

Carson-Wilson Post News

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NO. 18

AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER SEES THREAT TO UNITED STATES SECURITY

ASSERTS MILITARY PLAN 'BEING SACRIFICED ON ALTAR OF EXPEDIENCY'

For one hundred and sixty-two years the experiment in popular government we call American democracy has marched steadily forward. It has survived trials by fire and by error because always there were men and women who believed the keeping of personal freedoms was worth personal sacrifice.

The need for that faith was never more pressing than it is today.

Your congressmen and your senators have just convened what may very well be the most momentous session in the history of the United States Congress. They are your servants. They were elected by your votes and are charged with the responsibility of translating your beliefs into national legislation which will determine the course of the government you control.

With all the fervor and sincerity at my command, I appeal to you to make absolutely sure that these legislators speak with your voice and manifest your will during the months to come.

The American Legion believes there are certain decisive steps which the present Congress must take to give a real priority to domestic security and world peace. I shall speak candidly today about these steps and your opportunity, as citizens, to assure their realization in 1948.

HOUSING

Of ranking importance on the American Legion's calendar of action is veterans' housing.

During two years of constant activity on the housing front, we have found that very few people are concerned about doing anything real to solve the veterans' housing problem. The American Legion has prepared and has introduced into the Congress legislation which we believe will enable veterans to do the job themselves.

The name of this legislation is the Veterans' Homestead Act of 1948. Its single purpose is to afford ex-GIs an opportunity to obtain decent living quarters for themselves and their families at a cost

they can afford to pay.

Briefly, this bill would authorize the Veterans Administration to charter non-profit corporations formed by five or more World War II veterans. The corporations—or Veterans Homestead Associations—would then build or buy housing for sale or rent to member veterans. Their operations would be supervised by the Veterans Administration and financed by the sale of federally-guaranteed bonds carrying low interest rates.

As a result of the non-profit feature, mass buying and construction, the lower interest rate and other provisions, the Homestead Plan would make possible a reduction of from 20 to 25 per cent in the veterans' monthly payment for rent or purchase of a home.

Already, 25 members of the House of Representatives have introduced identical copies of the Homestead Bill in Congress. It was my privilege to testify when the House Committee on Veterans Affairs opened hearings on the bill last month. Hearings will be resumed in the very near future.

The American Legion believes enactment of the Veterans' Homestead Act will not only expedite the readjustment of America's veterans but also speed our return to a sound and secure national economy. We ask your personal support in the fight to obtain early congressional approval of this vital housing legislation.

REHABILITATION

Veterans' rehabilitation is another field in which the present Congress must take resolute action.

The income ceilings imposed upon veterans in institutional and on-the-job training by the 79th Congress continue to work a hardship on thousands of ex-GIs. In order to revive interest and participation in these programs, The American Legion calls for elimination of the ceilings.

We also are going to ask for an in-
cluded the members that there still
(Continued on next Page)

HIGH SPOTS AT THE MEETING

By JACOB STERNBACH

Mr. C. O. Willson, editor of The Oil and Gas Journal, took us for a trip to Alaska via the slides he showed. He told us of the importance of the Polar Region as an aid in the future of aviation. Describing the problems of the United States Navy in their search for oil in Alaska, he mentioned some of the difficulties involved in shipping supplies there. If you think it is cold here at 16 to 35 degrees above, how do you suppose they feel in Alaska where it drops as low as 60 degrees below? We heard that when the thermometer climbs up to zero up there, the people feel so hot they take off their outer garments and bask in the sunshine.

V. V. Veach, sick and visitation chairman, made his sick report.

Alex Faulkner, on the Cavalcade of Stars committee, made a report that the Spastic Fund of the 40 and 8 would receive 25% of the ticket sales after certain expenses were deducted.

Sam Burnham, entertainment chairman, said that the Saturday night dances will be resumed. This Saturday night there is to be a "hot" orchestra that will grind out music that many younger Legionnaires will love.

Floyd Long, County Commander, on the committee for the arrangement of the Freedom Parade which is to be held in conjunction with the arrival of the Freedom Train on January 24th, said that the parade is to start from 5th and Elgin at 11 a. m. sharp. All Legionnaires are invited to attend. Be there at 10:30 a. m. Floyd mentioned that there would be an 85-piece band in full uniform. Suggesting that the Legion feed this band at the conclusion of the parade, he made a motion that the proceeds of the Saturday night dance be used for that purpose. The motion was duly passed.

Allen E. Barrow, Adjutant, read a couple of letters. One from Ferman O'Hara who at the present is working in an airplane factory in California; and the other from the secretary to General Pat J. Hurley, in which the General expressed his acceptance of an invitation to the dinner to National Commander O'Neil.

Commander Harry Halley reminded us about one hundred tickets
(Continued on Page 2)

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DEXTER MOSS, JR. Editor
GREGG CHANCELLOR Editorial Staff
EDNA ALLEN Editorial Staff
JACOB STERNBACH Editorial Staff
CHARLIE CLARK Advertising Mgr.
ADVERTISING OFFICE
818 South Chyenne
Phone 2-9196
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8 p. m. Visiting Legionnaires Welcome

High Spots—

(Continued from Page 1)

available for the above mentioned dinner.

J. Earl Simpson told of the Freedom Train Patriotic show being held Friday evening, January 23rd at Convention Hall. Groups from military and kindred services of the United States will be represented. Great events in the history of our country will be dramatized. This show is open to the public and admission is free.

Get your 1948 membership dues paid up and become a Sooner.
Remember: The Sooner the Better

The Veterans Administration now received about 14,500,000 pieces of mail a month at its central, its branch and its regional offices.

The Ohio American Legion now has 741 posts as the result of chartering 15 new World War II "chapters."

Commander's Speech—

(Continued from Page 1)

crease in the subsistence allowance paid veterans in institutional and on-the-job training to meet the soaring cost of living.

Lack of personnel and funds is hampering the operation of available Veterans Administration hospitals. It is imperative that Congress relieve this situation.

The American Legion will press for extension of the education and training benefits of the G. I. Bill of Rights to the widows of war dead who have not remarried. We will push legislation to provide government assistance in furnishing special homes for paraplegic (paralyzed) veterans. We will request that veterans be accorded Social Security credit for war service at the rate of one hundred and sixty dollars per month.

The American Legion will continue to exert every effort for the best possible hospital and medical care for ill and disabled veterans. The hospital construction program of the Veterans Administration is at last making progress. The American Legion continues to aid in the recruiting of doctors and nurses needed to staff both new and existing hospitals.

Mr. Carl R. Gray, the new Veterans Administrator, already has taken significant steps to iron out the very serious wrinkles in the VA insurance program. When I met Mr. Gray immediately following his appointment, I pledged the full cooperation of The American Legion in solving this and other administrative problems confronting the Veterans Administration.

NATIONAL SECURITY

As veterans of two global wars in which America paid an astronomical price for military unpreparedness, the three and one quarter million members of The American Legion share a compelling appetite for national security. The American Legion is convinced that the only democratic and practical foundation for a national security structure lies in adoption of Universal Military Training for the youth of the nation.

I will say at this time that The American Legion is a devoted believer in and firm supporter of The United Nations. As veterans, we know war best and hate it the most. We have the strongest desire of all for peace, but until that desire is transformed into a lawful world body, capable of effectively dealing with international problems and disputes, we believe America must be prepared to meet force with force. A bully doesn't pick a fight unless he believes he can win.

This conviction finds expression today in the greatest educational and promotional campaign ever waged by any American service organization. We believe the time and the effort which Legionnaires all over the country are exerting for the purpose of vocalizing support for Universal Military Training are

being profitably spent. Our energies are expendable. The lives of our children which Universal Military Training would protect and enhance are not expendable.

We have succeeded thus far in spotlighting Universal Military Training as a vital issue of the hour. Public awareness of its importance to the future welfare of the nation is great and growing. Where Universal Military Training was accorded vague and casual attention a year ago, it is now widely recognized and evaluated as a significant issue on the national scene. The initials, UMT, are more and more a standard item in newspaper headlines. For arousing public interest and expression on this security measure, Legionnaires at the post and department level and their allies in The American Legion's drive for UMT, merit the gratitude of every thinking American.

Many of the minority of Americans who have opposed Universal Military Training so vehemently in the past now realize the error of their ways. Debates on public platforms, congressional hearings, and dispassionate appraisal of the issues involved, have dissipated many prejudices and misunderstandings which have resulted in opposition to UMT in the past.

It is household knowledge that UMT would protect rather than curtail our cherished individual liberties—that UMT would multiply rather than disrupt educational opportunities for our youngsters. For Universal Military Training is TRAINING, not conscription. It is compulsory in the sense that universal education and taxation are compulsory. Fear that military preparedness leads to war was dispelled by the discovery of Nazi war documents which affirmed that Hitler went to war when he did because France, England and America were NOT prepared.

Henry Wallace condemns UMT. He urges instead a program for peace and prosperity. If Mr. Wallace will examine UMT, he will find it offers one of the most practical means of securing the peace and safeguarding prosperity.

I say that legislators who oppose UMT for reasons expounded by isolationists, dreamers, pacifists and others are bartering with the lives of Americans and the peaceful world we seek to build.

The only domestic group with a logical reason for fighting UMT legislation is the communist party. The communists are against UMT, on orders from the Kremlin, on the very good reason that Soviet Russia wants a weak United States—a sitting target for possible future operations.

Stalling congressional tactics are no defense against lightning attacks.

The time for you to get in your licks for Universal Military Training legislation is NOW. The Congress will resume consideration of this bill in the very near future. Let YOUR congressmen and senators

(Continued on next Page)

Commander's Speech—

ors know that UMT is your choice. Impress upon them by letter, by wire and by voice that the people's mandate is UMT in 1948!

If we are going to gear American capabilities to American responsibilities in this tense and divided world, we must adopt other preparedness measures in addition to Universal Military Training.

Research in nuclear energy and other scientific and technical fields must be continued and expanded.

Our armed forces and reserve components, adequately equipped, must be kept at quota strength.

The Merchant Marine must be developed for commercial service in peace and maintained for military service in event of war.

Our nation must retain and strengthen outlying bases consistent with our defense policies.

America must establish and adequately maintain stockpiles of strategic materials, difficult to procure during emergencies.

We need an efficient world intelligence system.

We must establish as an integral part of our national defense plan a civil defense system, designed to minimize the effect of possible hostile action directed against the civilian population and our production centers.

With the adoption of these major planks in The American Legion preparedness platform, the United States will be equipped with the minimum security factors needed for its rightful role in a post-war world. By enacting these measures, the congress will afford the nation a real indispensable priority for the prosecution of peace.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

As the stronghold of democracy, the United States is being called upon to bolster friendly governments the world over. Vast sums of money, food and materials already have been dispatched to far-

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All Members: Carson-Wilson Post 1

The Sick Book

Keith Owens was accidentally shot in the left leg by a .10 gauge shotgun last Saturday. His leg had to be amputated. He is in the Oklahoma Osteopathic hospital, room 312 Foster B. Storm is ill at his home, 602 South Quaker.

John Sanders is in the Veterans Hospital at Fayetteville, Ark. Tommy W. Spears is also in the Veterans hospital at Fayetteville.

— AUXILIARY NEWS —

MRS. H. E. GLASER
Publicity Chairman

Mrs. J. B. Allred, Unit President of the Auxiliary to Carson-Wilson Post, announces that the next regular meeting will be held in the American Legion Auxiliary room in the American Legion Hut on Tuesday, January 20, at 8:00 p. m. She urges all members to be present.

Mrs. J. Ted (Isabel) Turner has been appointed Bridge Chairman and Mrs. Ruth Brown, Bridge Telephone Chairman (Tel. No. 2-9871). A dessert-bridge will be held at the Hut at 1:00 p. m. on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 27. All members are urged to attend and bring a prospective member with them.

flung areas. Congress is now deciding the crucial question as to how far we will pursue this policy.

The American Legion believes we must go as far as is necessary to insure the rehabilitation of every needy nation where men seek to establish a system of self-government. We cannot afford a further shrinkage of democracy's frontiers. We can and must afford a purposeful program of foreign aid which will provide struggling nations with time and tools to regain command of their own destiny.

The cold war of world domination launched by Soviet Russia in the wake of Nazi aggression has reached the critical stage. The initial communist offensive in central Europe succeeded on every front. All objectives were carried. Eight nations which aspired for freedom were snared in the Kremlin round-up.

Every additional yard of territory gained by Soviet Russia—every ounce of influence won by Russian communism beyond the Iron Curtain will mean a corresponding loss of strength for the half a world that is yet free. An American doing nothing policy in the face of Russian expansionism would be tantamount to surrender of the cause of honorable and Christian peace for which a million and a half Americans sacrificed life and blood in two World Wars. A policy of half-hearted resistance would only postpone that surrender and multiply its cost for generations yet unborn.

For these reasons The American Legion endorses the Marshall Plan

as another indispensable priority for peace and urges the Congress to expedite its approval and execution.

We realize full well that the Marshall plan embodies foreign relief of a scope and character without precedent in history. We know its promotion would entail great expenditures and some personal hardship for the American people. But this we also know—that the evil of communism, if unchecked, will introduce the world to an era of criminal paganism beyond comprehension, at a cost in human freedom and dignity which all the world's dollars could not begin to measure.

The world in which we find ourselves today is not the world of our birth. Geographic isolation is no longer a reality. Whether we like it or not, we must face the fact that science has made neighbors of all men, counties of all continents. Attempts by Soviet Russia to communize western Europe or eastern Asia are of just as immediate and personal concern to this country as they are to Europeans and Asiatics. The Kremlin recognizes no boundaries, no isolated sectors in its promotion of communism. We must tolerate no indifference in repelling communism and promoting the cause of free democratic government the world over.

Hopes for Russian cooperation in the postwar world, already dimmed by selfish vetoes and repeated violations of international agreements, again were shattered by Mr. Molotov's conduct at the recent London conference of foreign ministers. Soviet Russia killed that conference with the same ruthless resort to falsehood and stubbornness which have characterized all of her actions since V-J Day. By veto, by boycott, by sabotage and by intimidation, Soviet Russia has served notice that her objective is not securing the peace but paralyzing and frustrating the peace.

It is up to the United States of America to put democracy on the offensive not only in Europe but throughout the world.

The American Legion believes American economic aid should be extended to China where the communist threat is especially dangerous and to every other nation where men have the heart and courage to work for their own freedom.

The American Legion urges expansion of the Voice of America and other State Department informational programs directed overseas, so that the story of democracy is more widely conveyed.

We also call for an immediate halt to the folly of shipping American goods and equipment to Russia and Russia's satellites. At this moment, there are on the high seas Russian-bound ships carrying cargoes of American automotive and electrical equipment, aircraft engines and other items in short supply in this country. And that's not the half of it. These cargoes are aboard American-built vessels lent to Russia during the war and which she refuses

(Continued on next Page)

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ERDIE CLARK,**WRESTLING****AVEY'S COLISEUM**

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 8:30 p. m.

Buddy Rogers vs Johnny Balbo.
(Two falls out of 3 to a finish).Johnnie Swenski, Sheik Abid vs
Jack Steel, Franky Hill, tag team
match. (Two falls out of 3 to a
finish).Red Berry vs Dannie McShain.
(Two falls out of 3 to a finish).Gill Knutsen vs Jack Nazworthy.
(One fall to a finish).**LOST**A gold band necklace was lost
New Year's Eve at the Legion
Hut. Please call Mildred Day at
2-8520 or 5-1685. Address: 1001
South Rockford.**Commander's Speech—**either to return or pay for. If the
executive branch of government
persists in condoning this practice,
it is clearly the duty of Congress to
assert the people's will by prohib-
iting all exports to communist coun-
tries.**AMERICANISM**The existence of the communist
party in the United States poses an-
other major problem which your
elected spokesmen in Congress must
deal with this year.Let's be honest with ourselves.
The communist party in America is
the agent of a foreign government.
The party draws on world commu-
nist headquarters in Moscow for or-
ders, pay and allegiance. Its mem-
bers represent a potential fifth col-
umn in the United States.Communist operations in this
country pose a grave and personal
threat to all Americans. That threat
will be dispelled only when we suc-
ceed in driving the communists out
of America and keeping them out.To accomplish this, The American
Legion urges prompt enactment of
legislation outlawing the commu-
nist party. We insist that our gov-
ernment deport those aliens who ad-
here to the party and prosecute for
treason those active reds who seek
sanctuary in conveniently-assumed
American citizenship.The communist party is in no
sense a political organization. Its
elimination by law would enhance
rather than transgress the tradition-
al civil liberties which all loyal
Americans cherish and guard.I would point out that civil lib-
erties are personal liberties. They are
not without limit. We are free to
drive an automobile, but not in such
a way as to jeopardize the lives of
others. We are free to express our
opinions and beliefs, but not to in-
dulge in libel or slander. We arefree to criticize our government,
but not to work actively for an or-
ganization whose purpose is over-
throw of the government by force
and abolition of all the personal
freedoms which we believe are
man's inalienable possessions.The American Legion believes
that in addition to outlawing the
communist party, the Congress
should authorize and effect a pro-
gram of universal fingerprinting.
This is a long-overdue security
measure which the communists
wouldn't like. Certainly, no honest
person would object to a nation-
wide identification system to which
68 million servicemen, government
employees and veterans have al-
ready submitted. Many secondary
benefits, such as more certain iden-
tification of amnesia or accident vic-
tims, would accrue to the nation
from this program.The American Legion endorses
without reservation the work of the
House Committee on Un-American
Activities. We believe the Congress
should not only continue the opera-
tions of this committee but appro-
priate additional funds to enable an
extension of the committee's activi-
ties.Public awareness of the meaning
of communism and of the identity of
its subscribers is an absolute must
for domestic security. Through the
sponsorship of counter-subversion
schools designed to educate Legion-
naires in the detection and defeat
of communist maneuvers in this
country, The American Legion is
now striving for this objective.(Commander O'Neil continued his
discussion on the subject of "Ameri-
canism" at some length, but con-
cluded his talk by saying):"I have enumerated today the leg-
islative proposals by which your
Congress can expedite the accom-
plishment of that mission.In the name of our countrymen
who have given their lives in de-
fense of America and in order that
future generations may live their
lives in greater appreciation of
America, I ask you to support these
proposals in the months to come."**Sooners Down Pelicans
In Legion Member Race**Oklahoma has nosed out Louis-
iana in an advance 1948 department
membership contest in The Ameri-
can Legion and it's going to cost
Commander Vic Kennedy, the loser,
a box of 50 choice cigars.The Sooner Legionnaires won the
contest by enrolling 35,754 mem-
bers for 1948 or 54.10 per cent of
the ensuing year's membership quo-
ta by December 1, 1947. Louisiana
mustered 28,616 members or 51.63
per cent of its 1948 quota.