliary beds. As a result of the MEDIPP review process, Medical District No. 1 has been requested to work with Medical District Nos. 2 and 3 on the development of a regional strategy for addressing veterans' needs for domiciliary care. Preliminary indications are that there are sufficient existing domiciliary beds within the region to meet all the needs of the three districts. However, any specific recommendations with respect to the site location of domiciliary beds will be developed as part of the 1983 MEDIPP submissions to be forwarded to Central Office by November 1983."

Resolution No. 223 (Illinois).—Oppose the sale of land at the VAMC, Marion, Illinois.

The VA reply: "The land requirements for VAMC, Marion, Illinois, were subject to a thorough analysis by both the General Services Administration (GSA) and responsible VA program elements. Upon completion of this review, the Chief Medical Director via memorandum dated June 16, 1982, advised the Associate Deputy Administrator for Logistics that excess acreage did, in fact, exist at this facility. Subsequently, a 25.44 acre portion of VAMC, Marion, Illinois, was reported to GSA as being excess to the needs of this Agency. GSA has accepted jurisdiction over this land parcel."

Resolution No. 293 (California).—Petition the Veterans Administration to establish outpatient clinics in communities located more than 100 miles away from the nearest VA hospital facilities.

The VA reply: "The VA Department of Medicine and Surgery has criteria for determining potential sites for outpatient clinics. In order to be considered a potential site under present requirements an area must be a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) with a population of 150,000 or more, and must be at least 40 miles from any existing VA health care facility. Application of these requirements has resulted in the establishment of a list of 39 areas as potential sites for outpatient clinics. However, activation of clinics at any site is based on resource availability. Notwithstanding this, clinics have been activated at sites which do not meet the criteria when other compelling factors exist. During the next year, the validity of the current criteria will be reassessed. Resolution No. 293 will be referred to the task group evaluating the criteria for its consideration."

Resolution No. 326 (Texas).—Open a Satellite Outpatient Clinic in Fort Worth, Texas.

The VA reply: "The Medical District Initiated Program Plan (MEDIPP) from Medical District No. 20 (which includes Texas), identified a need for increasing ambulatory care capacity within the District. The plan recommends increasing the capability at existing VAMCs, including Dallas, which is 32 miles from Fort Worth. The plan identified three areas as the highest priority areas for the establishment of new outpatient clinics, i.e., Austin, Southwest Oklahoma and East Texas. Fort Worth does not meet current criteria for site selection for new outpatient facilities since it is closer than 40 miles to an existing VA Medical Center."

Resolution No. 328 (Texas).—Establish a Spinal Cord Injury Service unit at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

The VA reply: "The Spinal Cord Injury Service of the Department of Medicine and Surgery is presently conducting a survey of VA Medical Centers and a demographic study to determine underserved areas and the appropriate number of Spinal Cord Injury Centers. Available preliminary information indicates the Dallas VA Medical Center had more admissions of veterans with spinal cord injuries than any other non-Spinal Cord Injury VA Medical Center. This survey and recommendations for site selections will be sent to the VA Chief Medical Director by April 1, 1983, for evaluation."

Resolution No. 364 (Maryland).—Oppose any reduction of acreage at the VAMC, Perry Point, Maryland.

The VA reply: "The land requirements for VA Medical Center, Perry Point, Maryland, was subject to a thorough analysis by both the General Services Administration (GSA) and responsible VA program elements. Upon completion of this review, the Chief Medical Director via memorandum dated June 16, 1982 advised the Association Deputy Administrator for Logistics that excess acreage did, in fact, exist at this facility. Subsequently, a 104.5 acre portion of VAMC, Perry Point, Maryland, was reported to GSA as being excess to the needs of this Agency. GSA has accepted jurisdiction over this land parcel."

Claims and Ratings

Resolution No. 76 (Colorado).—Support legislation which would provide hearing impaired veterans the opportunity to gain access to the telephone network.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 221 (Illinois).—Urges that a change be made on VA Form 21-526, thereby removing that section of the form pertaining to the waiver of military pay in order to receive VA payments.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 240 (Tennessee).—Seeks legislation to exclude the payment of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the computation of income for pension and death benefits.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 402 (Iowa).—Sponsor and support legislation to add dysthymic disorder (or depressive neurosis) to the presumptions relating to certain diseases and disabilities.

This is now Resolution No. 2 of the National Executive Committee meeting on May 4-5, 1983 (see Resolution No. 2 of this report for further disposition).

Resolution No. 403 (Iowa).—Urges that all correspondence dealing with overpayments be furnished authorized representatives.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded (VA is taking appropriate action to see that all necessary correspondence is furnished accredited representatives).

National Executive Committee Meeting of Oct. 13-14, 1982

Resolution No. 9.—Oppose granting a Federal Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

The Legislative Division has informed the Senate and House Judiciary Committees of the Legion's views on this matter.

Resolution No. 10.—Rename the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, the "John J. Pershing Veterans Administration Medical Center."

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

Resolution No. 11.—Urges that necessary funds be appropriated for the planning and construction of a new Veterans Administration Medical Center at Houston, Texas.

According to the Veterans Administration, money for this project will be included in the 1985 budget—completion date of the facility will be set for 1987. We will continue to monitor this situation, particularly with respect to the Veterans Administration's budget for fiscal year 1985.

Register No. 2019 (Puerto Rico).—Urges that the parents of servicemen who died in action and have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor be entitled to burial in a National Cemetery.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Register No. 2020 (Puerto Rico).—Urges that the parents of servicemen who died in action and have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor be entitled to burial allowance.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Register No. 2022 (Ohio).—Seeks legislation to allow an apportionment of a veteran's compensation or pension so that all the veteran's income from these payments will not be taken to pay nursing home expenses.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Register No. 2023 (Alabama).—Oppose the closing of the VA Medical Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in a study status.

Register No. 2024 (New Jersey).—Urges that the President order the VA and other Federal agencies to give high priority to a determination of the health effects caused by Agent Orange.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded (already covered in existing mandates).

Register No. 2025 (American Legion Auxiliary National Convention).—Support an annual review and revision of the rates of reimbursement by the VA for the care provided veterans in State Veterans Homes.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded (already covered in existing mandate).

Register No. 2026 (American Legion Auxiliary National Convention).—Support legislation to provide adequate funds for the construction, remodeling and renovation of State Veterans Homes.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded (already covered in existing mandate).

Register No. 2027 (American Legion Auxiliary National Convention).—Urges that the rights of the disabled to education and employment opportunities be maintained.

At its meeting on October 13-14, 1982, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (referred to the Americanism Commission).

National Executive Committee Meeting of May 4-5, 1983

Resolution No. 1.—Urges the approval and awarding of additional bars, for attachment to the Volunteer pin, to the volunteer in VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes and Community Nursing Homes.

Appropriate 500 and 1,000 bars have been ordered, and as soon as they are available all Departments will be advised of their availability for distribution.

Resolution No. 2.—Sponsor and support legislation to add dysthymic disorder (or depressive neurosis) to the presumptions relating to certain diseases and disabilities.

S. 578, although not introduced at our request, would, if enacted, satisfy the intent of this resolution. Also, the Deputy Director when appearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on March 10, 1983, expressed the views of The American Legion on this subject.

Resolution No. 3.—Sponsor and support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to waive the one-year presumptive period, and the one-year limit on retroactive compensation payments to Vietnam veterans with disabilities related to Agent Orange.

The Deputy Director presented the views of The American Legion on this subject when appearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on June 15, 1983. Also, necessary draft legislation is being developed and will be forwarded to the Legislative Division for appropriate action.

Resolution No. 4.—Sponsor and support legislation to amend section 3011, title 38, USC, to restore prior effective dates of payment of temporary increased compensation for hospitalization or convalescent ratings.

The Deputy Director when appearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on June 8, 1983, expressed the views of The American Legion on this subject.

Register No. 2034 (Pennsylvania).—Urges legislation to allow the deduction of all medical expenses and to exclude the spouse's earned income in the computation of income for pension purposes.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Register No. 2036 (New Jersey).—Urges legislation to establish a presumption of service connection for the disease of soft-tissue sarcoma manifesting in veterans who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam Era.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

Register No. 2042 (Illinois).—Urge the Veterans Administration to study the care and treatment of those veterans suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in a study status.

Register No. 2043 (Michigan).—Seeks legislation to provide for the payment of a clothing allowance to veterans suffering from certain service-connected disabilities.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in a study status.

Register No. 2044 (Michigan).—Urges that the privilege of mailing medical prescriptions from private physicians to VA Medical Centers be extended to all World War I veterans.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in a study status.

Register No. 2045 (Michigan).—Seeks legislation to permit a child, who became a helpless child prior to reaching the age of 18, to receive continued payments of benefits under certain prior laws.

At its meeting on May 4-5, 1983, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in a study status.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held four meetings during the period July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983 as follows:

(1) The Commission met in the Beverly Room, Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, on August 21, 1982, preceding the 64th Annual National Convention. A report covering that meeting was made to the National Executive Committee at its pre-convention meeting, August 23, 1982. The report appears in the proceedings of that meeting.

(2) A 11 member Subcommittee of the Executive Section met at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 1982. A report of that meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on October 13, 1982, and appears in the proceedings of the National Executive Committee for October 13-14, 1982.

(3) The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met for the 60th consecutive year in Washington, D.C. on February 23, 1983, in connection with the 23rd Annual Washington Conference. The actions taken by the Commission during this meeting are contained in the Commission's Advance Report to the National Executive Committee of May 4-5, 1983, and also appears in the proceedings of that meeting.

(4) A 4 member Subcommittee of the Executive Section met at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 2-3, 1983. A report of that meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on May 4, 1983, and appears in the proceedings of the National Executive Committee for May 4-5, 1983.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES—THE AMERICAN LEGION AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

For the fourth consecutive year, eight Regional Conferences were conducted covering the period September 10 through October 17. The meetings were held in the following cities:

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Charlotte, NC | (5) Columbus, OH |
| (2) Bellevue, WA | (6) San Mateo, CA |
| (3) Burlington, VT | (7) Baton Rouge, LA |
| (4) Bloomington, MN | (8) Atlantic City, NJ |

At each Saturday morning session, The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary met jointly, at which time topics of common interest were discussed. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission attended the Conference in their respective regions. At all Conferences, the Regional Chairman were in attendance.

Staff members of the Commission were present at each Conference, at which time they provided the Conferees with various reports dealing with an overview of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program, administrative developments with the Veterans Administration, and an analysis of those significant legislative matters emanating from the 1982 National Convention.

A number of recommendations were presented during these Conferences which were considered and acted upon by the Commission at its meeting on February 23, 1983.

ANNUAL NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

The 60th Annual National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference was held on February 21 and 22, 1983, at the Capital Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., with nearly 400 persons in attendance. Participants included members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Department Services Officers and Rehabilitation Directors, County and Post Service Officers, members of the American Legion Auxiliary, and numerous National, Department and Post officials.

The Conferees heard addresses by National Commander Al Keller, the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Walter (June) Stolte, and the Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

A series of panel sessions with Veterans Administration and Department of Defense representatives resulted in an exchange of many questions and responses, to the mutual benefit of all in attendance.

In a pre-conference Seminar, the Chairman of the Commission, and members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division staff, met with nearly 100 Department Service Officers, their Assistants, and others involved in the field of veterans affairs, in a full day session during which time a number of vital and topical subjects were discussed.

Conference Recommendations

A number of recommendations which emanated from the various Regional Conferences were considered, along with those presented during the course of the Conference. These were considered by a Subcommittee on the Commission—the 1983 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference Committee on Recommendations—consisting of Victor Abbondolo (NY), Chairman; John E. Tatro (RI); Pat Phillips (GA); Raymond G. Cliver (TX); Russell E. Boston (MO); C. Wayne Icenogle (KS); Chester L. Perkins (NV); and, James M. Nall (WY).

Chairman Abbondolo delivered the report of the Committee on February 23, 1983. A total of 12 recommendations were considered, of which one was approved, six referred to the National staff for study, and five received and recorded. The recommendations and the action taken thereon were reported in Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Bulletin No. 9-83 (19-2), dated February 25, 1983. The one approved recommendation was considered and approved by the National Executive Committee at its meeting on May 4-5, 1983. The five referred recommendations are being handled administratively.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

During the last year, the staff of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission devoted considerable time and effort to matters relating to veterans affairs and rehabilitation legislative activities. This involved the drafting of bills which would give effect to approved resolutions, the preparing of explanatory and supporting material, the preparation of testimony for presentation when hearings are scheduled, and continued liaison with the staff of the Legislative Commission, the staffs of Congressional Committees as well as with various members of Congress.

Following is a brief account of the Congressional hearings held since June 30, 1982, covering the 2nd Session of the 97th Congress, and the 1st Session of the 98th Congress, on matters pertaining to the Legion's program in which the Commission and its staff were involved:

(1) On July 13, 1982, the Deputy Director appeared before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, at which time he presented the views of The American Legion on several legislative matters covering compensation, insurance, burial, mobile home loans, and chiropractic services to certain veterans.

(2) On July 14, 1982, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, relative to the Veterans Administration's programs for aging veterans.

(3) On July 28, 1982, the Deputy Director submitted a statement to the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, expressing the views of the Legion on the Spinal Cord Injury Program of the Veterans Administration.

(4) On August 4, 1982, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment, House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Subcommittee on Post-Secondary Education, House Committee on Education and Labor, at which time he presented the views of The American Legion on the educational assistance programs for Vietnam veterans.

(5) On September 15, 1982, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, on those legislative matters covering the Vet Center program and Agent Orange.

(6) On September 21, 1982, National Commander Al Keller, Jr., accompanied by Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Legislative, and Economic Chairmen, the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, and by a number of other officers and members of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, appeared before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and presented the Organization's overall rehabilitation legislative—economic program.

(7) On September 23, 1982, the Deputy Director submitted a statement to the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, presenting the views of The American Legion on the Security Program of the Veterans Administration medical care system.

(8) On December 8, 1982, the Director appeared before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, expressing the Legion's views on the President's nomination of Harry N. Walters to be Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

(9) On December 14, 1982, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, relative to the Veterans Administration's medical construction program.

(10) On February 16, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, to present the views of The American Legion on an increase in the per diem rates payable for care of veterans in State Veterans' Homes, and the delivery of health care to veterans in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

(11) On February 16, 1983, the Director appeared before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and presented the views of The American Legion on the Veterans Administration Budget for Fiscal Year 1984.

(12) On February 17, 1983, the Director appeared before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, and presented the views of The American Legion on the Veterans Administration Budget for Fiscal Year 1984.

(13) On March 3, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, expressing the views of The American Legion on women veterans.

(14) On March 10, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, relative to various issues relating to the health care of veterans.

(15) On March 16, 1983, the Deputy Director submitted a statement to the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, presenting the views of The American Legion on the Veterans Administration medical construction program for Fiscal Year 1984.

(16) On March 23, 1983, the Deputy Director submitted a statement to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, on the subject of judicial review.

(17) On March 24, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, relative to several subjects including the readjustment counseling program through Vet Centers, and treatment provided by the Veterans Administration for post-traumatic stress disorder.

(18) On April 6, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, expressing the views of The American Legion on problems incurred by veterans who were exposed to radiation.

(19) On April 14, 1983, the Deputy Director submitted a statement to the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, relative to a number of legislative measures involving national cemeteries.

(20) On April 19, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, on several legislative matters that would increase the rates of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation; permit certain veterans who are retired members of the Armed Forces to receive compensation concurrently with retired pay; provide a presumptive period for the disease of syringomyelia; and, provide for additional compensation for veterans who have suffered the loss or loss of use of one lung or one kidney.

(21) On April 21, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on HUD and Independent Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations, relative to the funding needs for programs administered by the Veterans Administration for Fiscal Year 1984.

(22) On April 26, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, relative to the presumption of service connection for certain diseases related to exposure to Agent Orange.

(23) On May 3, 1983, the Deputy Director submitted a statement to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, relative to the Legion's position on Agent Orange.

(24) On May 23, 1983, the Director appeared before the Subcommittee on HUD—Independent Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations, to present the views of The American Legion on the subject of funding for the Veterans Administration for Fiscal Year 1984.

(25) On May 24, 1983, the Deputy Director submitted a statement to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, expressing the views of The American Legion on the problems incurred by veterans exposed to ionizing radiation.

(26) On June 8, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, relative to a number of legislative measures covering increases in the rates of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation, and other provisions pertaining to service-connected benefits.

(27) On June 16, 1983, the Deputy Director submitted a statement to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, expressing the views of The American Legion on the subject of Agent Orange.

(28) On June 22, 1983, the Deputy Director appeared before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and once again informed the Committee of the Legion's views on Agent Orange.

(29) On June 28, 1983, the Director appeared before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, expressing the views of The American Legion on the matter of the Veterans Administration providing chiropractic services to veterans.

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES

Information concerning important developments in the field of veterans affairs is brought to the attention of Post, Department, and National officials in a number of ways. The staff of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission,

throughout the year, gathers, analyzes, and disseminates significant information relative to the Legion's rehabilitation program. Such information is collected through personal contact with pertinent Government officials, scanning daily newspapers, magazines and other periodicals, and other publications specifically concerned with veterans affairs and issues.

Such information is brought to the attention of interested Departments and others in a number of ways, and considerable time, effort, and research is devoted to the preparation and distribution of various publications dealing with the varied areas of concern. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Bulletins and Memorandums are routinely distributed to Department Service Officers, members of the Commission, and many others interested in the Legion's rehabilitation program. During the calendar year 1982, a total of 46 Bulletins were issued. In the same time period, a total of 40 Memorandum letters were prepared and distributed. As of the date of this report, 31 Bulletins and 25 Memorandum letters have been issued thus far in 1983.

Special publications are prepared on particular subjects, as the occasion requires and, for the most part, are given wide distribution. In addition, throughout the year, numerous letters are received from Department representatives, members of Congress, individual veterans, etc., seeking specific information concerning the Commission's program, legislation, policy, or individual benefits. When necessary, these inquiries are coordinated with other Divisions.

Following the termination of each session of Congress, the staff revises The American Legion Post Service Officers Manual. This publication has wide distribution, and following the necessary revision and printing, copies are mailed to all Department Headquarters shortly after the first of each year. These copies are furnished free of charge, and a sufficient quantity is sent in order to provide one copy for each Post within the Department. As required, other publications released by the Commission are revised, and include: The American Legion Voluntary Service Handbook; The American Legion and Agent Orange; The American Legion and National Health Insurance, and others.

From time to time the staff prepares other brochures, reports, and publications to meet special needs. These include materials prepared at the request of Departments for use at Service Officers Schools, Rehabilitation Conferences, and similar meetings. The staff is always available to assist Department officials in the preparation of publications or informational material concerning veterans benefits and services.

It is through such sources that the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and its staff endeavor to provide as much information as possible not only to the other Divisions of the National Organization, but also to the various Departments, individuals, and other interested in our program.

NATIONAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

A Subcommittee of the National Cemetery Committee met on February 22, 1983 in the Legion Building, 1608 K Street, NW., Washington, D.C. Present were Robert Legan (AR), Chairman; Roger L. Smith (OH), Vice Chairman; and members George Skelly (TX); and, Charles A. Wilson (VA). Also present as a guest was Curtis N. Smith (VA). Thomas M. Schneiders of the VA&R Division acted as staff liaison.

The Committee was briefed on a number of items including the recent changes made by the VA Cemetery System relative to the new size of gravesites and the use of flat grave markers in lieu of upright markers. The VA decision to use flat markers and the new gravesite size were not arbitrary decisions. The procurement and shipment of flat markers are far less costly, less subject to damage and breakage, and less costly to maintain. The use of the new grave size will assure the fullest use of available cemetery lands.

The Committee discussed a number of other subjects, including the closing of some cemeteries that are not feasible for expansion; the development of additional land adjacent to existing cemeteries; the continued development of State owned veterans cemeteries; and, potential sites for locating a new national cemetery in Hawaii.

Staff briefed the Committee on the types of inquiries and related problems encountered by the division staff, particularly some of the complaints received by the Legion covering actual burials and the serious attention that the Veterans Administration gives to such complaints.

The Committee likewise explored the ways and means that could be utilized to encourage the development of additional land to permit the Veterans Administra-

tion to expand its system, and the efforts needed to motivate the Legion and others in assisting in such expansion.

MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL SERVICES

During 1982, the Veterans Administration health care system was the Nation's largest and included 172 hospitals, 226 outpatient clinics, 95 nursing home care units, and 16 domiciliaries. Additionally, veterans were given care under VA auspices in non-VA hospitals and in community nursing homes. Fee-for-service basis visits to non-VA physicians and dentists for outpatient treatment were supported by the VA as well as care in 8 hospitals, 33 nursing homes, and 35 domiciliaires operated by 30 States and the District of Columbia. Fee-basis visits to the number of approximately two million were made during 1982.

Approximately one and one-half million veterans applied for VA health care. Over one million three hundred thousand, also a record, were treated by the VA in hospital or extended care facilities, with VA hospitals treating 1,360,000. Visits for outpatient medical care, again a record, amounted to more than 17 million, including 15,825,000 to VA staff and 2,100,000 to private physicians. On any single day on the average, more than 200,000 individuals received care from the VA.

By the end of the year, more than 221,000 individuals comprising more than 137,000 family groups had established entitlement for medical care at VA expense under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration (CHAMPVA). The VA has expended more than 217 millions dollars on CHAMPVA benefits since the program began in 1973.

At the end of the fiscal year, the 172 hospitals were operating over 79 thousands beds, over 40 thousand in medical bed sections, over 17 thousand in surgical bed sections, and nearly 24 thousand in psychiatric bed sections. The average bed occupancy rate was approximately 81 percent. There were more than 1,248,000 patients admitted to VA hospitals and more than 31 thousand to non-VA hospitals under VA authorization. Admissions of Vietnam-era veterans to VA hospitals amounted to approximately 160,000.

The increase in the number of patients treated was accomplished largely by reducing the length of time patients spent in the hospital during an episode of care, thus making beds available for more admissions. The most important factors contributing to this increased rate of care were greater use of ambulatory care and more extensive placement of patients in nursing homes and other extended care facilities.

The VA provided approximately 30 million days of care during the last fiscal year. This represented an average daily census of nearly 100 thousand patients, approximately 82 thousand of whom were in VA hospitals.

Ambulatory care facilities were highlighted by improved control of workload and prompt service to veterans. There were approximately eighteen million medical visits to VA staff and two million visits to private physicians authorized on a fee-for-service basis. The expanding number of health care practitioners, (e.g., physician assistants and nurse practitioners), involved in ambulatory care have contributed to effective and expanded service.

Over 150 thousand veterans received dental benefits as outpatients, in addition to the 225 thousand veterans treated as inpatients, in VA health care facilities. Of this number, some 75 thousand were authorized treatment by private practitioners on a fee-for-service basis under the hometown care program.

The aging of large numbers of WW II and Korean War veterans has presented problems for which a number of plans and programs have been developed. The VA nursing home care program is designed for veterans who are not acutely ill or in need of hospital care, but require skilled nursing care, usually after being hospitalized, and related medical services. The extent of the VA involvement with this category of patients is shown by the fact that the VA was operating 94 hundred nursing home care beds at 93 hospitals, with 13,500 being treated during the year for an average daily census of over 8,500. The average age of these patients was 70 years with 65% being 65 years or over. The average length of stay of such patients discharged during the year was 3.1 years. About half the patients were WW II veterans and 35.5% were WW I veterans. Most of these patients, about 70%, received compensation or pension from the VA.

Another relatively new program is hospital-based home care. Under this program, veterans with chronic illnesses are discharged to their own homes, and the family provides the necessary personal care under coordinated supervision of a hospital-based disciplinary treatment team. The team provides the medical, nursing, social,

rehabilitation and dietetic regimen, as well as the training of the family members and the patient.

Thirty VA hospitals are providing such programs and during the last fiscal year nearly 80 thousand home visits were made by health professionals. By providing nearly 300 thousand days of care in the home and reducing the need for readmission to the hospital, acute care in beds for the hospitals were made available, thus enabling the VA to treat more patients.

The Community Nursing Home Care program was established to aid the veteran and his or her family in making the transition from the hospital to the community by providing time to marshal resources for the veteran's continuing care. The program is designed for veterans who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care, but who require nursing home care and related health care facilities.

Participating facilities are assessed by VA personnel prior to approval and no less than every 2 years thereafter. Follow-up visits are provided to the veteran in the nursing home by the hospital social worker, nurse, and other members of the treatment team. Under this program, non-service connected veterans may be placed in community facilities at VA expense for a period not to exceed 6 months. Veterans requiring nursing home care for a service-connected condition may be placed at VA expense indefinitely.

In this program, a total of nearly 25,500 veterans were treated in nearly 2,900 community nursing homes in 50 States and Puerto Rico during the last reporting period with an average daily census of 10,000. The average age of veterans in community nursing homes was 68 years and 60 percent were 65 or over. The average length of stay of patients discharged during the year was 1.03 years. About 57 percent of the patients are WW II veterans and 30 percent WW I veterans.

During the last fiscal year, the VA Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center program continued to promote innovative and comprehensive approaches to the care of the elderly veteran patients. These Centers, including research and education, associated in cohesive programs, are concerned with a variety of medical problems of aging. Such centers now exist at Little Rock, Arkansas; St. Louis, Missouri; Sepulveda, California; Los Angeles (Wadsworth), California; Palo Alto, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Bedford/Boston, Massachusetts; American Lake/Seattle, Washington.

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration (CHAMPVA), was authorized to furnish medical care to the spouse or child of a veteran who has a total and permanent service-connected disability; and the widowed spouse or child of a veteran who died as a result of a service-connected disability, or of any condition if totally and permanently disabled. VA dependent and survivor beneficiaries who become eligible for Medicare benefits at age 65 lose their eligibility to CHAMPVA, as do children at age of 18, unless enrolled in a course of instruction at an approved education institution, in which case eligibility terminates at age 23. During the year, the total number of such dependents was 128 thousand adults and 93 thousand children.

Over two years ago the Administrator of the Veterans Administration appointed an Advisory Committee for the study of the long-term effects of Agent Orange, a defoliant used in spraying in Vietnam and containing a chemical substance that allegedly has been implicated in the development of various and sundry diseases. The VA Administrator appointed the Senior Medical Consultant to The American Legion as a member of this Committee which meets four to six times annually. At the present time, various studies of the effects of Agent Orange are in process but there have been no definite conclusions as to the long-term residual medical effects of Agent Orange.

A few acute medical conditions are well-known and recognized as a result of exposure to Agent Orange, but the most important problem of late long-term residual effects is still under study and quite controversial. It is hoped that at the conclusion of these studies some definite data can be obtained to relate exposure to long-term specific residual effects. These claims alleging Agent Orange as a cause of various diseases are being seen more frequently in claims handled by The American Legion, and it is important to note that another member of the Advisory Committee to the Administrator is the Director, Compensation and Pension Service. As the studies in progress become more definite, we will be hearing more about Agent Orange. Dr. Thomas J. FitzGerald, Medical Consultant, formerly with the Veterans Administration, is an alternate to the Advisory Committee on Agent Orange.

Prior to joining The American Legion Staff, Dr. FitzGerald was the Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration. In this capacity, he had charge of the operation of the 172 Veterans Administration hospitals, 224 outpatient clinics, and 16 domiciliaries. He was a career employee of the Veterans Ad-

ministrations and has brought to The American Legion a wealth of knowledge concerning the operations of the VA which has proven invaluable to The American Legion in the evaluation of medical care received by the veterans. His knowledge has also proved most useful in the legislative field to assist in the guidance of The American Legion in this area.

During the year, over 67,000 Vietnam era veterans had received Agent Orange-related examinations at VA health care facilities. The results of these examinations are entered into the VA's Agent Orange Registry. The Registry assists in serving Vietnam era veterans by providing a mechanism for identifying concerned veterans, allowing follow-up activities, documenting the health status of participants, detecting health trends, and suggesting areas for further research. During the year, the VA contracted for the design on an epidemiological study of possible adverse health effects of Agent Orange. This study is conducted by the Center for Disease Control and will be completely under the supervision of this organization which has extensive experience in this type of investigation. This is done with the approval of The American Legion since The American Legion had urged from the beginning that the studies relative to Agent Orange and its adverse long-term effects be conducted by a scientific organization outside of the jurisdiction of the Veterans Administration. The VA cooperated with other government agencies on a study of possible birth defects resulting in offsprings of veterans exposed to Agent Orange. The VA also cooperated with the many other governmental agencies involved in this study.

Domiciliary Care

The Veterans Administration Domiciliary Program is designed to provide necessary medical treatment and comprehensive medical care for ambulatory veterans in a residential type setting. The program is directed toward those veterans who are disabled by age, disease or injury, and are in need of care but do not require hospitalization or the skilled services of a nursing home. To be entitled to domiciliary care, the veteran's disability must be chronic in nature. The veteran must also be incapacitated from earning a living and have no adequate means of support.

During the last fiscal year, further progress was made towards the construction of 200-bed domiciliary units to replace beds in facilities which do not meet the life safety code requirements, and which are not suitable for upgrading because of structural problems and prohibitive cost. The 200-bed units introduced a new concept in structure which allows ready conversion from domiciliary to nursing home care. The design of these new facilities emphasizes a homelike residential environment with desirable privacy and features, which will contribute towards increased interaction and socialization between patient-members.

This marks the first new construction effort for domiciliaries since 1951. The VA launched a program at the same time to modernize facilities which can be economically up-graded to meet the requirements of modern domiciliary living.

During 1982, the 5 VA Domiciliaries had an average daily census of over 7,000. The majority of these were WW II veterans. Most received compensation or pension from the VA.

Additionally, the VA also lends support to State-owned domiciliaries, and under a new law, the VA participates with up to 65 percent of the cost of construction and remodeling of State-owned facilities. Construction money for new domiciliaries was provided for the first time under the new law.

There are now 38 State homes and 2 annexes in 30 States and the District of Columbia. Currently, approximately 5,000 beds are available in these State homes. During the year, 38 State homes treated 8,632 veterans with nursing home care, 35 treated 7,000 veterans with domiciliary care, and 8 treated 6,732 veterans with hospital care. The combined average daily census during the year was 10,929.

Maintaining the VA Medical System for Veterans

The wide variety of facilities in the medical care system of the VA lends flexibility in order to take care of the widest range of patient problems. This single medical system is probably the largest system in the world and the maintenance of its integrity as a system to take care of veterans is an objective that may be threatened in the near future.

In the previous Administration with an avowed platform to try to attain National Health Insurance, there were advocates of bringing the VA medical system into this plan. However, the 1980 elections changed that tendency and one hears less and less about National Health Insurance.

While National Health Insurance is not currently a probable legislative goal, this may again surface in the future. Previous annual reports have reported the Nation-

al Academy of Sciences study which recommended the gradual integration of the VA into a National Health Insurance program. If some of the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences report were effected, the integrity of the current VA medical system would be endangered. The American Legion has stood for the unitary strength of the VA medical health care system and points out that the ability of the VA to be a partner with the non-Federal health care system is in part derived from its mandate to care for eligible veterans, from its mutually beneficial relationships with educational institutions, and from its productive research in areas of major and immediate importance to the Nation.

The professional affiliation of the VA Hospitals with medical schools is one of the outstanding programs, reaching its peak since the end of WW II and supported vigorously by The American Legion from its inception. The medical school affiliation has made practical the realization of great potentials in research and clinical trials of advanced therapy.

Culmination of the fruits of research was noted in previous reports with the awarding of the Nobel prize in Medicine to Dr. Rosalyn S. Yalow, VA Hospital, Bronx, New York, and Dr. Andrew V. Schally, VA Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Important outcome of the affiliations between the VA and medical schools has been an ever-increasing number of Veterans Administration Staff professionals who have University Faculty appointments. In 1981, approximately 9,200 VA physicians, dentists, and other staff members held such appointments ranging from Instructor to Professor, as well as Lecturer in various Departments of Medical Schools. The importance of the graduates and undergraduates in medical and dental education is illustrated by the fact that the VA provides training to 40 percent of the physicians filling approved medical residencies, nearly 25,000; 19 percent of all Dentists engaged in post-doctoral training, about 750; and 5 percent of all dental students, over 1,200. The Department of Medicine and Surgery has become a national training ground with more than 2,000 training programs in the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, social work and other health professions.

These accomplishments are recited to demonstrate the great potential realized in the VA medical system and also as a strong argument in favor of maintaining the system as it is presently organized.

In the past year, there have been indications of criticism of the affiliations program emanating from high officials within and without the VA. There is certainly no reason that the affiliation relationship with universities should not be reviewed constantly, but the basic idea has worked well, and any interference with it would be a grave blow to the delivery of quality medicine to the veteran. The American Legion has been supportive of the affiliation relationship from the beginning, and at the present time remains strongly supportive of the present affiliation which is the only method by which quality medicine can be assured in the VA medical system.

Thus, the VA medical system is devoted not only to care of veteran patients but also is a valuable resource to the whole Nation as a major source of training, education and research, with the results obtained being shared by the entire citizenry.

Furthermore, in the event of war, the VA medical facilities could be utilized, if needed, for any type of catastrophic event.

Certainly, these accomplishments are the strongest argument against dismantling the system. The system, as it is presently constituted, has accomplished much and can accomplish more in the future.

CLAIMS SERVICE

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission provides assistance and representation to veterans, their dependents, and survivors through an assigned staff of fourteen accredited representatives and of this number, eight are Vietnam Era veterans. The Chief of Claims Service is responsible for the overall operation of the three units of this service.

Within the Table of Organization, four claims representatives and one supervisor are assigned to assist claimants whose cases come under the jurisdiction of the Washington, D.C. VA Regional Office; four appeals representatives and one supervisor are assigned to serve as counsel in cases before the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C.; two representatives and one supervisor serve as counsel in cases considered by the Discharge Review Board, and the Board for Correction of Military Records of the Army, Air Force and Navy.

In providing this type of representation, the staff of the Claims Service is fortunate to have the services of two medical consultants and a legal consultant. They

provide invaluable assistance in the review and presentation of difficult and complex cases.

Although the daily activity of these accredited representatives is generally concerned with the review and presentation of claims and evidence, frequently personal meetings are held with supervisory and management personnel of the Veterans Administration and other agencies to secure policy and procedural determination which affect the delivery of benefits to claimants. In addition, they participate in regularly scheduled meetings with the Veterans Administration and service organization representatives to discuss the exchange of information and ideas concerning problems in handling cases and the delivery of benefits and services.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

This report reflects The American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals staff activity for the period of July 1, 1982 thru June 20, 1983. The staff is comprised of one supervisor, 5 appeals representatives, one secretary and one stenographer. The number of appeals presented to the Board of Appeals during this period by the Appeals staff totaled 7,180 of which 197 were scheduled personal hearings. This was an increase of 726 cases from the preceding reporting period.

Assisting the staff in the review and presentation of cases involving highly complex medical issues were Dr. Irving B. Brick, Senior Medical Consultant and Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, Medical Consultant. During this period, 715 cases were referred for their opinion. We wish to thank them for their invaluable services.

Disposition by the Board of Appeals of cases represented by The American Legion included: 4,303 denials; 772 allowances; and 925 were remanded to the Regional Offices for further development. This represented a 1.6 percent increase in the allowance rate, a 1.7 percent increase in the remand rate, and a decrease of 3.3 percent in the denial rate. Following remand action 137 cases were allowed by the Regional Offices. In those cases allowed in the field, the allowance rate decreased .4 percent to 22.1 percent.

The workload experienced by this unit has continued to increase as a result of the increased flow of cases called in for consideration by the Board of Veterans Appeals. The workload is projected to further escalate due to the expansion of the number of sections of the Board from 17 to 20 in the upcoming months.

VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS CLAIMS UNIT

The American Legion maintains a claims staff composed of one supervisor, four claims representatives, and one stenographer at the Washington, D.C. VA regional office, for the purpose of providing service and assistance to veterans and their families whose claims come under the jurisdiction of this regional office. The local area served by this office includes the District of Columbia, and Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges, and the Virginia counties of Arlington and Fairfax. In addition to performing all of the same functions as any other regional office in the country, this regional office has exclusive jurisdiction in certain types of cases. This includes cases in which the claimant resides outside of the United States with the exception of Mexico which is serviced by the Houston VA Regional Office and the Philippines which is serviced by the Manila VA Regional Office. In addition, all of the following categories of cases are handled by this office: all military service rendered prior to July 16, 1903; service in the Philippine Scouts and alleged recognized guerillas who do not reside under the jurisdiction of the Manila Regional Office; general law cases where entitling service was rendered prior to April 21, 1898; cases involving entitlement under a Special Act of Congress; residents of the U.S. Soldiers Home, Washington, D.C.; and entitlement to benefits based on service in various Allied Forces.

In addition to providing services to veterans of the local area and those overseas, this office with its unique and diversified caseload is utilized as the training ground for all new employees to the Claims Service.

For the period of July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983, the staff reviewed 3,432 Veterans Administration case files. Formal hearings before the Rating Boards were conducted in 49 cases, and 3,719 cases were submitted to the VA by Memorandum for action. Claims or evidence in support of a claim were filed in 3,015 cases. Congressional contacts 97, and 999 personal contacts reported. Telephone contacts 4,394.

SPECIAL CLAIMS SERVICE

For the period of July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983, the Special Claims Service of the Board of Veterans Appeals Unit reviewed and disposed of 85 cases involving requests from Department Service Officers for advisory opinions regarding policies for procedures of the Veterans Administration in appeals or requests for administrative review by VA Central Office.

With the excellent cooperation of the administrative section of the Board of Veterans Appeals and the Veterans Assistance Service, these cases are called in from the various Regional Offices for staff review. We welcome this opportunity to be of service to Department Service Officers in this matter.

ARMED SERVICES REVIEW AND CORRECTION BOARDS

Statutory authority for the existence and operation of Discharge Review Boards and the Boards for Correction of Military and Naval Records is set forth in sections 1552, 1553, and 1554 of Title 10, United States Code. During the period beginning July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983, staff representatives of this Commission assigned to duties before these Department of Defense Boards afforded service and representation in 2,016 applications in the following types of claims: Disability Retirement, Reserve Retirement Pay, discharges under other than Honorable conditions, and Correction of Military, Naval and Air Force service records. Of this number represented, 177 personal Formal Hearings were conducted.

The following is a breakdown of the actions taken by the separate Service Department Boards:

FISCAL YEAR 1982-83

	Presented	Allowed	Pending decisions
Boards for correction of military records:			
Department of Air Force	280	33	87
Department of Army	431	146	119
Department of Navy and U.S. Coast Guard.....	271	29	204
Total	982	208	410
Military and Naval Discharge Review Boards:			
Department of Air Force	268	41	63
Department of Army	429	114	87
Department of Navy and U.S. Coast Guard.....	337	23	39
Total	1,034	178	189
Combined grand total	2,016	386	599

STAFF WORKLOAD

Part of the overall activity of the various offices of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is reflected on the annual volume of correspondence received. During this reporting period, over 15,000 pieces of original correspondence were received which does not include copies of correspondence from the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense to claimants pertaining to the thousands of cases handled through the Washington and Field Offices. Total correspondence received by the Washington Office was in excess of 7,700; and in excess of 7,100 in the Field Offices located in New York City, NY, Philadelphia, PA, and St. Paul, MN. The volume of outgoing correspondence to the VA, claimants, service officers and others exceeded 12,630 pieces.

During this period, the following workloads were reported by the offices of the Claims and Insurance Services; 22,199 cases reviewed; 19,961 cases presented to the various Boards of the VA and Department of Defense; 13,280 claims or evidence filed, and 5,800 personal contacts.

FIELD SERVICE

Field Service activities are promulgated for the period of July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983.

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Field Staff is composed of one Chief of Field Service, five Field Representatives and one Secretary. During the past year, Donald L. Lory died on July 28, 1982. The vacancy was filled by John Vitikacs.

Each Field Representative is assigned a specific area of the country. Due to a lengthy illness of one Field Representative through July of last year, assignments have been made away from their designated areas. Areas are assigned as follows:

Area I. John Vitikacs

Connecticut	New Hampshire
Delaware	New Jersey
District of Columbia	New York
Maine	Rhode Island
Maryland	Vermont
Massachusetts	

Area II. Robert Kenny

Illinois	Pennsylvania
Indiana	Virginia
Kentucky	West Virginia
Ohio	

Area III. Mark Regan

Alabama	North Carolina
Florida	Oklahoma
Georgia	South Carolina
Louisiana	Texas
Mississippi	

Area IV. Leonce Wilson

Arkansas	Nebraska
Iowa	North Dakota
Kansas	South Dakota
Michigan	Tennessee
Minnesota	Wisconsin
Missouri	

Area V. Rodney Kirk

Arizona	New Mexico
California	Oregon
Colorado	Utah
Idaho	Washington
Montana	Wyoming
Nevada	

Medical Center visitations are normally scheduled on a rotating basis. There are times, however, when special visits pertaining to specific problems become necessary.

A breakdown of activities for the period July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983 follows:

FIELD SERVICE VISITATION REPORTS NOS. 2-029 THROUGH 3-038

Representative	Reports submitted	Recommendations
Kirk.....	11	59
Wilson.....	15	73
Regan.....	15	56
Kenny.....	15	108
Vitikacs.....	12	63
Total.....	¹ 69	359

¹ Mr. R. E. Lyngh, director, VA&R conducted a regular scheduled visitation to VAMC San Juan, Puerto Rico during this reporting period.

Breakdown of reports:

Centers:

General medical, surgical, and psychiatric.....	24
General medical, surgical, psychiatric and intermediate	19
General medical and surgical.....	10
General medical, neuropsychiatric, and intermediate	8
General medical, surgical, and intermediate	1
General medical and intermediate.....	2
State homes.....	4
Rehabilitation engineering center.....	1
Total	69

NOTE. (1) Six Two Division VAMC's were surveyed during this period; (2) Additionally, visitations were conducted in the following areas but reported on in the VAMC reports:

Outpatient clinics.....	70
Satellite outpatient clinics.....	13
Nursing home care units	39
Spinal cord injury units.....	6
Domiciliaries	3
State home.....	1
Total	132

During the past twelve-month period, the National Field Representatives submitted 31 reports on the VA Outreach Program, 44 reports on Agent Orange examinations and 16 reports on Post Traumatic Stress Disorders.

Disposition of recommendations:

Approved.....	89
Disapproval.....	12
Pending.....	98
Awaiting VACO reply	160
	359

Of the 98 pending recommendations, 67 were set aside for the following reasons:

Telephone system changes awaiting tariff decisions, authorization and funding.....	11
Finalization and approval of the MEDIPP process.....	21
A standard response of "we must consider the needs and priorities of our entire medical care system" or "will be considered dependent upon the availability of resources and the priorities established for our health care system"	35

The following construction project needs were recommended:

VAMC's:

Major construction projects.....	58
Minor construction projects.....	50
State homes: Major construction projects	2
Recommendations for computerized Axial Tomography (CAT scanner).....	13

Half-Way Houses are continually being monitored by the National Field Representatives in conjunction with their medical center visitations. Security Sections at most VA medical centers continue to report grave staffing and pay problems. Long hours, low pay, and insufficient numbers of police officers affect morale and performance.

Nursing vacancies have been eliminated in most areas of the country. Our National Field Representatives now report that unemployed nurses have filed applications for VA employment. There is, however, a great nursing shortage in the southeastern section of the country.

Chief of Nursing Service report long hours, double shifts and continually being overburdened with additional duties, taking nurses away from their primary mission.

Rehabilitation Medicine Service reports great numbers of physical and corrective therapist vacancies. After finishing their training they move into the private sector where salaries are considerably more attractive.

Prosthetic Service at VAMC's reveal to our Field Representative of lengthy delays in the delivery of custom made wheelchairs. In many instances delivery takes approximately one year.

OPERATION POST HOME

Inquiries are still being received requesting information on Operation Post Home, but on a limited basis. We continue to urge those Departments carrying out this program to forward the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division, what Posts, types of programs, and the number of veterans and non-veterans who are taking advantage of this senior citizen program. It is only through this way that the staff can evaluate the importance and effectiveness of the program.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

The United States Government, through the Veterans Administration, operates five life insurance programs for members of the armed forces and veterans. These five programs alone have 4.2 million policies in force with a face value of over 28 billion dollars.

In addition to the above the Veterans Administration supervises the operation of three other life insurance programs (Servicemen's Group Life, Veterans Group Life and Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance) that have 3.6 million policyholders.

The Chief of Insurance Activities, located in the Veterans Administration Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, supervises the staff of the Philadelphia and St. Paul insurance offices, providing guidance and assistance to the staff representatives in these offices. He handles policy matters with the appropriate Veterans Administration officials and presents cases for appeal and administrative review in order to adjust or restore insurance benefits. At the request of the Director, assists in the preparation of draft bills, resulting from stated mandates, to be presented to the Veterans Affairs Committees of the Congress. He also engages in research, the preparation of reports of various insurance matters, and makes a continuous review of the Government Life Insurance Program to insure proper and efficient operation by the Veterans Administration.

VA Insurance Centers—Philadelphia, PA and St. Paul, MN

The insurance staff at Philadelphia consists of the Chief of Insurance Activities, two insurance representatives, a secretary and two stenographers. In St. Paul it consists of a supervisor, one insurance representative and two stenographers.

The Chief of Insurance Activities, supervisor and insurance representatives must have a thorough knowledge of Government Life Insurance laws, regulations and procedures and be able to analyze them in order to properly represent the veteran and their beneficiaries. The Director and other personnel are informed on policy considerations, changes in VA administrative procedures and other related matters.

Daily operations involve a variety of services such as: the actual representation of insureds; the review of folders and supporting records for the purpose of furnishing reports to the veteran or an accredited service officer; close liaison with Department Service Officers to assure prompt and adequate service; give general insurance information and guidance in reply to inquiries from service officers; prepare and assist in preparing insurance appeals; and a number of other services relating directly to insurance.

The annual work load reported by the Philadelphia and St. Paul offices reflects the extent of operation of The American Legion's service in the area of Government Life Insurance. For the period of July 1, 1982 thru June 30, 1983, the following combined activities were reported:

Letters received.....	7,119
Letters written.....	8,101
Evidence and claims filed.....	9,260
Files reviewed.....	4,822
Claims presented.....	1,571
Death claims presented.....	2,434
Telephone calls.....	5,695
Premium accounts reviewed.....	4,570
Personal contacts.....	4,494

ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES

It remains the responsibility of The American Legion to assist veterans, their widows and dependents in obtaining benefits to which they may be entitled to under the law. The American Legion, as a Congressionally chartered service organization, conducts its veterans service program through the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Claimants are represented before the Veterans Administration by Department of Service Officers and their staffs, as well as the staff of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division. In accepting VA form 23-22, Appointment of Organization as Claimant's Representative, The American Legion assumes a legal and moral obligation to provide all possible assistance under the law.

Whenever an individual is proposed for accreditation in order that he or she might assist a claimant before the various boards of the Veterans Administration, he or she will complete VA Form 2-21, Recommendation for Accreditation of Representative of an Organization. The form will also require the endorsement of the Department Commander, or the Department Adjutant. It is then forwarded to the Washington Office to the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division as the National Certifying Officer, or the Special Assistant to the Director, Deputy National Certifying Officer, where the form will receive the national organization's endorsement. The form is then referred to the General Counsel of the Veterans Administration requesting accreditation of the designated individual. In no case will the form be directed from the field to the General Counsel. The General Counsel will not act on the application unless there is an endorsement from national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

When an individual has terminated his or her employment, retired, or is deceased, it is incumbent for the Department Commander or the Department Adjutant to notify this office in order that the accreditation might be cancelled. The General Counsel periodically provides information through Information Bulletins from Central Office indicating by name and state those individuals who have been granted accreditation and those individuals who have been cancelled.

As of the end of this reporting period, June 30, 1983, The American Legion has a total of 843 Accredited Representatives serving veterans and their dependents in claims matters before the Veterans Administration.

DISTRIBUTION OF VA RELEASES

The Administrative section of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division maintains an up-to-date library of reference materials which include Veterans Administration manuals, regulations and program guides, as well as other publications of interest. Changes and revisions to these publications and other material of interest are distributed to the staff as soon as they are received. Information of special interest to the members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Department Service Officers, and others in the field is sent out in the form of Rehabilitation Bulletins and Memorandums. A department may make a special request to the Director's office for a particular VA publication and an effort will be made to obtain such material through the Central Supply Depot of the Veterans Administration, if available. However, an initial request should be made through your local Publication Officer at the nearest VA installation to your office prior to contacting this office.

There has been a reduction in the federal government's printing and supply so shortages of a particular item may occur. If necessary, and no further production of a specific item is planned, we will attempt to reproduce the item with reservations, of course.

PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION

During the past year we have had several personnel changes. Because of retirement and promotions the following staff realignments were instituted. Mr. Dale Stahlman, Supervisor, Veterans & Dependents Claims Unit, retired in April 1983. On July 28, 1982, Mr. Don Lory, Field Representative, died at the VA Medical Center, Washington, D.C. after a long illness. New hires since July 1, 1982 are: Mr. Walter D. Stone, Claims Representative; Mr. John R. Vitikacs, Field Representative; Ms. Barbara J. Steadman, Claims Representative; and Mr. David C. Daniels, Claims

Representative. In October 1982 Mr. Lee Minnick, Claims Representative, was transferred to the Board of Veterans Appeals as an Appeals Representative. Mrs. Carol Rutherford, Appeals Representative, was transferred to the Review and Correction Boards, Department of Defense, to replace Mr. Carroll Williams, who became Supervisor, Board of Veterans Appeals Unit. V. L. Larrimer, Jr., former Supervisor, Board of Veterans Appeals, was laterally transferred to Supervisor, Veterans and Dependents Claims Unit, upon Mr. Stahlman's retirement.

Staff organization is described in the following chart

Washington Office:	
Director	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Special Assistant to the Director	1
Secretary	1
Total	4
Deputy Director	1
Secretary	1
Assistant Director	1
Secretary	1
Chief of Claims	1
Secretary	1
Chief of Field Service	1
Field Service Representatives	5
Secretary	1
Supervisor, Veterans & Dependents Claims Unit	1
Claims Representatives	4
Stenographer	1
Supervisor, Review and Correction Boards	1
Review Board Representatives	2
Supervisor, Board of Veterans Appeals	1
Appeals Representatives	4
Secretary	1
Stenographer	1
Consultants:	
Medical	2
Medical Secretary	1
Subtotal	32
Total Washington Office	36
New York Office:	
Rehabilitation representative	1
Secretary	1
Subtotal	2
Insurance Field Offices:	
Philadelphia:	
Chief of insurance activities	1
Insurance representatives	2
Secretary	1
Stenographers	2
Subtotal	6
St. Paul:	
Supervisor, insurance activities	1
Insurance representative	1
Secretary	1
Stenographer	1
Subtotal	4
Total Staff:	
Washington office	36

Field offices.....	12
Total staff.....	48

STAFF FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

The Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Mr. Robert E. Lyngh, attended meetings of the National Executive Committee in October and May in Indianapolis and the national convention in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to these meetings, he also attended a Directors' seminar in Indianapolis, as well as one of the regional meetings in Louisiana. Other meetings attended by Mr. Lyngh included the Department convention in Georgia; the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs meeting in St. Croix, Virgin, Islands; a meeting in the Department of Missouri, and a visitation of the medical facilities of the Veterans Administration in Puerto Rico.

The Deputy Director, Mr. John F. Sommer, Jr., attended the National Executive Committee meetings in October and May and, also, the national convention in Chicago. He participated in regional meetings held in Washington, Minnesota and Ohio. Mr. Sommer attended the Department convention in Ohio. He was in attendance in a service officers school for the State Department of Veterans Affairs in North Carolina.

Mr. Thomas M. Schneiders, Assistant Director, participated in the October meeting of the National Executive Committee, the National Convention in Chicago, and, in addition, was the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation representative at the regional meetings in California, and also in Charlotte, North Carolina. He attended a Service Officers meeting held in Denver, Colorado in June.

The Special Assistant to the Director, Mr. William C. Anderson, as Deputy National VAVS Representative, attended the National Advisory Committee on the VAVS in Philadelphia, Pa. He also appeared before the Department Convention of North Dakota. He appeared as a panel member before the VA Social Workers meeting in Washington, D.C. and Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Philip Wilkerson, Chief of Claims, was the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation representative at the regional meetings held in Vermont and New Jersey.

Dr. Irving B. Brick, Senior Medical Consultant, attended a special meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Our Insurance Representatives attended meetings held in the Departments of Minnesota and Texas.

Field Representatives made visitation trips to VA Medical Centers and other facilities in the following Departments: Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Illinois, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Maine, Rhode Island, Missouri, Colorado, Maryland, Louisiana, Vermont, New Hampshire, Virginia, New Jersey, California, Idaho, West Virginia, Nebraska Michigan, Arkansas, Georgia, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Ohio.

The Chief of Field Service, Mr. Edward F. McDonald, continues to arrange indoctrination meetings for our Field Representatives at Central Office of the Veterans Administration where chiefs and directors of various services in the Department of Medicine and Surgery update our representatives on possible problems and solutions which may or may not occur in the 172 VA medical facilities.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Mr. Robert E. Lyngh, serves as the National VAVS Representative of The American Legion, and the Special Assistant to the Director, Mr. William C. Anderson, is the Deputy National VAVS Representative. The Deputy Representative is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Advisory Committee of the VAVS and has been appointed Assistant Treasurer of that committee.

Mr. Anderson attended the Executive Committee meeting in Washington, D.C., as well as the annual meeting in Philadelphia in October 1982. He will attend the annual meeting to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, where he will chairman the James H. Parke Youth Awards. Over 200 national representatives and local observers of the program are in attendance at these meetings where instructors in volunteer service give informative lectures and workshops.

Perhaps of most significance during this reporting year is the introduction of the new 300-999 hour volunteer service pin. As of the date of this report approximately 750 pins have been awarded. The purpose of the new pin is to recruit and retain

volunteers in this most worthwhile program. In addition, for the first time Legionaries who serve in State Veterans Homes and Nursing Homes will be recognized with this new pin. It should be stated here that the new pin is interchangeable with both the VAVS program (federally controlled) and the State Veterans Homes and Nursing Homes (state controlled) up to the 1,000 hour level.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Under authority of May 1958 NEC Resolution, we have continued the program of awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to officials of the Veterans Administration, upon their retirement or resignation, "for services rendered and cooperation extended in connection with The American Legion's rehabilitation program." Under criteria established in line with the enabling resolution, nominations for the award are submitted by Department or national officials of The American Legion twice a year. The nominations are considered by a committee of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission at meetings preceding the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference, and the National Convention. The committee recommends to the Commission the names of those considered deserving of the Certificate.

Twenty-one Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded during the period July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983, for an overall total of 834 since the program was initiated.

CITATIONS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

This Citation, authorized by the National Executive Committee in May 1956, seeks to recognize the long and faithful service of Post Service Officers and others. Nominations for the Citation are submitted by Department Officials to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director at any time; the Director, acting for the Chairman and members of the Commission, issues the award.

One hundred and thirty-one Citations "for meritorious service and loyal cooperation in The American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program" have been presented during the period July 1, 1982-June 30, 1983. Since this type of recognition and appreciation began, a total of 2,490 Citations for Meritorious Service have been presented.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION REPORT

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Mrs. HELEN ADAMS, Florida, *Chairman*

This year, the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee traveled "Freedom's Pathways" to serve the veterans and their families in the communities, nursing homes and hospitals throughout our land. Our volunteers served as the bright STARS illuminating the paths to a brighter tomorrow for those who made it possible to "Let Freedom Ring."

Volunteering is a way of life for members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Many do not keep records of their hours; therefore, this report does not reflect the true totals. However, glowing reports were received from 50 Departments with 10 of these achieving 100 % in Unit reporting. At the eight Regional Conferences held in September and October, there was active participation by nearly all the Department Chairmen in addition to 764 members. Special emphasis was placed on the need for recruitment and retention of volunteers, as well as the rights and benefits of the veterans. A special salute to the Department Service Officers for their excellent presentations. The staff and members of The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission stressed the need of being alert to legislation affecting the veteran. We thank them too, for sharing their expertise and giving us their wholehearted support during the year.

Christmas was made happier in our State Hospitals and in our Veterans Administrations Medical Centers by the countless number of programs staged by our volunteers. Five hundred and forty-one Gift Shops provided 172,149 veterans the opportunity to shop for their family members at no cost to them. This was done at a cost of \$936,870. An additional 2,595 Christmas programs serving 68,414 veterans with expenditures of \$287,819 were reported. Special hospital programs conducted throughout the year numbered 10,032 serving 365,936 veterans at a cost of \$1,098,632. Through direct aid, 6,408 veterans were assisted expending \$246,700 and indirectly, \$373,426 was expended in serving 12,849 veterans. Many States promoted "Adopt a Veteran" program whereby veterans were treated as family members.

Bringing a special kind of cheer and joy with their youthful spirit and enthusiasm were 4,952 Juniors. They entertained, played games, made tray favors, wrote letters and just plain visited, and gave to the older and younger veterans alike, that special something that only the vim and vigor of youth can generate.

Carville was supported by 1,459 Units who donated \$10,402 for recreational facilities, and 1,569 subscriptions to the Star were reported.

Home Service volunteers numbered 18,500 giving 855,955 hours and expending \$251,673. The monetary value of the overall VA&R activities far exceed the reported \$3,291,953. Fifty hour pins were awarded to 812 volunteers. The National Committee extends their appreciation to the dedicated volunteers, Unit members and Department Chairmen for making this report possible. Without their unselfish labor, untiring devotion, "Freedom's Pathways" would not have been so brightly illuminated as "Freedom Rings!"

Veronica Spence, Director of Hospital Volunteers has done an outstanding job in directing the volunteer program and her annual report follows:

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

VERONICA SPENCE, *Director*

"Let Freedom Ring"—National Convention in Chicago closed with the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee starting on our stroll down "Freedom's Pathways" in our quest to "Let Freedom Ring." Years ago the pathfinders were volunteers who traveled unfamiliar ground to make new pathways for those to follow. It

was thus our responsibility to find new STARS (volunteers) and lead them down the pathways to the Veterans Administration Medical Centers. We, as Auxiliary members, have pledged our service to the veteran and his family and have always prided ourselves as being ready to help in time of need. This year was no different, our veterans needed us and you helped by increasing the number of volunteers by 1,259.

Today's volunteer has changed somewhat, because today a volunteer is just as likely to be a man, a Junior, or SAL, or a VolunTeen, where years ago a greater percentage were women. Today we are seeing more Juniors, SAL's and VolunTeens and, thank goodness, because these young volunteers bring much happiness into a VAMC than you could imagine. We were pleased to have these young volunteers providing tray favors, sing-a-longs, place mats, decorations, helping with Bingo, barbecues or wherever needed. We also note that many of these young volunteers are now active in Field Service and Home Service. Throughout the year volunteers provided entertainment with all types of parties on special days, field trips, picnics, bowling parties, fishing trips, rodeo's and nights at the races. Among many additional items, you also provided: canteen books, bibs, afghans, lap robes, punch and coffee, slippers, magazines, cookies, popcorn and cakes for special days.

Your hours of service and dedication to provide Christmas to the hospitalized veteran is overwhelming . . . along with Gift Shops, etc., you also provided fruit, plants, wreaths, paid-up dues, haircuts, as well as helping decorate the many Christmas trees and waiting areas.

Emphasis as always, was stressed for your continued support on legislation concerning veterans, VA Medical Centers and volunteers. This was appreciated and we urge you to continue your support.

This year, totals on the Volunteer Chart, were all increased. An indication that everyone felt the responsibility to provide extra attention, kindness and concern while the veterans was confined within a VA Medical Center. We were also pleased with the number of 100 percent Departments (an increase) and through your efforts, enabled us to attain 100 percent Department reports.

Dr. Albert Schweitzer once said: "It's not enough merely to exist, you must give something to your fellowman even of it's a little thing. Do something for those who need man's help, for which you get no other pay but the privilege of doing."

This then was our responsibility this year. To find the STARS—guide them down "Freedom's Pathways"—teach them the functions of the VA Medical Centers and know that by serving the veteran and his family, we did indeed "Let Freedom Ring."

Joyce Erickson, Vice Chairman and Director of the Field Service Program has led this part of our Volunteer Program. She has worked to help the Field Service Program become a total part of our overall program. Her report follows:

FIELD SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

JOYCE ERICKSON, *Vice Chairman and Director*

The pathways of Field Service that led us through cities, villages and the countryside of the Departments is the American Legion Auxiliary, and those bright shining STARS (volunteers) beamed out help wherever it was needed to make the veteran a happier person.

The emphasis this year was to recruit new volunteers and to retain those who have so unselfishly served, and you certainly came through by having 475 orientation courses which resulted in 3,731 new volunteers. These in addition to many who were already certified, but took the course as a refresher, to again become an active Field Service Volunteer. Fourteen thousand five hundred and six volunteers gave 836,275 hours of time, love and talent to the Field Service Program. This year The American Legion really responded with 1,468 Legionnaires donating their abilities and 810 non-affiliated volunteers who wanted to help the veteran. The young people were not to be out done though, as 640 VolunTeens brought much happiness to the shut-in veteran and our SAL's now have 61 volunteers and the Juniors have 33. So volunteering was an effort by many people of all ages who were working together for the veteran? The things they did were as unique and individual as the volunteers themselves, like furnishing transportation to Doctors offices, church, shopping, sporting events—wherever needed by a veteran. They read, wrote letters, visited, played cards, put on programs, and they did this in a veteran's own home, rest homes, day care centers, foster homes, halfway houses, in fact, in 3,851 places that a veteran lives and/or receives assistance. They put on 9,252 programs of some type like picnics, parties, potlucks, dances, Bingo, took them fishing, etc., and in addition,

gave 48,444 gifts all of which were enjoyed by 135,354 veterans at a cost of over \$765,331.56.

More Posts are taking part in "Operation Post Home", where the Post is used for serving meals, as a social center, or even health care clinics. This year 338 Posts opened their doors to this program with 19,202 veterans in attendance for one or more times.

The "Adopt a Veteran" program is becoming a very special part of the Field Service Program. Seven hundred ninety-eight Units have adopted 2,412 veterans of all ages, and they remember them on special occasions like birthdays, Christmas, Easter, etc. This is becoming especially popular with young people who "Adopt a Grandparent." Everyone likes having family and especially someone who is confined and never has visitors.

Yes, there has been many hours and dollars given to help the veteran who gave so much so that we may have the privilege to live in a free Country and hear "Freedom Ring!"

Our VAVS Representative has kept in close contact with all VAVS Representatives in the 172 Medical Centers. You will find this area of our program has been capably administered by reading the following report of Mrs. Dorothy Gezel:

VAVS

Mrs. DOROTHY GEZEL, *National Representative*

The call to "Let Freedom Ring" was answered enthusiastically by our VAVS Representatives, Deputies and Volunteers whose dedication and sincerity this past year have made possible the serving along "Freedom's Pathways" a success.

One hundred eighty Annual Joint Reviews were received and answered by your National Representative. I am most proud to say we were 100 percent reporting. It has been encouraging reading of the many activities our volunteers are performing, and in the Recognition Ceremony programs of the many hours of service given. Christmas Gift Shops were held at almost every VA Medical Center. Activities also include art shows, wheelchair games, the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, picnics, and the tremendous financial donations from our members.

Over 800 Quarterly Minutes were received and the attendance at these meetings was recorded. I commend all Representatives and Deputies attaining 100 percent attendance. They will be presented a wallet size "Recognition Award" of appreciation.

The Regional Conferences once again were a tremendous success and the enthusiasm of the members attending was very rewarding. The sharing of ideas and interesting assignments pointed out that our VAVS Representatives are among the most dedicated members of our organization. Department Service Officers on the program presented a most interesting message and the cooperation from The American Legion National VA&R Commission was deeply appreciated.

It has been my privilege this past year to represent the American Legion Auxiliary on the Executive Committee of the VA National Advisory Committee and to attend the meetings in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. This advisory committee meets annually to discuss and make recommendations to the Veterans Administration concerning the volunteer program throughout the Country and to attend workshops. The next meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, in October 1983.

Many changes are taking place in the VA Medical Centers especially this past year with the expanding of outpatient and clinical facilities and major construction improvements. Though many changes will occur in further medical care, the need for volunteers and the extra ingredient of caring they bring will continue to be a vital part of the physical and social needs of the hospitalized veteran. This means our VAVS Representatives must continue to recruit new volunteers and retain all volunteers now serving.

My thanks and sincere appreciation for the many invitations to attend the Recognition and Awards Ceremonies at the various VA Medical Centers and congratulations to all of the volunteers who received the Outstanding Award of Leadership.

A partnership has been formed over the years between the Veterans Administration and Volunteers and will continue to grow because of a bond—dedicated to provide the finest care for our veteran patients, a partnership of caring and sharing.

We feel a deep sense of pride for the many volunteers who have answered the call to "Let Freedom Ring" all year. These words from Khalil Ghibran are most appreciate: "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Financial Statements
December 31, 1982
With Supplementary Information

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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GEO. S. OLIVE & CO.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Al Keller, Jr., National Commander
The American Legion
National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

We have examined the balance sheet of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1982 and 1981 and the related statement of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances for the year ended December 31, 1982. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the aforementioned financial statements present fairly the financial position of The American Legion National Headquarters at December 31, 1982 and 1981 and the results of its operations and changes in its fund balances for the year ended December 31, 1982, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

Geo. S. Olive & Co.

Indianapolis, Indiana
March 25, 1983

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	December 31	
	1982	1981
CURRENT FUND:		
Cash	\$ 923,144	\$ 765,011
Accounts receivable:		
Emblem Division	115,129	85,944
Publications Division	312,486	302,099
Other	99,194	96,665
Accrued interest on investments	306,121	221,644
Inventories:		
Emblem Division	770,473	773,056
Publications Division	751,814	792,411
Prepaid expenses and supplies	178,721	151,424
Postal deposits and other advances	55,019	58,707
	<u>3,512,101</u>	<u>3,246,961</u>
Investments--note 2:		
Segregated for Designated Funds	6,641,707	6,212,994
Segregated for Washington, D. C. building	462,861	447,739
Other	11,742,622	9,097,029
	<u>18,847,190</u>	<u>15,757,762</u>
Property and equipment:		
Washington, D. C. real estate:		
Land	80,000	80,000
Building	815,183	793,183
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment in:		
National Headquarters building,		
Indianapolis, Indiana	1,086,644	962,295
Washington, D. C. building	296,511	293,358
Computer under capitalized lease--note 3	399,602	399,602
	<u>2,677,940</u>	<u>2,528,438</u>
Deduct: Accumulated depreciation and amortization.	1,413,874	1,229,344
	<u>1,264,066</u>	<u>1,299,094</u>
	<u>23,623,357</u>	<u>20,303,817</u>
NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS--note 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Cash	10,466	7,752
Accrued interest on investments	8,556	7,006
Investments	455,386	441,801
	<u>474,408</u>	<u>456,559</u>
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Cash (overdraft)	(42,313)	4,915
Accrued interest on investments	27,166	34,204
Investments	3,359,691	2,520,613
	<u>3,344,544</u>	<u>2,559,732</u>
	<u>\$ 27,442,309</u>	<u>\$23,320,108</u>

See notes to financial statements.

LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	December 31	
	1982	1981
CURRENT FUND:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,065,190	\$ 750,740
Capitalized lease obligation--computer--note 3	314,593	387,135
Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales	126,723	173,755
Funds in transit to The American Legion		
Life Insurance Trust	419,768	455,421
Deferred dues income	10,742,552	7,332,901
Accrued vacation benefits	291,268	265,941
Provision for health insurance liability	45,000	45,000
Funds held for Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund	33,986	611,654
Other liabilities	21,139	24,921
Total liabilities	<u>13,060,219</u>	<u>10,047,468</u>
Fund balance--notes 4 and 5:		
Restricted funds:		
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund	146,478	396,983
Children and Youth Fund	44,943	98,913
Oratorical Contest Fund	107,671	92,128
Other restricted funds	38,473	23,734
Designated funds:		
The Restricted Fund	4,501,030	4,077,565
The Reserve Fund	2,140,676	2,135,429
	6,979,271	6,824,752
Appropriated funds	1,438,078	1,438,078
Unappropriated	2,145,789	1,993,519
Total fund balance	<u>10,563,138</u>	<u>10,256,349</u>
	<u>23,623,357</u>	<u>20,303,817</u>
NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS--note 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Fund balance	474,408	456,559
	<u>474,408</u>	<u>456,559</u>
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Fund balance	3,344,544	2,559,732
	<u>3,344,544</u>	<u>2,559,732</u>
	<u>\$27,442,309</u>	<u>\$23,320,108</u>

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and
Changes in Fund Balances
Current Fund

	<u>Year Ended</u>	
	<u>1982</u>	
	<u>Unappropriated</u>	<u>Appropriated Funds</u>
REVENUE:		
National dues	\$ 8,977,858	
Sales of Emblem items	4,456,550	
Advertising revenue	3,288,586	
Investment income	1,414,549	
American Legion Endowment Fund		
Corporation income received--note 7		
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion		
Life Insurance Trust--note 8	925,974	
Restricted contributions		
Other income	860,837	
	<u>19,924,354</u>	
EXPENSES:		
Salaries	3,827,553	
Employee benefits--note 9	901,535	
Cost of Emblem items sold	2,633,931	
Direct publication expenses	6,677,171	
Executive and staff travel	440,704	
Commission and committee	892,270	
Operational	1,464,014	
Office	910,185	
Occupancy	709,838	
Special projects and programs	1,314,883	
	<u>19,772,084</u>	
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	152,270	
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,993,519</u>	<u>\$ 1,438,078</u>
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 2,145,789</u>	<u>\$ 1,438,078</u>

See notes to financial statements.

December 31

Designated and Restricted Funds	1981	
	Total Current Fund	Total Current Fund
\$ 647,934	\$ 9,625,792	\$ 9,217,789
	4,456,550	4,290,124
	3,288,586	2,791,804
428,712	1,843,261	1,592,238
606,384	606,384	602,850
65,282	991,256	694,527
74,425	74,425	60,929
	860,837	512,388
<u>1,822,737</u>	<u>21,747,091</u>	<u>19,762,649</u>
1,066,783	4,894,336	4,543,344
251,781	1,153,316	1,029,303
	2,633,931	2,589,772
	6,677,171	5,973,583
70,241	510,945	553,075
30,060	922,330	896,879
115,648	1,579,662	1,446,378
67,530	977,715	994,347
	709,838	658,707
66,175	1,381,058	876,071
<u>1,668,218</u>	<u>21,440,302</u>	<u>19,561,459</u>
154,519	306,789	<u>\$ 201,190</u>
<u>6,824,752</u>	<u>10,256,349</u>	
<u>\$6,979,271</u>	<u>\$ 10,563,138</u>	

(Exhibit B
Sheet 2)

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances
Designated and Restricted Funds
Year Ended December 31, 1982

	Designated Funds	
	The Restricted Fund	The Reserve Fund
REVENUE:		
National dues		
Investment income	\$ 423,465	\$ 5,247
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income received--note 7		
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust--note 8		
Restricted contributions		
	<u>423,465</u>	<u>5,247</u>
EXPENSES:		
Salaries		
Employee benefits		
Staff travel		
Commission and committee		
Operational		
Office		
Special projects and programs		
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	423,465	5,247
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>4,077,565</u>	<u>2,135,429</u>
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	<u>\$4,501,030</u>	<u>\$2,140,676</u>

See notes to financial statements.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund	Restricted Funds			Total Designated And Restricted Funds
	Children And Youth Fund	Oratorical Contest Fund	Other Restricted Funds	
\$ 647,934				\$ 647,934
424,484	\$ 181,900			428,712
		\$ 65,282		606,384
21,000	22,250		\$31,175	65,282
<u>1,093,418</u>	<u>204,150</u>	<u>65,282</u>	<u>31,175</u>	<u>74,425</u>
				<u>1,822,737</u>
967,329	99,454			1,066,783
228,103	23,678			251,781
62,701	7,540			70,241
	30,060			30,060
33,047	82,601			115,648
52,743	14,787			67,530
		49,739	16,436	66,175
<u>1,343,923</u>	<u>258,120</u>	<u>49,739</u>	<u>16,436</u>	<u>1,668,218</u>
(250,505)	(53,970)	15,543	14,739	154,519
<u>396,983</u>	<u>98,913</u>	<u>92,128</u>	<u>23,734</u>	<u>6,824,752</u>
<u>\$ 146,478</u>	<u>\$ 44,943</u>	<u>\$ 107,671</u>	<u>\$38,473</u>	<u>\$6,979,271</u>

(Exhibit B
Sheet 1)

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1--SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT
ACCOUNTING POLICIES:General:

The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919. The Legion acquired all of the assets and assumed all of the liabilities of the predecessor unincorporated national organization of the same name.

Basis of Presentation:

The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its accounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances--Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1981 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances--Current Fund are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1982 amounts.

Accounts Receivable:

The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Inventories:

Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments:

Investments are recorded at cost with any premiums or discounts on U. S. Government obligations recorded at the time of disposal or maturity of the investment involved.

Property and Equipment:

Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the year after acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D. C. building, which was constructed in 1951, is computed on the straight-line method using a fifty-year life. Beginning in 1969, investments approximately equal to the accumulated depreciation on the building have been segregated. Income on these investments is unrestricted.

Income:

Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and The American Legion Life Insurance Trust are recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Pension Plan:

The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations. The annual cost, as determined by the actuary, is computed using the aggregate-cost method and includes in normal cost any past service costs.

Federal Income Tax:

The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 2--INVESTMENTS (CURRENT FUND):

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

	December 31			
	1982		1981	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Segregated for Designated Funds:				
U. S. Government obligations	\$ 6,533,040	\$ 6,668,939	\$ 6,112,706	\$ 5,628,425
Accrued interest--restricted	86,489	86,489	78,664	78,664
Uninvested cash	22,178	22,178	21,624	21,624
	<u>6,641,707</u>	<u>6,777,606</u>	<u>6,212,994</u>	<u>5,728,713</u>
Segregated for Washington, D. C. building:				
U. S. Government obligations	462,861	442,844	447,739	359,565
Other:				
U. S. Government obligations	11,442,622	11,759,817	6,147,029	5,943,272
Certificates of deposit	300,000	300,000	2,950,000	2,950,000
	<u>11,742,622</u>	<u>12,059,817</u>	<u>9,097,029</u>	<u>8,893,272</u>
Total investments	<u>\$18,847,190</u>	<u>\$19,280,267</u>	<u>\$15,757,762</u>	<u>\$14,981,550</u>

NOTE 3--CAPITAL AND OPERATING LEASES:

In 1981, the Legion entered into a lease agreement (which is accounted for as a capital lease) for rental of computer equipment from December, 1981 through April, 1985. The Legion has options to purchase the equipment or to extend the lease at the end of the original lease term. The Legion is liable for property taxes, insurance, and repairs and maintenance in connection with the leased equipment. Future minimum payments on this lease, together with the present value of the payments, are as follows:

Years ending	
December 31:	
1983	\$149,611
1984	149,611
1985	<u>124,676</u>
Total future minimum payments	423,898
Less: Amount representing interest (approximately 22%)	<u>109,305</u>
Present value of future minimum payments	<u>\$314,593</u>

The Legion also rents other computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was approximately \$197,000 in 1982 and \$101,000 in 1981.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1985. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance and insurance approximated \$280,000 in 1982 and \$285,000 in 1981. The Legion has the option of renewing the lease on the same terms through November, 1989.

NOTE 4--RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings.

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

- (a) By action of the Legion at its national convention, or
- (b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

NOTE 5--APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND
INTERFUND TRANSFERS:

There were no interfund transfers between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds at December 31, 1982 and 1981 were as follows:

Publications Reserve	\$ 397,939
Real Estate Reserve	841,977
Convention Reserve	100,000
Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve	<u>98,162</u>
Total	<u>\$1,438,078</u>

NOTE 6--NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS:

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

Changes in Nonexpendable Funds during the year ended December 31, 1982 are as follows:

	Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund
Revenue:		
Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected . . .		\$ 794,672
Investment income	\$ 29,223	352,166
	<u>29,223</u>	<u>1,146,838</u>
Expenses:		
Membership dues withdrawn		308,839
Decoration of graves:		
European Theatre	10,874	
Philippine Islands	500	
Administrative expense		46,821
Trust fees		6,366
	<u>11,374</u>	<u>362,026</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	17,849	784,812
Fund balances, January 1, 1982	<u>456,559</u>	<u>2,559,732</u>
Fund balances, December 31, 1982	<u>\$474,408</u>	<u>\$3,344,544</u>

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	December 31			
	1982		1981	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:				
U. S. Government obligations	\$ 455,386	\$ 463,476	\$ 441,801	\$ 379,988
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:				
U. S. Government obligations	\$1,089,189	\$1,132,563	\$1,279,111	\$1,216,845
Commercial paper	2,180,000	2,180,000	1,151,000	1,151,000
Common stocks	90,502	111,975	90,502	89,562
Total investments	<u>\$3,359,691</u>	<u>\$3,424,538</u>	<u>\$2,520,613</u>	<u>\$2,457,407</u>

NOTE 7--AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT
FUND CORPORATION:

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of \$2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of \$1,575,043 at December 31, 1982, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. In addition to the amount received from the Endowment Fund of \$606,384 in 1982, there was \$281,646 at December 31, 1982, in net investment earnings of the Endowment Fund, which was payable to the Legion.

NOTE 8--LIFE INSURANCE TRUST:

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion has created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, holds legal title. The accumulated earnings of the Trust funds and any experience rating refunds and dividends received from the insurers, which aggregate to approximately \$5,100,000 as of December 31, 1982, are available for any of the following purposes, if approved by the Legion:

- (a) To increase the Trust fund.
- (b) To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.
- (c) To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.
- (d) To make refunds to the participants.
- (e) To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

In accordance with the provisions of item (e) above, the Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1982, \$990,076 in Trust Funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1983.

NOTE 9--PENSION PLAN:

Pension expense under the defined-benefit pension plan in which the Legion participates was \$535,550 in 1982. Accumulated plan benefit information, as estimated by the plan's actuary, and net assets of the plan allocable to The American Legion National Headquarters were as follows:

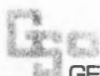
	January 1, <u>1982</u>
Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits:	
Vested	\$8,555,048
Nonvested	<u>932,291</u>
Total	<u>\$9,487,339</u>

Net assets available for plan benefits (at market value) . \$8,501,854

The assumed rate of return used in determining the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits was 6%.

NOTE 10--LITIGATION:

The Legion is currently involved as a co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that any ultimate liability of the Legion will not be material to the financial statements.



GEO. S. OLIVE & CO.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Al Keller, Jr., National Commander
The American Legion
National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

OPINION ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

We have examined and reported separately on the basic financial statements of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1982 and 1981 and for the year ended December 31, 1982.

The examinations referred to above were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on those financial statements of The American Legion National Headquarters taken as a whole. The supplementary information as listed in the accompanying table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such supplementary information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the examination of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Geo. S. Olive & Co.

Indianapolis, Indiana
March 25, 1983

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Analysis of Unappropriated Revenue
And Expenses by Function
Year Ended December 31, 1982

	General		
	National Officers, Commissions And Committees	Internal Programs (primarily Indianapolis)	External Activities (primarily Washington, D. C.)
REVENUE:			
National dues			
Sales of Emblem items			
Advertising revenue			
Investment income			
Amounts withdrawn from American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund			
Other income			
EXPENSES:			
Salaries	\$ 189,264	\$ 587,062	\$ 589,530
Employee benefits	44,484	137,594	139,962
Cost of Emblem items sold			
Direct publication expenses			
Executive and staff travel	224,224	109,439	46,074
Commission and committee	884,766		
Operational	1,979	892,607	93,120
Office	2,464	135,187	131,779
Occupancy		69,098	30
Special projects and programs	114,494	1,073,109	40,958
	<u>\$1,461,675</u>	<u>\$3,004,096</u>	<u>\$1,041,453</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES			

Functions		Self-Supporting Functions			Total
Administration		Total	Emblem	Publications	All
Indianapolis	Washington, D. C.	General	Division	Division	Functions
		\$ 4,813,163		\$ 4,164,695	\$ 8,977,858
			\$4,456,550		4,456,550
		1,414,549		3,288,586	3,288,586
					1,414,549
		925,974			925,974
		623,657	5,898	231,282	860,837
		<u>7,777,343</u>	<u>4,462,448</u>	<u>7,684,563</u>	<u>19,924,354</u>
\$ 1,212,689	\$356,942	2,935,487	369,350	522,716	3,827,553
286,146	83,317	691,503	86,256	123,776	901,535
			2,633,931		2,633,931
				6,677,171	6,677,171
19,575	12,157	411,469	22,924	6,311	440,704
7,504		892,270			892,270
217,432	20,165	1,225,303	216,703	22,008	1,464,014
161,733	74,334	505,497	226,804	177,884	910,185
(234,379)	135,671	(29,580)	203,888	535,530	709,838
<u>67,340</u>	<u>18,982</u>	<u>1,314,883</u>			<u>1,314,883</u>
<u>\$ 1,738,040</u>	<u>\$701,568</u>	<u>7,946,832</u>	<u>3,759,856</u>	<u>8,065,396</u>	<u>19,772,084</u>
		<u>\$(169,489)</u>	<u>\$ 702,592</u>	<u>\$(380,833)</u>	<u>\$ 152,270</u>

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Reconciliation of Audited Financial
Statements to Internal Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 1982

	<u>Unappropriated</u>	<u>Total Current Fund</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES--INTERNAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:		
Page 1		\$(98,234)
Page 6	\$ 152,271	
ADD (DEDUCT):		
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials--principally The Restricted Fund		405,024
Rounding differences	(1)	(1)
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES-- AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-- exhibit B, sheet 1 (page 5)	<u>\$ 152,270</u>	<u>\$ 306,789</u>

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Mrs. WALTER STOLTE (JUNE), *National President*

This has been the most incredible year of my life. Serving as the National President of a nearly one million membership volunteer organization afforded me the opportunity to see our dedicated members in action. This experience has also expanded my viewpoint as I have now seen the magnitude of monies raised and contributed by our membership in our communities, our country and yes, throughout the world as they tolled more than \$13,000,000 this year.

As National President of the American Legion Auxiliary I traveled to each of our fifty states, Central America, Europe and the Far East. My travels have proven beyond a doubt that the American Legion Auxiliary is pro-American without being anti-world. We represent the backbone of the American family and we are a vital link to the future of this nation.

The programs of the American Legion Auxiliary are vast. The results of the efforts of this organization can be summed up in the following dollars and cents figures as well as the contributions in volunteer hours freely given a deserving nation.

A great deal of concentration was placed on the American flag this year as over 50,000 flags were presented to recreation centers, schools, Scout troops, hospitals and over 3,000 flags were presented to newly naturalized citizens. Certificates of appreciation in recognition of flying the American flag properly lighted 24 hours a day were awarded to over 5,000 businesses and industries.

Our Emergency Aid Fund received \$34,241 in contributions; however, emergency assistance dispersed totalled \$34,224.

One of our special programs is that of Children and Youth in which expenditures of \$3,473,070 benefitted 667,955 children with volunteer hours totaling 918,685. Our program covered direct aid, working with Special Olympics, drug abuse, child abuse and neglect, and Reye's Syndrome.

Our community involvement was again incredible. Nearly 76,000 members donated over 376,000 hours to raise \$813,000 for the various health organizations. In fact, our members raised and contributed over a million dollars in just our Community Service program alone. Especially rewarding has been the cooperation given to nursing homes and hospitals assisting in the care of our aging citizens. Over 188,544 pints of blood were reported donated to the life giving blood donor program.

The Auxiliary's Foreign Relations Program again concentrated their efforts in the area of South West Africa/Namibia lending monetary support to the Eluwa School for the deaf and blind. The project was again twofold. The first was to let the citizens of that country know how very strongly we felt of their desire to maintain the democratic form of government and secondly, to let them know that we in the United States wished to show, in a humanitarian way, our concern for some of their problems. This years purchases included playground equipment, closed circuit television sets, new uniforms for each child as well as special hearing equipment for the deaf.

Our members gave moral and financial support to the National League of Families as well as the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

The Girls State Program was an unqualified success. Forty-nine Girls State sessions were held at a cost of over two million dollars. Over 20,000 girls benefitted from this governmental education program with 1,700 volunteers staffing the sessions. Ninety-eight of those same young ladies were brought into Washington, D.C. to participate in the democratic process at a federal level. Many of these young people return to their home towns and become involved politically because of this experience.

The 105,044 Junior members of our organization donated 63,424 hours and raised funds for the Heart Fund, St. Jude's Hospital, Muscular Dystrophy, and many other causes. They also "adopted" grandparents and needy children, visited and entertained the veterans as well as the elderly and very ill, and made not only the holidays but each day a happy experience.

The American Legion Auxiliary's Legislative Program knows the importance of keeping a watchful eye on veterans' benefits, legislation involving youth, our nation's defense and economic issues which affect all our members. We know the value of close personal contact without elected officials and the effectiveness of keeping in touch with them by mail and telephone.

This year, the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee blazed a trail of service for the veterans, raising and spending more than \$3,481,960 on Hospital, Home Service and Field Service programs. Volunteering is a way of life for members of The American Legion Auxiliary and even though many do not keep records of their hours, we did have 13,166,713 volunteer hours reported.

The American Legion Auxiliary is proud of their record of service. We know none of this could be accomplished were it not for the willingness of good, loyal Americans dedicated to the preservation of all that is good for our veterans and this nation. We hope the Congress of the United States will appreciate our volunteer efforts.



