

Carson-Wilson Post News

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS LETTER

Washington, Jan. 12.—The American Legion's drive for the enactment of universal military training gained added momentum early in the regular session of Congress when President Harry S. Truman told the lawmakers that UMT is "vital to the security of this nation and to the maintenance of its leadership."

In his state of the union message, the Chief Executive lauded Congress for the passage of the National Security Act in the last session . . . "A further step which I consider of even greater importance is the early provision for universal training," he said . . . "There are many elements in a balanced national security program . . ." he declared, "but universal training should be the foundation for them all."

House Favors UMT—Meanwhile, John Thomas Taylor, director of the Legion's national legislative commission, disclosed that a survey by his staff found 78 per cent of the members of the House of Representatives in favor of the training legislation . . . "On this figure I base my prediction that H. R. 4278 (UMT bill) will be passed by the House by February 1," he stated . . . Taylor was quick to caution, however, that "the battle is not over." . . . He said the bill is presently stymied in the House Rules Committee which has "several opponents of UMT in its membership" . . . The Legion's job, he said, is to get this bill out of that committee.

More Petitions—"To accomplish this chore, we cannot let up one minute in our petition campaign," Taylor said . . . "To date, approximately three and a quarter million signatures have either arrived or are on their way to Congress. This is only one-third of our goal and time is short . . . Not all of our membership has brought its weight
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OFF THE SERVICE OFFICER'S DESK

By FRANK H. J. CRAWLEY

FOR A STRONGER NATION

Efforts to strengthen the United Nations by strengthening the United States will be one of the major activities of the American Legion during the coming year.

The Legion will continue and intensify its support of universal military training legislation as a primary means of giving the United States greater power for world peace and the enrollment of a larger membership for 1948 to give the Legion added influence in this endeavor.

It is considered by the National Defense department of the organizations that the United Nations cannot be an effective force for world peace unless it has behind it the support of powerful peace-loving nations. The major part of this support must come from the United States and unless it maintains its military strength the United Nations cannot be strong.

Adoption of universal military training by the United States would reassure other peace-loving countries that we intended to do our full part and would enhance the authority of the United States for by no other practical means can we maintain the training military man-power essential for the protection of peace.

The American Legion has urged the training of all young Americans even since the close of the first world war in the belief that aggressor nations might not have plunged the world into a second war if universal training had been adopted. The nation headquarters urges all veterans to sign the petition, or write your congressman and senators as we go forward marching with the Legionnaires to secure the safeguard of universal military for the United States and for the peace of the world.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THE HUT

"Membership Clean-up" Dinner,
February 5—6:30 p. m.

A new drive will start to bring the membership up to the 3,600 goal—we now have 2,200 members.

8 & 40 Washington's Birthday Dance,
February 14.

Military Order of the Purple Heart will hold its annual Washington's birthday dance Monday, February 23.

Your 1948 Dues are past due . . .
Mail them in to Carson-Wilson Post No. 1, 1120 E. 8th st., Tulsa.

Disabled Enlistments

Washington, D. C. — The Department of the Army last week announced that it would now accept for enlistment in the Regular Army or the Air Force partially disabled combat wounded veterans who possess or are trainable in certain critically needed skills and who meet eligibility requirements established.

Auxiliary Cooks For OMA

The "Freedom Train Parade Committee" wish to express their appreciation to all the ladies who helped prepare the wonderful lunch for the Oklahoma Military Academy men last Saturday after the parade, said Floyd Long, chairman.

Those ladies who helped were: Reba A. Orr, Effie Blanchard, Mrs. L. A. Burns, Mrs. John Allred, Vera Gambill, Mrs. Ralph Haralson, Ann Tankersley, Alberta Burnham, Blanche Bonner, Barbara Justice, Jonna Van Dyke, Ruth Brown, Adelaide Henninger, Zell Benton, Irene Davis, Cagle Justice and Blanche Welch.

Legislative News Letter—

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to bear on Congress . . . UMT is the most important piece of legislation before the Congress today, and it is the Legion's job to get it passed . . . Once more, I am calling on every Legionnaire to patriotically get behind this campaign with petitions to congressmen."

Busy Period Ahead—As Congress entered the first official week of activity in the second session the Legion's legislative staff geared for three important Congressional hearings . . . Legion witnesses are scheduled to be heard by the Joint Congressional Housing Committee, the House Administration Committee and the House Veterans Affairs Committee on the subjects of housing, Americanism and Legion legislation, respectively.

Housing—The American Legion's Veterans' Homestead Act of 1948 will be reviewed by the Joint Congressional Housing Committee on January 16 when the Legion's National Housing Chairman, Walter E. Alessandrini, appears before the Committee in its final hearings . . . The Joint Committee, which was set up by Congress July 26, 1947, to investigate the nation's housing situation, has called upon the Legion to present its housing remedy . . . Having held investigations and hearings in 30 principal cities throughout the nation, the committee is presently winding up operations before submitting its recommendations to Congress . . . Director Taylor predicts that the Committee will favorably recommend the Homestead Act.

Americanism—The Housing Administration Committee has called upon The American Legion to be the first witness when hearings commence January 16 on H. R. 4482, the Legion bill to outlaw the communist party in the United States . . . The Legion stand will be stated by Samuel M. Birnbaum, judge advocate of the American Legion of New York and nationally known authority on counter-subversive methods . . . Introduced by Rep. William C. Cole (R. Mo.) H. R. 4482 is slated to receive considerable opposition in both house of Congress

Legion Legislation—The national legislative program of The American Legion will be presented to the House Veterans Affairs Committee on January 16 by Robert W. Colflesh of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman

of the Legion's national legislative commission . . . The program, determined last November by the national executive committee, was called for by the House Committee's Chairman, Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers (R., Mass.)

The American Legion's No. 1 priority rehabilitation legislation was dropped in the hopper of the House of Representatives January 12. . . Introduced by Rep. George W. Sarsbacher, Jr. (R., Pa.) the Legion bill (H. R. 4900) proposes an increase in World War I and II disability and death compensation and pension rates . . . To combat the rising cost of living, the bill calls for the following: 1. A 15 per cent increase of wartime rates of compensation payable to World War I and II veterans for service-connected disability; 2. An increase in wartime service-connected death compensation rates payable to surviving widows, children, and dependent parents of deceased veterans of World War I and II; 3. An increase in pension rates payable to World War I and II veterans permanently and totally disabled from non-service-connected disability; and 4. An increase in the pension rate payable to widows and children for non-service-connected deaths of World War I and II veterans.

Taylor predicted "tough-sledding" for the bill in light of the economy wave . . . "Full Legion might will be placed behind it, however," he added, "and in view of 1948 being an election year, the bill's possibilities are great."

— AUXILIARY NEWS —

By Mrs. H. E. Glaser
Publicity Chairman

Mrs. J. B. Allred, unit president of the American Legion Auxiliary, announces that the next regular meeting will be held in the American Legion Auxiliary room of the American Legion Hut on Tuesday, February 3 at 8 p.m. She urges all members to be present.

Amer. Legion Extension Institute Starts April 1

Indianapolis, Ind.—The third term of The American Legion Extension Institute which offers a correspondence course in organization leadership, will start April 1.

Institute Director C. M. Wilson said that more than 12,000 Legionnaires, nearly all of them veterans of World War II, have received instruction in the basic programs and the background of The American Legion in the two previous courses to qualify them for executive positions in the organization.

Director Wilson announced that application forms for the enrollment in the third American Legion Extension Institute have been shipped to all department headquarters for distribution to posts.

Stepping Stone Training—National Commander James F. O'Neil has called attention to the value of The American Legion leadership correspondence course.

"There are more than 2,000,000
(Continued on Page Four)

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Night Emergency Calls Ph. 6-0365
Post meets every Tuesday evening at
8 p.m. Visiting Legionnaires Welcome

Amer. Legion Extension—

(Continued from Page Two)

young members in The American Legion," he said, "and this number is increasing constantly. These young Legionnaires should all avail themselves of the opportunity for advancement in the world's largest veterans' organization offered by our training for leadership. The American Legion is now a big business organization with millions of members, many millions of dollars in assets and thousands of paid and volunteer workers. It has always been ably led. It needs good leadership today more than ever. To be leaders in any organization, members must know the organization and its doings and objectives. That's the knowledge that The American Legion Extension Institute provides."

Director Wilson said the step rate schedule of tuition fees again will be used for the third term of the in-

stitute. One to four enrollments from a post will be six dollars each. Five to nine will be three dollars each. Ten or more from a post will be only two dollars each.

21 Film Figures Honored by Legion

Hollywood, Calif.—The American Legion led by National Commander James F. O'Neil, in impressive ceremonies in the auditorium of Hollywood Post 43, paid honors to 21 prominent film figures for "testifying as true Americans" before the House Committee in Washington, D. C., which recently investigated Communist infiltrations in the screen colony here.

More than 1,400 persons jammed the hall to witness the award of American Legion citations to famous movie stars, producers, directors, writers and others who cooperated in the Congressional probe. Commander James F. Bradley of Holly-

wood Post 43, in the presence of National Commander O'Neil and Department Commander Harry Foster, presented the certificates to the following screen notables:

L. B. Mayer, Jack Warner, Lela Rogers, Ayn Rand, Rupert Hughes, Jack Moffitt, Roy Brewer, Fred Niblo, Jr., Oliver Carson, Richard Macaulay, Morrie Ryskind, Sam Wood, Leo McCarey, George Murphy, Gary Cooper, Adolphe Menjou, Ronald Reagan, Robert Taylor, Walt Disney and James K. McGuinness.

The program was put on the air by Station KHJ.

Every American Legion post in Los Angeles county was represented at the ceremony.

The American Legion has scheduled its first area conferences on Junior Baseball for the period February 15 to 23 in the five cities of New York, Atlanta, Des Moines, Denver and Salt Lake City, in an effort to make the 1948 season the greatest in history.

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