

come face to face with great and profound eternal verities.

Now, shall this nation of ours say that we expect sacrifice or loyalty from you, but we want no loyalties from the home or loyalties from the nation?

When you are at war, you are told, "We expect every man to do his duty." Shall we therefore become a nation in which people insist only on their rights?

You Legionnaires know what duty means and, believe me, when you are fighting for loyalties to the nation there are no Fifth Amendments behind which you can hide. [Applause.] Not one of you would dare retreat from a trench, go back and shelter yourself under the Fifth Amendment.

I do not believe, really, that our nation has quite realized the tremendous service that you are doing with your heart, actually, the heart of the American nation. Perhaps you have not been conscious of it. That is excusable; men do great things without always being conscious.

Remember when Our Blessed Lord was going out to His death, the long arm of the Roman law reached out and laid its hands upon a stranger by the name of Simeon, who came from Cyrene, and they said to him, "Help Him carry His Cross." He did not want to do it. He was just a bystander, watching someone go to his death. But he did it. Following in the footsteps he began to love the Cross and the One who was carrying it.

And so I think members of The American Legion, all of you, are playing under Providence some such role as that; when our world is carrying a great and tremendous cross—42 out of every 100 beings subjugated by Communism, youth being cut down by the sickle and the aged being beaten with the hammer of totalitarianism—you are asked—you have not asked for it but you have been told by Providence, "Help them carry the cross. Reach out against these systems that would destroy the value of human personality."

You did not want to do it. No man wants to be ready to die for these things; but you did it and your burdens became sweet.

But, gentlemen, I tell you that you have been carrying—all of us—a nobler cross than we know. You have been carrying a nobler cross than even we deserve.

God love you!

REPORT OF W. C. "DAN" DANIEL

National Commander

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER:

Gaylor M. Brown, Whiting, Iowa

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER:

George T. Lewis, Jr., Memphis, Tennessee

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER:

Carl R. Moser, Portland, Oregon

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER:

John F. Stay, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER:

J. Edward Walter, Cambridge, Maryland

NATIONAL ADJUTANT:

E. A. Blackmore (Wyoming)

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:

Rev. Bernard W. Gerdon, Indianapolis, Indiana

NATIONAL HISTORIAN:

Robert T. Fairey (South Carolina)

NATIONAL TREASURER:

Neal Grider (Indiana)

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE:

Ralph B. Gregg (Indiana)

PREFACE

*"The richest man in all the world is the man who has the largest storehouse of happy memories. Our wealth of tomorrow depends on our deposits of today. Yesterday we lived much in anticipation of tomorrow. Today we live largely on memories of yesterday."**

INTRODUCTION

For the opportunity and honor which you gave me of serving as your national commander, I am sincerely and humbly grateful. It has been a stimulating, rewarding and enjoyable experience. I appreciate far beyond my power to express the wonderful friendships I have made and the boundless hospitality that you have extended in your departments and in your homes. It was uplifting and inspiring of soul and spirit to visit in your states—each so rich in the traditions of a glorious history—and to associate so intimately with men and women who have dedicated themselves to the preservations of those traditions.

I feel a profound indebtedness to you for the conscientious and intelligent service you have rendered our organization and our country. For whatever degree of success my administration has attained, the leaders at the post, district and department level are primarily responsible. As long as I shall live, I will cherish the priceless memory of our united efforts in a great common endeavor. The devotion to high and human ideals which has become the hallmark of the true Legionnaire cannot help but enhance the position and prestige of our organization in the years to come.

Upon my election last year, I set forth these goals and objectives, all within the framework of the mandates handed to me by the Thirty-eighth Convention. I said at that time that The American Legion is:

1. For justice and fairness for our veterans who suffered and sacrificed that our country might continue to be characterized as a free nation;
2. For a vibrant, living Americanism, and against the despotic evils of Communism;
3. For a virile, free-enterprise or profit-motivated system, and against the crippling paralysis of socialism;
4. For uncompromising loyalty and integrity among our government employees, and against traitors, dupes and spies;
5. For the ideal of the dignity and supremacy of the individual in our society, and against collectivism;
6. For a strong, national sovereign government, and against world government;
7. For self-determination among state and local governments, and against excessive centralized power;
8. For an impregnable national defense, and against spending ourselves into bankruptcy in an attempt to buy friends;
9. For an honorable forthright foreign policy, and against a policy based on fear and vacillation;
10. For constitutional law, and against treaty law;
11. We are for God and for America.

Now, a year after listing these 11 goals, I am coming to you to give an accounting of my stewardship. Some of our goals have not been reached. As in all human endeavors, some mistakes have been made. However, an objective analysis of this

*From: *Into Tomorrow*, by Rev. John Jordan Wicker, Broadman Press, 1946.

monumental undertaking will reveal that much has been accomplished, that the burden has been lightened and the pathway blazed for more productive years ahead. As I relinquish the mantle of leadership, I do so with the full knowledge and the inner satisfaction that I have rendered to you the best service of which I was capable. To each of you, I extend my sincere and affectionate good wishes for many fruitful and useful years of life. It is my humble prayer that throughout all these days, God will grant you happiness, pleasure and contentment.

AMERICANISM

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN: James F. Daniel, Jr., Greenville, South Carolina

DIVISION DIRECTOR: C. A. Tesch

It has been my purpose and policy throughout my administration to promote a positive, dynamic, forward-moving Americanism program. At the same time, I have denounced evil encroachments on our freedoms and our beliefs. This year has witnessed a continuation and advancement of our youth programs in all areas. It has witnessed another major shift in the Communist party line in the United States as well as a transfer of the headquarters from New York to Chicago.

In accordance with Resolution 75, unanimously passed by the Los Angeles convention, I have consistently spoken out before state, local and national legislative bodies on behalf of a proper balance of government as proclaimed in our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

I know that it is trite to say that America is at the crossroads, and yet I believe that is more true today than ever before. These words of our President Dwight D. Eisenhower, spoken just four years ago, are a warning today. "If the states lose their meaning, our entire system of government loses its meaning, and the next step is the rise of the centralized national state in which the seeds of autocracy can take root and grow." Everything possible must be done by The American Legion to strengthen rather than weaken adherence to our national Constitution. The checks and balances in the federal government must be preserved.

In addition to the horizontal balance of our federal government, there is also in the American concept a vertical balance. It is the balance between federal, state and local governments. The maintenance of this balance is equally as important. Today, we find the role of state governments in the affairs of our people being reduced relentlessly by an ever expanding federal government. In my judgment, the arrogation of power by the federal government is fast reducing our states to mere municipal dependencies. This tragic trend must be reversed, not only to preserve our representative form of government, but for our security and survival as a free nation.

It is largely in the hands of the American people, supported by organizations such as ours, to decide which course we will now pursue. Shall we vacillate backward and forward in the realm of governmental uncertainty, or shall we continue the present trend to a dangerous centralization of power in Washington, or shall we firmly and courageously follow the pathway of recognition in observance of the constitutional separation of the powers of the federal government on the one hand and of the separate states on the other. The choice must be made and the destiny of our nation and our people is dependent upon it.

Religious Emphasis

One of the insidious dangers that constantly threaten the American people is that we shall spend all of our time and resources in building an impregnable wall around the free world, and forget the moral foundation of life, and thus be defeated from within. The American Legion recognized this danger in the early 1950's, and arose to meet the challenge with our religious emphasis or "Back to God" program. We became alarmed at the extent to which moral standards were being marked down in our country. We were disturbed that more and more of our teenagers were turning to narcotic addiction, and that many of our college athletes were willing to barter their honor for a bribe. We concluded that this came about because our people were failing to recognize their individual responsibilities as citizens. We know that any attempt to shift basic individual responsibilities is hazardous and strikes at one of the foundation stones upon which this nation was founded.

Great forward strides have been made in our religious emphasis program this year, primarily through the efforts of our illustrious national chaplain, Reverend Father Bernard Gerdon. He has given without limit of his time, his talents and his resources to the advancement of our cause throughout my administration. He has traveled over 100,000 miles and visited practically every department. He has been one of my greatest assets, reflecting credit upon our organization wherever he went. This has been accomplished with a great personal sacrifice to himself, both financially and physically, as he has performed his duties without the advantage of financial remuneration even for travel in most instances. Father Gerdon can unselfishly take credit for a large share of the improvement in our public relations position. Reverend Gerdon and your commander have supported the principle advanced by William Penn that we must choose to live under God or find ourselves governed over by tyrants.

Communism

This year has witnessed another in a long series of shifts in the Communist party line in this country. The Communists are now trying desperately to clothe themselves in the raiment of respectability. They have moved their headquarters from New York to Chicago, admittedly to be near the heart of industrial America. It is logical to conclude that their efforts in the immediate future will be concentrated on the labor unions of our country. We have not, and must not be misled by these zigz and zags. Communism is evil. Communism is vicious. Communism is atheistic. It is an ideology which through vigilance we may some day destroy, but one which will never change.

Recent Supreme Court decisions have seriously and dangerously compromised the internal security of the United States. Some of these decisions, particularly the Watkins and Jencks decisions, have done more to advance the cause of Communism than any actions taken in this country since the Korean War. The Communists have been trying relentlessly and desperately to get out from under the provisions of the Smith Act, a law which has done more to retard the advance of that ideology than any law passed by the Congress in recent years. These decisions have provided them with that avenue of escape.

It has been said—and rightly so—that freedom of speech does not give one the right to yell fire in a crowded theatre. I think it equally true that in-

dividual and constitutional liberty fails to give traitors, criminals and spies free access to the files of our law enforcement and investigative agencies. Your commander has vigorously supported the legislative branch of our government in its attempts to plug the loopholes caused by these dangerous and immature decisions. Our efforts came to partial fruition with the passage of Public Law 85-269 on the final day of the first session of the 85th Congress. We must give our assistance to the strengthening of this legislation in January.

Fiscal Solvency

Another great issue which we, as individuals and as an organization, must face up to, is national fiscal solvency. In promoting and advancing our programs of benefits and equalization for our veterans, we must be objective, unselfish and conservative. It is imperative that we pay close attention to the mandates that we give to our commander. Let us always remember that veterans who have already given so much to preserve our heritage should not and will not sacrifice the nation on the altar of self interest. Our every action must be consistent with the best interests of the United States and all our people.

Today our national debt exceeds 275 billions of dollars. That is more than double the public indebtedness of all other principal nations of the world combined. The question of getting our balance sheet in the black is not one that can be laterated off to economists or left to take care of itself. It is everybody's business—yours and mine, and should be the prime concern of every American who desires to keep America strong and free and a place of opportunity for our children. Let us not proceed in the foolish belief that public debt is none of our business. Public capital is nothing more than private capital taken from the earnings of the individual. Every cent the government spends is either put up by the individual or charged against him. Our per capita debt today is approximately \$1,700. The per capita debt of all other nations in the world combined is only \$91. Our national debt in 1914 was \$12 billion. World War I raised it to \$25½ billions. In 1933 it was down to \$19½ billions. Then came the deluge. When we entered World War II in 1941, we owed \$55 billion, and when the war ended in 1945, we owed the fantastic sum of 279 billions of dollars.

Slight reductions were made after the war, but now the trend is up again, and will bring us, we are told, to a new all-time high of indebtedness by the close of the present fiscal year.

All requests for federal expenditures should be judged on the simple basis of what is best for the United States of America. Despite changes in the national leadership, despite repeated warnings from responsible sources such as our national convention, the nation apparently continues to submit to the philosophy that the federal government should mean and do all things for all people. I urge you, as Legionnaires and as citizens, to lead the fight for a return to a sound and sensible fiscal policy.

In many of my public statements I stressed the importance of maintaining our national sovereignty. Those proposing world government would eliminate most of the authority of our own government, particularly at the local and state levels. Representation would be based on population. The Communist world would be in the saddle. Taxation would be in accordance with national wealth. Thus America would carry the fiscal burden down the road to destruction.

We must firmly realize and impress upon our fellow citizens that we are citizens of the United States and not of the world. We have hopes and aspirations that are our responsibility to advance—and no one else's. We will be sympathetic to the problems of freedom-loving people everywhere, but our first obligation is to the United States of America. A review of our history will reveal that the best approach to the goal of world security is through the security of the United States of America.

Positive Americanism

This report on Americanism underlines one of the difficulties which has probably confronted every national commander before me. To The American Legion, the concept of Americanism is a positive, living, forward-moving force. It means economic opportunity, the rule of law, civic-mindedness and civic morality. It means being for all that is good for America.

And, because Americanism means all these things, it also means that we must be against that which is harmful to America and contrary to our way of life. In supporting the good, we must oppose the evil. Sometimes this aspect of Americanism may become so urgent as to overshadow in the public mind the positive side of our activities.

If by some act of fate, Communism should disappear from the world today, The American Legion would still have need for an Americanism program tomorrow. Communism is merely one of the obstacles standing in the way of the complete realization of the American dream. Through the many youth activities of our Americanism program, through many other positive approaches, we of The American Legion are attempting to bring that realization nearer.

A new peak was reached this year in our sponsorship of Boy Scout troops. There are now more than 4,200 Boy Scout troops sponsored by American Legion Posts. At the same time, our interest and activity in supporting Boys' Clubs and similar groups also increased.

The American Legion's Boys State and Boys Nation program was vigorously carried out this year. Forty-nine departments are now active in the Boys State program. Twenty thousand high school juniors received practical training in local, county and state government at Boys States this year. Ninety-six boys from 46 states, the District of Columbia and the Panama Canal Zone attended The American Legion's 12th Boys Nation in Washington, July 19-26, 1957, headquartered on the campus of the University of Maryland. Thomas Peake of Norton, Virginia, had the honor of being elected president of the 1957 Boys Nation.

Through The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest more than 330,000 high school students this year acquired a better understanding of the Constitution of the United States. Dan McCall of California, took top honors in the national finals contest held at Waterville, Maine, on April 11. It was my pleasure to present Dan with a \$4,000 scholarship award on the Dave Garroway network television program April 12.

More than a million teen-age boys played Legion Junior Baseball this summer. Of invaluable help to us in carrying out this largest teen-age sports activity of its kind in the nation was the cooperation of the American League and the National League, which together contributed \$60,000 to help underwrite the cost of the program, the Ford Motor Company and its local dealers, *The Sporting News*, and many local businessmen.

Emphasizing the high esteem and widespread public acceptance enjoyed by American Legion Junior Baseball is the fact that last fall an all-star American Legion Junior Baseball team made a six-week, good-will tour of South America. This tour received the full cooperation of the United States Department of State.

I cannot recommend too forcefully the participation of every American Legion Post in these positive Americanism programs. Service to the community, and particularly to the youth of the community, should be a cornerstone for the future growth of The American Legion.

LEGISLATION

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN: **Jerome F. Duggan**,
St. Louis, Missouri

DIVISION DIRECTOR: **Miles D. Kennedy**

Some of our greatest successes of the year have been in the important field of legislation. Programs, such as Rehabilitation and National Security, depend almost entirely on actions of Congress. Federal laws also cross the lines of the Americanism, Child Welfare, Foreign Relations, and other commissions or committees of The American Legion. While our work with Congress is normally on the positive side—in pursuit of legislation favorable to our established programs, it is equally necessary and important to oppose legislation we believe to be detrimental to veterans and their dependents, or—more important—to America.

The recently adjourned session of the 85th Congress will likely be recorded as one of the most controversial in many years, being confronted as it was with the civil rights issue; protection of FBI files; foreign aid appropriations; liberalized immigration; and consideration of the largest budget ever proposed in peacetime. Despite the explosive nature of problems before it, and the closely drawn forces on each side, the Congress did get together and favorably act on important proposals of The American Legion. Adequate funds for the operation of the Veterans Administration were provided even though practically all other government agencies received substantially less than requested or proposed by the President.

One of the last acts of the 1956 session of the 84th Congress was passage of Public Law 880, which for the first time since 1933, sought to deprive the service-connected disabled veteran of compensation benefits. Had this law remained in force, Social Security payments due disabled veterans would have been reduced by the amount of compensation received. With the new law scheduled to become effective on July 1, 1957, one of our first moves was to seek amendment to P. L. 880. We supported the amending bill, H. R. 6191, with all our vigor and, over the objection of the Social Security Administration, it is now P. L. 85-109. We look upon this legislation as a major step in re-affirming the integrity of veterans' programs.

Over the concentrated objection of administrative and executive agencies, H. R. 52, the bill to increase compensation payments to the two million service-connected disabled veterans and their families, was approved by Congress after an eight-month campaign of hard work. This bill, with a first year's cost of \$170 million, was signed by the President on August 27. It becomes effective October 1.

While we were unable to influence action on legislation to equalize death pension benefits for the widows of World War II and Korean veterans, we were successful in pushing through a bill that has

been offered by The American Legion for some years. It is H. R. 3658, designed to establish uniform marriage requirements for death compensation or pension eligibility. This bill was signed by the President and will benefit about 12,000 widows at a cost of \$7 million annually.

In the field of G.I. home loans, our successful support in the Congress of H. R. 4602 was nullified by the President's veto of this legislation. Had the bill been signed, it would have extended both the regular VA guaranty program and the direct loan program to July 25, 1959, and provided \$200 million in direct loan funds for the current fiscal year.

My representatives testified and/or filed briefs before the appropriate Congressional committees concerning our attitude and recommendations on veterans' housing.

We recommended that the same authority be given the Administrator of Veterans Affairs as that given to the Administrator of the FHA with reference to the raising of interest rates.

Congress failed to increase the interest rate on G.I. loans. Therefore, for all practical purposes the G. I. Loan Program is dead, and it has deprived millions of veterans, especially the Korean veterans, the opportunity to purchase a home under the G. I. Bill.

We testified in favor of the direct home loan program where conventional financing was not available. I concur in the feeling of the members of my Special Housing Committee which dealt with the G. I. Home Loan Program that Congress failed to increase interest rates on G. I. loans for two reasons:

First, because the average veteran in the country did not realize the importance of increasing the interest rates.

Second, the veterans throughout the country were apathetic concerning the whole question and failed to give their wholehearted support to our efforts.

It is my feeling that The American Legion owes an obligation to the World War II veteran and the Korean War veteran to continue to work for the following objectives in the field of housing:

One, the increase of interest rates on G. I. loans to a realistic level sufficient to insure funds in the money market for the financing of G. I. homes.

Two, to continue our present policy with reference to direct G. I. home loans.

Three, that additional efforts be made to inform the veterans throughout this country that their help and support is needed if the objectives of The American Legion, which are for their benefit, are to be successfully achieved.

Perhaps no legislation is more solidly supported by The American Legion than H. J. Res. 16 urging nullification of the Status of Forces Agreement, which now permits American soldiers to be tried by foreign judicial systems. The House Foreign Affairs Committee approved this measure. It is now pending in the House Rules Committee for consideration in the next session of Congress when and if a rule is granted.

On the negative side we can take comfort in the fact that our opposition to liberalization of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act has been largely sustained. The Immigration bill approved in this session aided a number of hardship cases and permits entry of war orphans adopted by American service personnel. Over our objection, however, was the elimination of fingerprint requirements for temporary visitors to this country. Apparently this was done to appease Russia, which has long objected to fingerprint procedure.

Our voice aided in stemming foreign aid contributions. Our opposition to federal aid to education was effective in blocking H. R. 1, the school construction bill.

This has been a successful legislative year. The advancement of our program was achieved with a minimum of expense. We approached our goals using the rifle technique rather than the shotgun. An analysis was made of Congressional thinking. Those who favored our bills were given an expression of our gratitude. Those of contrary beliefs were encouraged through personal contact and positive selling to the worthwhileness of our proposed measures.

The Congress on balance was sympathetic to our cause and I am profoundly grateful.

CHILD WELFARE

COMMISSIONER CHAIRMAN:

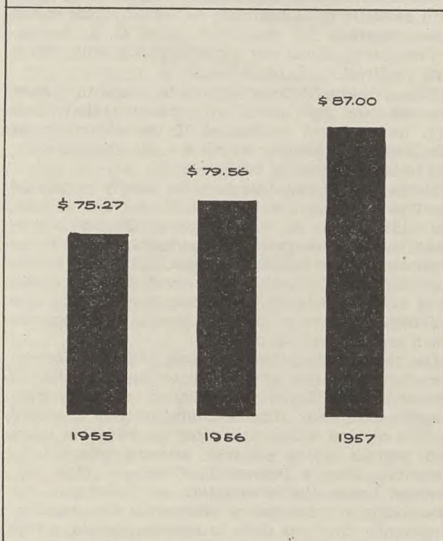
David V. Addy, Detroit, Michigan

DIVISION DIRECTOR: **Randel Shake**

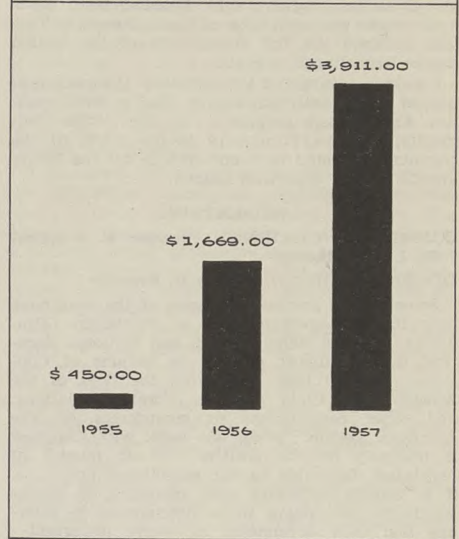
Although we are faced with a serious and continuing problem of juvenile delinquency, I want to preface my report on Child Welfare by declaring my unequivocal faith in the young people of this country. Periodic outbreaks of violence—disturbing as they are—do not mean that the nation's younger generation is going to the dogs. The overwhelming majority of our youth are sturdy, sound, patriotic Americans. The Child Welfare program of The American Legion has been designed and is being administered to contribute to the strength of America through a proper concern for the welfare of its children.

Well over \$7 million dollars was expended during the past year by American Legion Posts, together with our affiliated organizations, in Child Welfare activities of all kinds. This was a record high and brings to nearly \$140 million total American Legion expenditures on behalf of children since 1925.

AVERAGE MONTHLY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PER FAMILY GRANTED THROUGH CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM



DONATIONS (UNDER \$1,000) TO CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION



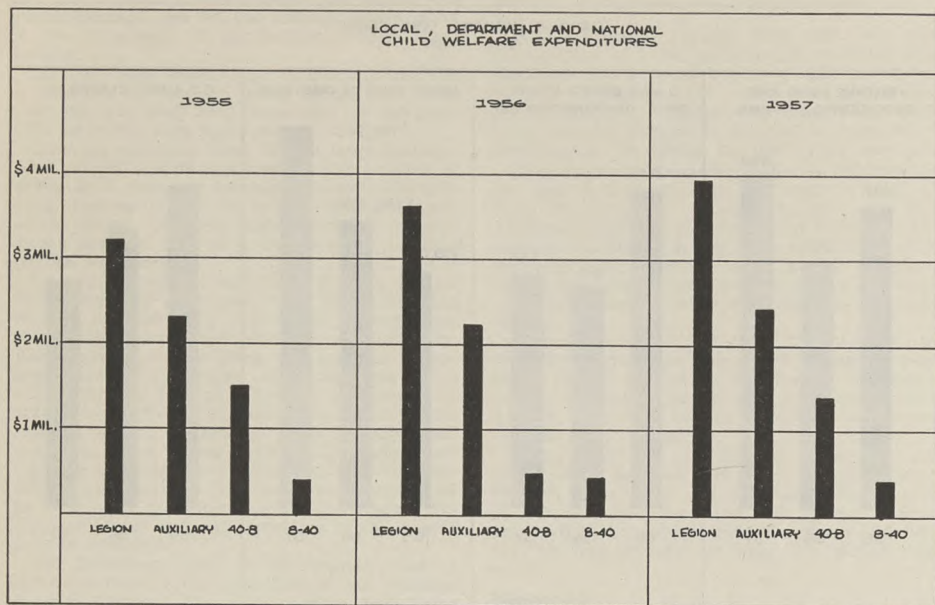
1957 donations in above chart for first seven months only

In keeping with the belief that most of our social problems can be solved on the local or state level, Child Welfare legislative efforts were directed primarily toward providing such information and support as were requested by the departments to effect needed changes in state and local laws pertaining to children. In addition, volunteer movements were started or made more effective in such fields as juvenile delinquency, mental health, retarded children, family life, and spiritual training.

The comparatively new arm of our Child Welfare effort—The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation—continued its steady growth. Through its carefully selected financial grants to key institutions and organizations, the foundation made significant contributions to the welfare of children, while adding tremendously to The American Legion's prestige and public acceptance.

One of the most rapidly expanding aspects of our Child Welfare program is in the field of education and scholarships. The American Legion today is one of the nation's primary sources of information on scholarships and a focal center in the national effort to make adequate educational opportunities available to all qualified young people. This growing program serves a double purpose. Record numbers of young Americans are graduating from high school and are seeking help and guidance to attain higher education. At the same time, the nation is experiencing a critical shortage of trained personnel in many professions and occupations vital to both our welfare and security.

Members of The American Legion may be justifiably proud of the part they have played in the now nearly-completed war against polio. The plaque presented to The American Legion last fall by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis was in recognition of both the financial support of The American Legion departments and posts and



the volunteer help given in the immunization program. The greatly reduced incidence of polio during this past spring and summer is ample reward for those of you who have participated so magnificently in this effort.

Our productive Child Welfare program could not have been carried out so effectively without the generous financial support of the American Legion Auxiliary, Forty and Eight, and the Eight and Forty.

CONVENTION

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN:

Joe H. Adams, Miami, Florida

PRESIDENT, CONVENTION CORPORATION:

A. E. McCormick, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey

This 1957 National Convention of The American Legion is the climax to a year of planning and hard work. Its color, pageantry and success, from the facilities of Convention Hall to our parade, contests and every other aspect of the convention, are the result of a coordinated effort by the National Convention Commission, the New Jersey Convention Corporation, and staff.

Looking to the future, commitments have already been made for the next three national conventions: Chicago in 1958; Minneapolis-St. Paul in 1959, and Boston in 1960. A number of invitations have been received from key cities for conventions after 1960, indicating that our Convention Commission is doing a good job and that The American Legion National Convention enjoys a fine reputation throughout the country.

As a result of action taken by the National Executive Committee at its meeting last May, the Finance Commission has begun laying aside funds each year so that in a period of about four years your national organization will be able to finance its annual convention without having to depend upon the state convention corporation for these funds.

ECONOMIC

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN:

Stanley M. Huffman, Ewing, Nebraska

DIVISION DIRECTOR: Clarence W. Bird

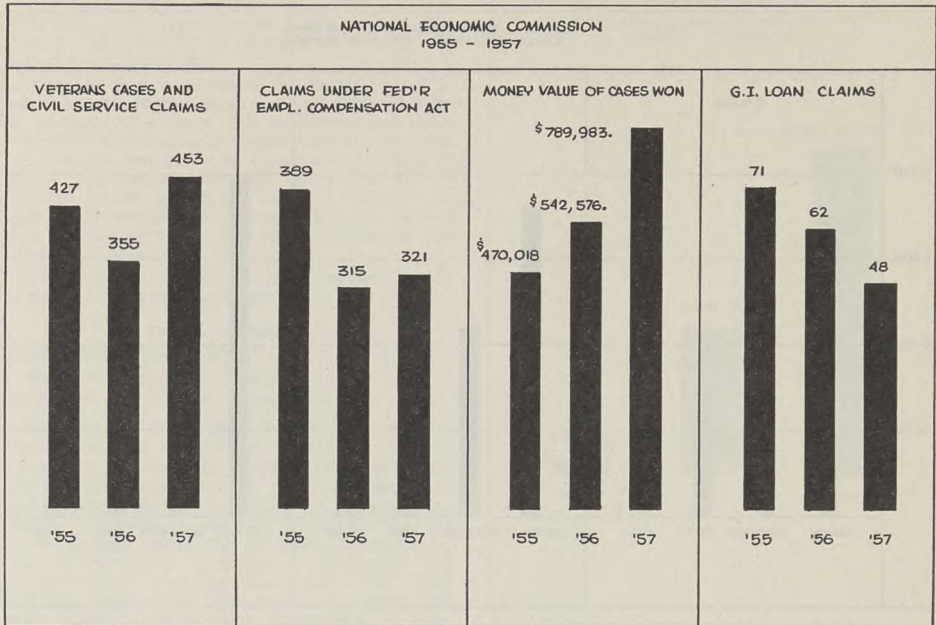
The overwhelming majority of our veterans who gave up their normal civilian pursuits to enter upon military service suffered to some degree economic disabilities. Equalization laws designed to compensate them in some way for the loss are in keeping with our long-standing tradition of fairness and equity.

In representations before the U. S. Civil Service Commission and other government agencies, my representatives strongly presented The American Legion's uncompromising opposition to any weakening or destruction of veterans' preference in federal employment. While constantly under attack this past year, veterans' preference has not been compromised or weakened.

We supported the budget requests of the Veterans' Employment Service and Bureau of Reemployment Rights to enable these agencies to assist older veterans find suitable employment.

A blueprint for effective post and department action in the mutually satisfactory placing of the older veteran in employment has been developed by the commission's Employment Committee. This suggested program will be given to the departments in the near future.

One of the most critical problems with which I was confronted this past year was the question of the G.I. home loan interest rate. The 38th Annual National Convention mandated me to appoint a special five-man committee to consult with housing and finance experts on "procedures necessary to assure a flow of G.I. home loans under private auspices." I appointed this committee, headed by Past National Commander Seaborn P. Collins. After extensive hearings and study, the committee reported that if the G.I. home loan pro-



gram was to continue, interest rates on G.I. loans would have to be competitive with FHA interest rates. It recommended that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs be given the same authority to regulate G.I. home loan interest rates as is presently enjoyed by the FHA administrator.

By mail vote and later at its May 1957 meeting in Indianapolis, the National Executive Committee approved the report and recommendations of the special committee as the official position of The American Legion. Legislation to accomplish the objectives sought by the Legion was introduced in this session of Congress but was not reported out by the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

We successfully opposed enactment of that part of H. R. 6659 which would have created a veterans' loan division in FHA. We reasoned that such a move would be an opening wedge for the transfer of the VA home loan program to FHA and that it would further aggravate the badly-crippled G.I. loan program by attracting whatever funds are available for building purposes.

FINANCE

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN:

Harold P. Redden, Springfield, Massachusetts

COMPTROLLER: **Glenn D. Crawford**

I take satisfaction in reporting to you that on the basis of estimated expenditures for the remainder of the year, our comptroller expects our financial report for the full calendar year 1957 to be in the black. Our finances are today on a sound basis, and our cash position is good. With two exceptions, the operating divisions are operating within their budgets, and in those two cases, the slight overruns are the result of seasonal activity and can be corrected before the end of the year. Your commander has also lived within the budget appropriated for his expenses by the National Executive Committee.

The action of last year's convention in increasing dues from \$1.25 to \$1.50 did not greatly increase available funds during my term of office. An unusually large number of members paid their 1957 dues prior to December 1, 1957, the effective date of the increase. Thus, the full effect of the increase will not be reflected in our financial picture until the calendar year 1958.

For the immediate future, the financing of our national organization appears to be on a satisfactory basis. For the long term, however, the financing of The American Legion, like all of our other activities, is dependent on our ability to stabilize and expand membership.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN:

Addison P. Drummond, Bonifay, Florida

NATIONAL ADJUTANT: **E. A. Blackmore**

DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON OFFICE:

William F. Hauck

PUBLISHER, AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE:

James F. O'Neil (in charge New York Office)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT:

Robert E. Lyngh (Director of Internal Affairs Division)

In addition to its deep idealism and its intensive programs of service, The American Legion must also be judged from the standpoint of its business operations. Your national headquarters alone spends each year in excess of \$5,000,000. The expenditure of many more millions by the departments and the individual posts, as well as our affiliated organizations, is influenced to some degree by the activities of the national organization.

So, The American Legion is big business. How well we organize and administer our internal affairs has a direct bearing on the achievement of

our broad goals. What might be termed the "housekeeping" job of the national organization is the assignment of our Internal Affairs Commission.

In every large organization or business, there is a tendency to continue doing things year after year the way they have been done in the past. This inevitably leads to stagnation.

Like the executive head of any large business, your national commander has the responsibility of seeing to it that our internal operations are efficient, economical and in keeping with the needs of the times. We have made significant progress during the past year in overhauling our administrative machinery.

The operations of our Emblem Sales Section were completely revamped, with the result that we are now servicing orders for organizational merchandise much more efficiently and promptly. The efficiency of this office will continue to improve under the methods and procedures which were instituted this past year. I am deeply indebted to Addison Drummond, chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission, who, without compensation, came to our Indianapolis headquarters last fall to make an intensive study of our Emblem Sales operations. The recommendations which he made were of tremendous help in bringing this segment of our national operations to the present level of efficiency.

Mr. Drummond also, at my request, made a general review of the operations of our National Finance Division. No major changes were found justified in this division.

Three other steps which have increased the effectiveness and efficiency of our national operations were the transfer of our National Security Division and Anti-Subversive Section from Indianapolis to Washington, where liaison with the appropriate agencies of government can be more readily maintained, and the establishment of a Foreign Relations Section under the supervision of the director of the Washington office.

Most of us take pride in our jobs. It is natural for the individual Legionnaire who is active in any one program to come to believe that his particular interest or specialty is the most important in the whole organization. Kept in curb, this human trait lends great strength. Uncurbed, it can lead to internal conflict, jealousy, vying for position, and ultimately "empire building" on the part of the separate commissions and divisions.

Through regular staff meetings which have been instituted this year, a general tightening up of administrative controls, and the improving of communications from the national adjutant's office down, we are striving toward a much more coordinated effort at the national level. In this area great forward strides have been taken.

The regular staff meetings have helped to instill in our employees the fact that The American Legion is a service organization and that we justify our continued existence only by rendering that type of service which was envisioned by those far-sighted men and women who founded our organization.

The new administrative procedures instituted by the national adjutant are minimizing any tendency toward "empire building." The possibility of our divisions' working at cross purposes is being reduced and the concept of team work is being instilled at all levels.

The efficiency of our national headquarters team has been greatly enhanced by the addition of a number of dedicated Legionnaires to our staff. Each new staff member is peculiarly well-equipped for his assignment through his Legion back-

ground, temperament and previous business training.

It is a source of personal pride that, even with the addition of these exceptionally qualified new employees and with the increased efficiency of our national operations, the actual number of employees has been reduced. On August 15, 1956, there were 424 persons on the staff of the national organization. On August 15, 1957, there were 412.

Your national commander wishes to acknowledge his deep appreciation for the work of each of these 412 employees. Those of us who serve The American Legion in the capacity of volunteers are fortunate in having in this corps of full-time staff members persons whose faith in The American Legion has been so deep that they have entrusted to it the economic welfare of themselves and their families.

I would be derelict if I failed to pay tribute to those loyal employees who retired during the past year. During my tenure of office, 13 employees—many of them after devoting their entire adult lives to the service of The American Legion—retired by reason of age.

I also have the sad duty of calling to your attention the death of Carl Morris of our National Emblem Sales office and of Charles J. McCarty of our Rehabilitation staff. It is my fervent prayer that God grant them the peace and rest that He has reserved for those who served Him well.

Membership

I would be less than candid were I not to admit my disappointment in our 1957 membership. The tremendous gains at the beginning of 1957 which melted away in the spring sun made the disappointment even more keen.

Those of you with whom I have worked closely during the past year know that I have devoted to our membership drive every ounce of effort of which I am capable. On the basis of our experience this year, I am absolutely convinced that all of us must take a new, searching look at our entire membership program. I am not suggesting that we abandon ship. But it is definitely time that we check for leaks and repair the life rafts and jackets. The old methods have not proved adequate to the times. The ultimate future of our organization may well depend on the development of new techniques, new procedures, and in fact, new concepts. There must be a compatible marriage of new and old methods to produce a more fruitful result.

As a first step toward the development of such a fresh approach to membership, I have appointed a special committee of distinguished Past National Commanders, headed by Harry Colmery. Their task is to look at our membership problem coldly and objectively and to recommend such changes as may be necessary both in specific membership activities and perhaps in our organization itself as will make it possible for The American Legion to grow and to fulfill its mission.

While admitting disappointment, I am not hopelessly discouraged. Anyone who has traveled over the breadth of the United States as I have knows that there is great life and vigor in The American Legion. Even though we are soon to enter our fortieth year, there is still the bounce of youth. I have no doubt that we will ultimately prove adequate to the challenge.

Reorganization

The essential improvement in The American Legion's financial position has been paralleled by

equally necessary changes in our organizational structure and operation. A broad reorganization program, developed after long study and detailed surveys by a special subcommittee of the National Executive Committee, was started during the past year to streamline and make more effective our major national activities.

Although this reorganization program is little more than just begun, tangible results are already evident. For example, this convention is the first to operate under a new Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions. The code is one of the key features of the reorganization plan. Another result can be found in the broadened and more effective operations of our Public Relations program. This program will be further reorganized to give The American Legion a more modern and complete public relations operation. Ultimately an adequate research and special studies section, incorporating the facilities and experience of the present library organization, will be created as part of the National Public Relations Division. With this addition, and with a streamlined news and information service, proper coordination and editing of internal publications, and specialized personnel and facilities to service all information media, The American Legion story can be told more quickly, effectively and efficiently.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN:

Rogers Kelley, Edinburg, Texas

DIVISION DIRECTOR: William F. Hauck

SECTION CHIEF: Lawrence M. Fornia

The foreign policy of this nation is by necessity of vital concern to all who are interested in the preservation of our American way of life. Today domestic and foreign policy are inseparable. The heroic defenders of freedom would be betrayed if they were physically and mentally rehabilitated only to find themselves living in a slave world. With all of the sincerity that I possess, I urge each of you to develop a passionate interest in our government's international affairs.

As I have traveled over this great country, border to border, coast to coast, I have become convinced that the average American citizen has a far clearer insight into what our foreign policy should be than do many of our so-called experts. There have been several instances this year when our executive and state departments have been completely out of step with the thinking and the convictions of our people. I refer specifically to foreign economic aid and to those international agreements governing the criminal jurisdiction of overseas service personnel. As an alert, dynamic, patriotic organization, we have an inescapable responsibility to encourage all of our fellow citizens to manifest a positive interest in our foreign policy and to make their voices heard by those public officials who formulate and implement that policy.

Following are the major points of The American Legion's Foreign Relations program during the past year:

1. The American Legion has asserted its firm conviction that Soviet Russia has not abandoned, even temporarily, its purpose and policy of world domination. Personality changes in the Kremlin, smiling peace offensives, disarmament proposals and other attempts by the Kremlin to deceive a peace-hungry world have not deceived us. We know that the leaders of the international communist conspiracy are determined to enslave the

world, no matter how long they must wait to achieve this objective. And we know, too, that their word is not to be trusted. Their brutal suppression of the revolt in Hungary is but further proof of this.

2. We have condemned Russian atrocities in Hungary.

3. Opposed any invitation to Marshal Tito to visit the United States.

4. Opposed any form of aid to any Communist, Communist satellite or affiliated country.

5. Continued to oppose U. S. diplomatic recognition of Red China or Red China's admission to the United Nations.

6. Urged the build-up of Republic of Korea, U. S. and allied troops in Korea to meet the illegal military build-up of Communist forces in this vital area of the world.

7. Opposed any relaxation of the embargo against trade with Red China or any other Iron and Bamboo Curtain countries.

8. Warned that the crisis in the Middle East last fall was engineered and directed by the Kremlin and that Egyptian dictator Nasser was but a puppet of Moscow.

9. Supported the military phase of the "Eisenhower Doctrine" in the Middle East.

10. Emphasized that the problem of Arab refugees in the Middle East must be solved before there can be any hope for real stability in this strategic area.

11. Supported the principle of the United Nations but emphasized that the United States should use the UN as an instrument, not a cornerstone, of our foreign policy.

12. Reiterated our continued opposition to U. S. participation in any form of world government.

13. Opposed continuation of the present foreign economic aid program on the basis that this unlimited and unending give-away of America's economic wealth has not won for our nation any new allies or strengthened the bonds of friendship with existing allies.

14. Endorsed the principle of select military aid to allies which have demonstrated their willingness and ability to help defend themselves against Communist infiltration and aggression.

15. Supported the President's "People to People" program, the United States Information Agency (limited to the same operating budget it received last year), and the International Education Exchange Service operated by the Department of State.

16. Urged the Congress to make a thorough and complete study of the proposed International Atomic Energy Agency before the Senate ratified the treaty making the United States a member of that agency. Unfortunately, such an essential study was not made, in our opinion, before this treaty was ratified.

17. Commended the State Department for its forceful and intelligent handling of Red China and the Jordan crises.

We are a benevolent people, and as such we desire to assist those less fortunate than we. This is a basic characteristic of our citizens. We are a peace-loving people, and it is our fervent wish to live at peace with our neighbors throughout the world. However, the American people will never condone appeasement nor do we believe in "peace at any price." Our basic American philosophy has always been that it is better to die fighting for

those things in which we believe than to exist with nothing left in which to believe. We must, therefore, approach the complexities of our foreign relations with intelligence and realism. To do otherwise is to condemn our country to decadence, the graveyard of so many great nations whose people have forsaken their ideals and compromised their principles.

International Agreements

The William S. Girard case has brought into sharp focus the need for a revision of many international agreements. One of the great threats to our security is the undermining of our constitutional rights. Those constitutional guarantees must be held equally sacred for the citizen within our boundaries and for the serviceman on foreign soil. In supporting actions by members of the Congress to modify those international agreements which infringe the rights of servicemen, I have acted in accordance with American Legion mandates of long standing. In my denunciation of the handling of the Girard case, I have consistently stated that our primary concern was not the innocence or guilt of Sergeant Girard but rather the protection of his rights as an American citizen. The American Legion has not, does not now, nor will it ever condone any law violation abroad. It is not our business to convict or absolve Sergeant Girard. It is our business to raise our voices so that young men are not drafted and sent to the four corners of the world to protect our flag and our Constitution only to be denied the protection of that flag and that Constitution. The type of agreement under which Sergeant Girard is held in Japan abridges the very rights that he is in uniform to protect.

Your commander concerned himself with this case from the very beginning and urged the President to sustain the Defense Department in its original claim of primary jurisdiction. When finally the Supreme Court of the United States reversed the decision of the lower court and turned Girard over to the Japanese for trial, Past National Commander Alvin Owsley was sent to Japan as an observer at the trial. This abridgment of Girard's rights as a citizen of the United States should strengthen our determination to have the Status of Forces and similar executive agreements brought back into agreement with the historic interpretation of constitutional guarantees.

Disarmament

The manner in which our chief disarmament representative, Mr. Harold Stassen, has conducted the affairs of his office has raised false hopes in the hearts and minds of freedom-loving people everywhere. We should have all learned by now that the word of the leaders of the Kremlin is without honor. In recent years, the western world has signed 52 agreements with the Soviet Union. The Russian dictatorship has seen fit to break 50 of these agreements.

Recent history reveals that there can be no sane and intelligent approach to disarmament until all parties to such an agreement accept and live by the same set of moral standards. Nuclear weapons in themselves pose no threat to freedom. It is only when they are placed in the hands of despots, such as those ruling the slave world today, that they become a menace to mankind. It is my earnest hope, my fervent prayer, and my recommendation to this convention that we adopt a policy which will continue to advance our technological advantage in armament until the dictators learn to live by the golden rule rather than the iron rule.

Visit of Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia to the United States

When it became apparent that the Communist dictator of Yugoslavia was to be invited to this country for an official state visit, I immediately voiced the vigorous disapproval of The American Legion. A bill of particulars was presented to the nation, showing the infamous history of the Tito regime. We stated first that by allowing Tito to visit our shores we would confer upon him recognition and respectability that he did not deserve, and second, that his visit was contrary to our national interests. Tito's own record shows him to be as ruthless and fanatical a Communist as Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev. Political murders, the imprisonment of church leaders, double-dealing diplomacy have marked the rise of this unprincipled opportunist. The position and prestige of our government would not be enhanced, nor would the cause of peace be furthered, were we to lower ourselves to the position of atheistic, sadistic criminals, whether they represent so-called independent Communist parties or the Kremlin revolutionary type. Our future does not lie in the promotion of one so-called brand against the other, but in the eradication of both. To date Marshal Tito has not found it expedient to pay us a visit. The American Legion can assure him today that he will never find a welcome here by the patriotic American people.

Middle East

Delegates to the Thirty-eighth National Convention in Los Angeles last September recognized the imminent danger of a shooting war in the Middle East and directed that a special study be made of that strategic area. To carry out that mandate, your national commander, along with Past National Commanders Paul H. Griffith and Lewis K. Gough, and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission, Rogers Kelley, undertook an on-the-spot survey. Our investigation was halted by the eruption of hostilities in the Middle East on October 30. The hatreds and passions existing in the area were of such magnitude that the climate was not conducive to objectivity.

I was in the Middle East a comparatively short time and do not pose as an expert. However, after talking with men and women from all walks of life and after reading Col. Nasser's own book, "Egyptian Liberation," I am convinced that Col. Nasser is a fanatical dictator, captivated by his own subjective thinking. I am further convinced that he is dominated, if not completely controlled, by the Soviet Union. Economic conditions in some of the Arab countries, such as Egypt and Syria, render them almost ineffective from the standpoint of prosecuting modern warfare. These same conditions, however, expose these nations to exploitation by the rulers of the Kremlin.

In July it was my privilege to return to the Middle East, where I spent a week, mostly in Israel. While there I visited the Gulf of Aqaba area, witnessed the display of Russian equipment captured in the Sinai Desert at Haifa, toured portions of the Gaza Strip, where I conferred with members of the United Nations Supervisory Team, and was briefed by Col. Mosheh Dian, Chief of Staff of the Israel Army, and by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion. In my judgment, conditions in this area have improved to the benefit of the western world. The passions and the hatreds still exist. But those elements that normally lead to war have been stabilized. There are several reasons for this more favorable climate—first, the electrifying and dramatic defeat, during the 100-

hour Suez Campaign, of Col. Nasser's Russian-equipped army; and, second, the willingness of our government to flex the muscles of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean at a strategic and timely moment.

The Red bosses in the Kremlin will continue to test our determination in the area. Currently they have ordered their stooges to take over in Syria. They are stepping up their re-equipment of the Egyptian Army and are shipping war materiel to Yemen.

The lack of resolution and the unwillingness of our government to give moral support to our allies—England, France and Israel—in the Middle East crisis were keenly disappointing. In this instance, we were placed in the ridiculous position of condoning our enemies and condemning our allies. It is not inconceivable that the new crisis which is now developing was encouraged by that action. The present situation bears the most careful scrutiny, as it threatens the security of our friends and ultimately ourselves. The times demand the closest cooperation and coordination with our proven allies.

Foreign Aid

I appeared before a joint session of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees in connection with hearings on Senate Joint Resolution No. 19, dealing with economic and military aid to the Middle East. I commended the committees for the constructive and intelligent approach which they took to this sensitive and complex issue. They submitted the problem to the most searching examination. They heard the opinions of many organizations and individuals. This, in my judgment, was a wise course, thoroughly consistent with the wishes of the vast majority of American citizens. I advised the committees that The American Legion would support the Administration's request for authority to use force in the Middle East to retard Communist expansion. This position was taken because a clearly understood position of strength and determination has always proved effective in dealing with dictators in the Kremlin and elsewhere. It was effective in the case of the Berlin blockade, Turkey, Greece and Formosa, and our position was further vindicated by the partial application of the doctrine in the case of Jordan.

The economic phase of the program was opposed in the form presented because, if recent history proves anything, it proves that you cannot buy friends over the bargain counter as you would common merchandise. Economic aid to foreign countries both friendly and unfriendly has proven itself ineffective as a long-term instrument of foreign policy.

Since the end of World War II, we have spent over \$53 billion on aid to foreign countries. In some cases, the beneficiaries were allies, and we were told that our generosity would guarantee their friendship. In others, the recipients were so-called neutrals, and we were told that our gifts would win their respect for American leadership. In some instances we even helped Communist nations under the fallacy that this would encourage them to throw off Communist domination.

During this period when we have been pouring our national inheritance into the bottomless pit of foreign aid, approximately one-third of the earth's population in 15 once-free nations disappeared behind the iron and bamboo curtains. Economic give-aways must stop. We cannot continue to give away what we do not have. The continuance of foreign aid will place an economic millstone

around the necks of our children and our children's children.

A recent public opinion poll in India points out vividly how utterly foolish these give-aways programs are in terms of winning friends and influencing people. The citizens of India were asked by an institute of public opinion there to rate four world leaders. In the eyes of Mr. Nehru's so-called neutral followers, Chou En Lai, Foreign Minister of Red China, was rated 85 per cent. The Russian-sponsored, fanatical dictator, Colonel Nasser of Egypt, came in second with 82.9 per cent. A total of 68.2 per cent favored the off-again-on-again "independent Communist" Tito of Yugoslavia. The giver of gifts which we cannot afford and which obviously are not appreciated, our own President, Mr. Eisenhower, received a 36.6 per cent rating. Many of the countries receiving the largess of our resources are victims of their own economic systems.

We cannot expect such nations to become economically independent as long as we reward their inefficiency with handouts to seal their fatal flaws. On the other hand, private investment and technological advice could serve as a great incentive to efficiency, industry and thrift in these nations. We must encourage our government to do everything possible to stimulate the free nations of the world to start helping themselves. Beyond this, we must convince the Congress that it must act decisively to save what is left of our solvency by ending the give-away of our national wealth. If, in our attempt to shoulder the financial burden of the world, we allow our own resources to be dissipated, then we will have served no man well.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN:

William R. Burke, Los Angeles, California

DIVISION DIRECTOR: **James V. Day**

Servicing all of our major programs and promoting specialized projects and material to tell The American Legion's story to the American people during the past year has been our public relations program.

It has been an expanding program and one which, while carrying out the broadening and increasingly complex functions required by modern communications and The American Legion's greater realization of the need for effective public relations, has also undergone considerable reorganization.

Headed by a new director, who assumed office upon my election, the Public Relations Division has added new personnel to replace retiring staff members, realigned and reassigned job functions, and laid the groundwork for the necessary, sweeping changes directed by the National Executive Committee on the recommendations of its Special Subcommittee on Reorganization.

Based on my own close observations of and identification with the operations of the Public Relations Division this year and upon my previous experience as chairman of the National Public Relations Commission, I submit that our public relations program today is now in a position to provide improved and expanded service to all information media, including press, radio and television. Further, as the reorganization directed by the National Executive Committee is effected, our public relations program will reflect the improved coordination and operating efficiency which must be obtained if the Legion story is to be told with maximum effectiveness and economy.

Our public relations program this year got off to a flying start with outstanding coverage of the 38th National Convention in Los Angeles last September. For my own part I have tried to maintain this momentum throughout the year as I traveled approximately 100,000 miles visiting our various departments. The office of national commander, by its very nature, is one of the principal news and publicity sources of The American Legion. Addresses I was privileged to make before Legion audiences were carried on local, regional or network broadcasts either live or taped for later re-broadcast. In addition, I participated in press conferences, radio and TV interviews in every department and virtually every community I was privileged to visit. The extent of this coverage and the news value of addresses, statements, Congressional testimony and other information material which it was my responsibility to deliver or authorize for distribution are evidenced by the fact that during the year ending June 30, 1957, the National Public Relations Division received an average of 1,000 press clippings a month having to do exclusively with the national commander. Clipping services claim they provide only about 25 per cent coverage of all items printed. Thus, it can be estimated that during the past year the national commander of The American Legion received an average of 1,000 newspaper mentions a week. This is in addition to radio and television coverage.

Among the special programs and projects promoted by the National Public Relations Division this past year were the National Commander's Homecoming at Danville, Va.; our third annual Veterans' Day observance centered in New Orleans, La.; the annual "Back to God" telecast over CBS-TV network on Sunday, February 3, 1957, commemorating the 14th anniversary of the sinking of the troopship *Dorchester*, in which the famed four chaplains gave their lives; and The American Legion Birthday salute over the Ted Malone Show, carried by more than 200 ABC radio network stations on March 15, 1957.

Other programs supported by public relations included the 12th annual Boys Nation, held in Washington, July 19-26, 1957, all area Child Welfare and membership conferences, and meetings of our national commissions and committees.

The American Legion film library in Indianapolis serviced a record number of requests from posts this past year. Also reaching a new high in service was The American Legion Press Association, with a record membership of 900 department and post publication editors.

The American Legion News Service, the printed Clip Sheet, and a cartoon mat service were also provided by the National Public Relations Division to our departments and posts to help tell The American Legion's story. This effort will be climaxed this fall with the publication and distribution of a 16-page comic book entitled "Saved by the Bell!" which presents the Legion's story in a dramatically new visual manner. The booklet is now available to all posts.

That our public relations program has been so successful in telling The American Legion's story this past year and obtaining greater public acceptance of our programs and policies in the face of staff reorganization, expansion and change is proof of the sound, mature, constructive nature of our national programs and policies. Our program must continue to expand as conditions will permit in order to take full advantage of public relations consciousness.

During this busy year it has been my privilege to make some 550 speeches and to hold more than 100 press conferences. To my knowledge, only on one occasion was I misquoted by the press. In that instance, the wire service responsible sent an immediate correction to all of its subscribers and forwarded a letter of apology to me. My own experience has given me a deepened appreciation of the basic fairness and of the intelligence of the men and women who serve the press, radio and television of the nation.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN:

John Stelle, McLeansboro, Illinois

PUBLISHER: James F. O'Neill

Although the Publications Commission reports some decline in revenue in 1957 as compared with 1956, the advertising staff of the *Magazine* has been completely reorganized during the year, a new sales office opened, and other measures taken which it is hoped will enable *The American Legion Magazine* to overcome a trend somewhat general to the entire national magazine field.

You who are regular readers of the *Magazine* are aware of its high editorial quality. One of the new features—the Washington "Pro and Con" page—has been warmly received and is expected to become a permanent part of the publication.

All of our major programs have been publicized through the *Magazine* to the extent space has permitted. Its pages offer the only direct channel of communication between the national organization and the individual Legionnaire. On several occasions during the year, I have made use of the *Magazine* to bring messages of unusual importance to American Legionnaires.

Staff and commission discussions between the *Magazine* and public relations have been instituted with the goal of more closely coordinating the activities of these two groups, and we are anticipating fruitful results from this development.

In circulation, *The American Legion Magazine* today stands first in the men's magazine field, 10th among monthlies, and 15th among all magazines. It remains a very potent instrument for knitting The American Legion into a cohesive unit and for assisting in the achievement of all our objectives.

REHABILITATION

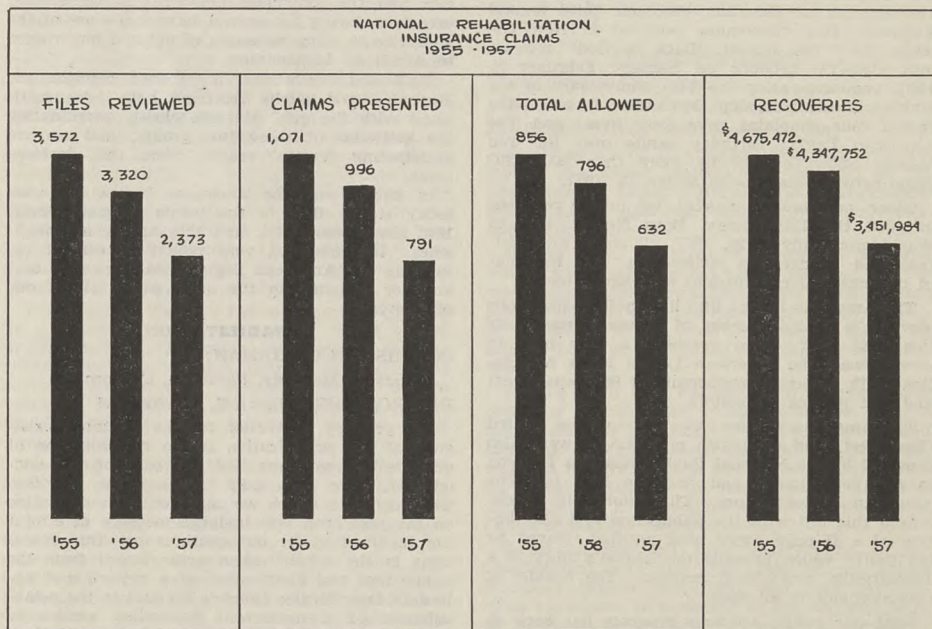
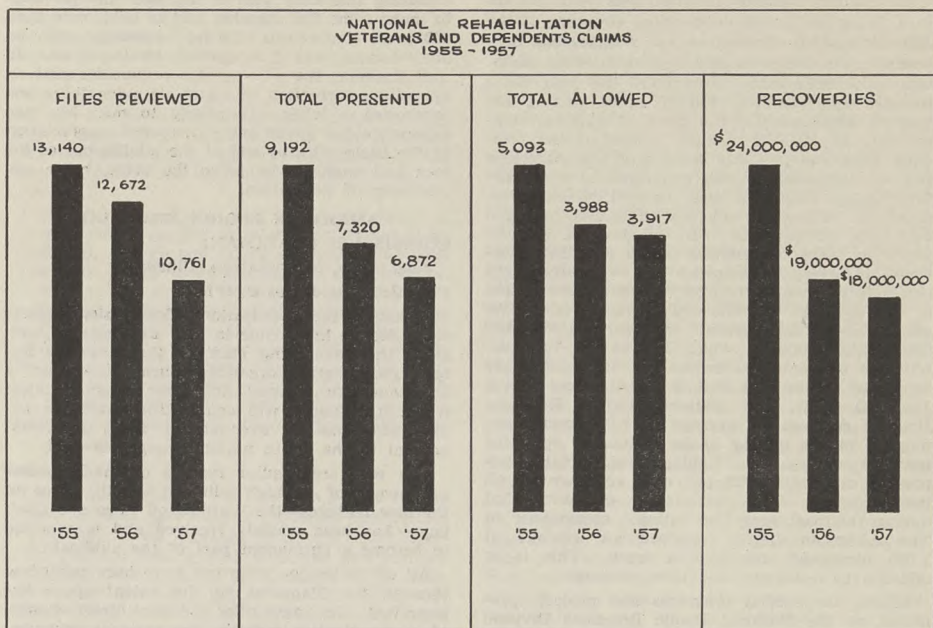
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN:

Robert M. McCurdy, Pasadena, California

DIVISION DIRECTOR: T. O. Kraabel

The primary motivation for the continued existence of our organization is the rehabilitation of our disabled veterans and the care of the widows of those who paid the supreme sacrifice. The degree to which we carry out this obligation on the post level will in large measure determine the justification for our continuance. Our operations in the rehabilitation area ranged from the publication and distribution of a revised and up-to-date Post Service Officer's Manual to the establishment of a nationwide counseling service to assist thousands of widows, dependent children and parents of service-connected deceased veterans in analyzing the Servicemen's and Veterans' Survivor Benefits Act (Public Law 881, 84th Congress), which went into effect January 1, 1957.

Our Rehabilitation staff in Washington had worked for two years with the House Select Committee in the drafting and enactment of this extremely complex law. As a result of this first-



hand experience, our staff was adequately equipped to provide counseling for beneficiaries of the Act. In addition to establishing and maintaining this service, in cooperation with department service officers, the division also assigned a staff specialist to the task of analyzing the Act, answering inquiries about it, speaking on it at department, area and national conferences and formulating

recommendations for amending and improving the law.

Other important activities and accomplishments of the National Rehabilitation Division during the past year include:

1. Continued surveys, in cooperation with the Field Service, of VA general medical and surgical hospitals and interviews with veteran patients in

these facilities. The results of these surveys were made available to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Executive Office of the President.

2. Testimony by the director and staff members before appropriate Congressional committees on such matters as increases in compensation benefits for service-connected disabled veterans, adjustments in salaries for VA doctors and professional personnel, adequacy of funds for VA, increased training facilities for nurses, and proposed revision or initiation of discharge certificates.

3. Analyses of proposals, reports, surveys and recommendations of government and non-government groups to reduce or eliminate existing veteran benefits.

4. Participation in American Legion and Auxiliary Area Rehabilitation Conferences.

5. Handling the continued comparatively heavy workload of claims and appeals.

I have been able to follow the progress and problems of the National Rehabilitation Division, and all other divisions as well, through monthly reports furnished me by the director. It is obvious from these reports and from constant observation in Washington and in the field, that our National Rehabilitation Division has increased its effectiveness during the past year. The division is entering a difficult period of transition as the mantle of leadership and responsibility is transferred from retiring World War I staff members to our younger World War II rehabilitation officials.

The early history of The American Legion shows beyond doubt that it was the plight of the disabled veteran which originally provided the motivating force for the rapid expansion of the then new organization. We grew and became a

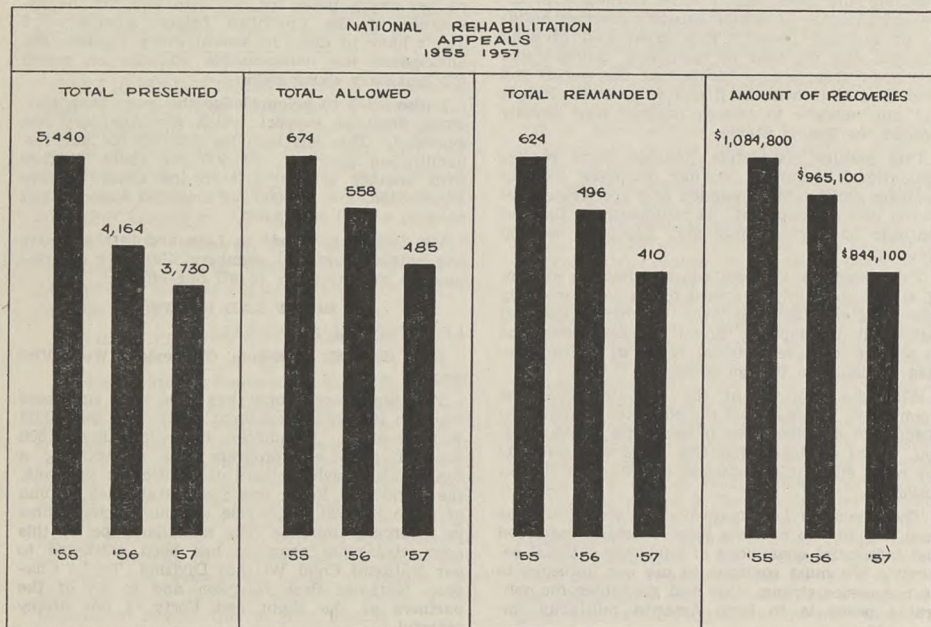
great national force as we demonstrated our willingness and ability to meet the rehabilitation problems of the returning World War I veteran.

Again, following World War II and the Korean War, The American Legion through its Rehabilitation program smoothed the adjustment of millions of returning servicemen and women to civilian life. The G. I. Bill of Rights and its companion Korean Bill of Rights were written largely from the experience of American Legion service officers. And the volunteer post service officer, schooled in the technicalities of his work and steeped in the tradition of service, must continue as a key officer of every American Legion Post.

On our staff we have experts in practically every aspect of Rehabilitation. Their work in representing veterans has resulted in the allowance of claims for veterans and their dependents amounting to more than \$18 million. In addition, another approximately \$4½ million was recovered in insurance claims. Yet these were only the unusual cases which eventually reached our national headquarters. The primary rehabilitation task still remains in the individual post. Most of the claims handled in the national office would have never reached that level had it not been for the initial work of the local service officer.

This past year, as our legislative report shows, we have experienced unusual success in obtaining needed changes in law relating to veterans' equalization. One of the primary reasons for this success is that our requests to the Congress have been based on demonstrable need, supported by first-hand experience. The complete pattern of veteran equalization is not yet what The American Legion believes it should be. Undoubtedly this convention will have further recommendations to make in this area.

The American Legion will speak with authority on veterans' affairs only so long as our post



service officers remain in intimate touch with the problems of veterans throughout the nation. Those problems are constantly changing. The inevitable toll of passing years, changing economic and social conditions, all require flexibility in our approach to the Rehabilitation program. But, whatever changes may come in methods and procedures, the underlying spirit of service to our fellow veterans must never change.

NATIONAL SECURITY

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN:

Will F. Nicholson, Denver, Colorado

DIVISION DIRECTOR: **James R. Wilson**

The most dramatic military development during the past year was the revolt in Hungary last fall and the brutal, ruthless manner in which Soviet military forces crushed this revolt.

Neither the use of this force nor its overpowering strength was surprising to us. We have long warned that Soviet Russia still has as its primary goal the domination of the world, Communist peace offensive and disarmament proposals to the contrary notwithstanding. It has been my policy to give our fellow citizens an accurate and honest picture of the cost, in money, manpower and material, of building and maintaining a defense structure capable of deterring or defeating Communist aggression.

The national security program we have carried out is predicated, first, on the fact that our national security and foreign policy are inseparable. If our foreign policy is to be dynamic, strong and effective, it must be backed up by military force capable of carrying out its commitments. The essential military security program we advocate is also based on the realization that in the international arena the Soviet Union has emerged as the second greatest physical power in the world.

During the past year I have warned with increased urgency of Soviet Russia's feverish build-up of military power. This great and growing strength will be used to intimidate, subvert and overthrow free nations throughout the world, and when and if it believes it can win, Soviet Russia will not hesitate to launch nuclear war directly against the United States.

This picture completely justifies those recommendations contained in our national security program calling for expanded and accelerated research and development. It is imperative that we continue to perfect new and improved weapon systems.

The American Legion's concern for the welfare of all members of our armed forces was forcefully demonstrated this past year by our support of legislation to improve career attractiveness and to protect the constitutional rights of our servicemen stationed in foreign countries.

With the approval of the National Executive Committee, I transferred the National Security Division and director from Indianapolis to Washington. I am confident that this move will result in the more efficient, economical operation of the division.

The American Legion throughout its history has been one of the nation's most constant, informed and influential champions of adequate national security. We must continue to use our influence to keep America strong. Our best guarantee for honorable peace is to keep America militarily impregnable.

FORTY AND EIGHT

CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER:

Chester F. Naumowicz, Maryland

I count as one of the major accomplishments of the year the re-establishment of more cordial relations between the Forty and Eight and its parent organization, The American Legion. In the overwhelming majority of departments, the posts and Voitures are working together as a coordinated team.

Chet Naumowicz has given statesmanlike leadership to the Forty and Eight and I want to thank him for the complete cooperation he and all of his officers have given me. I am disappointed that greater benefit in terms of increased membership did not accrue as a result. However, we can expect the full measure of increased effectiveness resulting from our re-united efforts to be felt in the immediate future.

One of my pleasant duties was to accept from Chef Naumowicz the Forty and Eight's check for \$50,000 to assist in the operation of our National Child Welfare program. My sincere appreciation goes to the Forty and Eight for the resumption of this annual gift to one of our major programs and for its loyal cooperation.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

NATIONAL PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Carl W. Zeller, Gibsonburg, Ohio

The real credit for many American Legion accomplishments rightfully belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary. Rehabilitation, Child Welfare, Americanism, Legislation—there is not an American Legion program which has not been strengthened by the participation of the Auxiliary.

More words cannot express my deep gratitude to Auxiliary President Leta Zeller for her unflinching cooperation and magnificent support this past year. It would be misleading to say that I called on her many times for her help and for the assistance of the American Legion Auxiliary. I didn't have to ask. In almost every instance she anticipated the indispensable contribution which the Auxiliary could make.

I also wish to acknowledge the more than generous financial support which the Auxiliary has extended. This has included \$25,000 for our Rehabilitation program, \$20,000 for Child Welfare with another \$10,000 gift to the Child Welfare Foundation, and \$20,000 for a special Americanism project, a total of \$75,000.

My deepest gratitude to Leta and to the nearly one million Auxiliary members who have contributed so magnificently to all our efforts.

EIGHT AND FORTY

LE CHAPEAU NATIONAL:

Mrs. Bess E. Harrison, Charleston, West Virginia

The Eight and Forty has this year surpassed itself in its always excellent support of our Child Welfare effort. In addition to contributing \$2,500 for our direct-aid program and maintaining a fund to help sick mothers of children of veterans, the Eight and Forty this year established a fund of some \$10,000 to provide advanced scholarships in tubercular nursing. The administration of this new scholarship program has been entrusted to our National Child Welfare Division. To Le Chapeau National Bess Harrison and to all of the partners of the Eight and Forty, I am deeply grateful.

CONCLUSION

Other aspects of our operations not included here will be found in the report of the national adjutant.

The names of the commission chairmen along with the paid directors of our principal divisions are listed in the foregoing report for proper recognition and ready reference.

To each of these gentlemen and to all members and personnel working under their direction and supervision, to our governing body between conventions—the National Executive Committee, including past national commanders—to my personal secretaries and writers who have served me so well—Edna Cook, Betty Gleen, Terry Hoye, Hollis Hull, Roberta Humbird, Freda O'Donald, Elizabeth Riddick Smith, Eileen Tharp, and Sallye Young—thank you most sincerely for your loyal, effective and intelligent support, cooperation, advice and counsel.

To my family—my wife, Ruby, my son, Jimmie, my mother and father—to the management of Dan River Mills, Inc. (my employer), to my advisers, my own Post 97, and to the membership of my department—my never-ending gratitude for your demonstrated and sympathetic understanding and moral assistance.

By every standard of measurement except membership, The American Legion has enjoyed a reasonably successful year. Our major national programs were generally advanced in keeping with our mandates, objectives and purposes. I am optimistic and confident that our membership will be stabilized and increased in the years ahead. Our public relations program will win for The American Legion further public recognition and support as it tells our story more effectively. And we will continue to improve our financial stability and the soundness of our organization.

A year ago I said that I had but one objective, and that was to advance the programs and ideals of The American Legion. The challenge is never-ending. So let us get on with meeting it now. Let us advance the cause which claims the first allegiance of all Legionnaires—the cause of preserving and strengthening the America we all love.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DANIEL:
And now for the purpose of presenting the Medallion to the city of Los Angeles, the city in which we held our last convention, the Chair takes great pleasure in presenting to you Past National Commander Lewis K. Gough.

It will be received by a member of our National Finance Commission, Leon V. McCardle, who is representing the mayor of Los Angeles.

PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

By Past National Commander Lewis K. Gough

I want to keep you right here for just a moment, Dan. Last evening I had the honor to represent you and to receive an award presented over the National Broadcasting System national network on a program that is dedicated in large part to youth, to the talent of youth.

This award was to acknowledge your contribution in the field of youth. It is a very beautiful award. Millions of viewers had the opportunity of seeing the presentation made. Of course, they were all sorry that you were not there. I was honored to receive this in your behalf.

"To Commander W. C. 'Dan' Daniel of The American Legion: For his many services to American youth, for his great contributions to Americanism. On the Ted Mack Show, NBC, September 16, 1957."

Dan, this will look fine in your new office in Dan River Mills. It is an award that is very, very much worthwhile and deserving.

As we assemble here today beside the blue Atlantic for our Thirty-ninth Convention of this great patriotic association of loyal Americans, in this glamorous community of Atlantic City, let us turn back a page in our history to another convention adjoining another ocean—this time the blue Pacific—where one year ago we gathered in that great city of Los Angeles for our Thirty-eighth National Convention.

The city baptized "La Cuidad de Nuestra Señora La Reina de Los Angeles"—but better known as "Los Angeles" was then our host.

The city and county of Los Angeles have been generous and hospitable hosts to three national conventions of The American Legion in 1938, 1950 and 1956. Our conclaves there have reflected the vigor which stemmed from our meeting amid sunshine and orange groves.

I sincerely appreciate the privilege accorded me by Commander Daniel of paying tribute to Los Angeles for courtesies extended to us—as I say with pride that I am a native Californian, born in that great city. A native son there is a rarity, however, as America's fastest growing metropolis has achieved its present stature as our most dynamic city by a migration of people from almost every state and community throughout the whole of these United States. It occurs to me sometimes it is appropriate to say, "Breathes there a man with soul so dead, who never to himself hath said . . . 'I have relatives in Los Angeles'?"

Legionnaires remember well this heart-warming festivity of a year ago. We recollect with pleasure a sun-kissed vacation on sandy beaches, in shady mountain glens and in glamorous Hollywood. We will never forget the extravaganzas made possible by the participation of filmland's greatest stars, who contributed so much of time and talent for our enjoyment.

In a more serious mood we are mindful of achievements of our last convention, where we accomplished so much to further the interests of our comrades disabled, the widows and orphans, and to bring new emphasis to the patriotic programs of national defense and Americanism. The press, television and radio facilities in this, the communication capital of the West, gave us coverage to inform the nation of our efforts.

Conventions don't just happen. The city government, the county government, the motion picture industry, the Chamber of Commerce and business interests and the local Legion cooperation of Los Angeles all made our stay enjoyable and successful and we are deeply appreciative.

I am honored indeed to present The American Legion Medallion to the city of Los Angeles in recognition of its fine hospitality and cooperation extended to us last year. Present here today to receive this award is the popular and personable Leon McCardle, the Honorable Treasurer of Los Angeles and a long-time member of the Legion's Finance Committee. Mr. McCardle was one of those directly responsible for the success of our last convention, and Mayor Norris Poulson delegated him as the recipient of the medallion.