

THE
Jewish Veteran

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

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By J. DAVID DELMAN

JANUARY



1937

ATTENTION!

Commanders and Comrades of All Units

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RELIGION IN LIFE

By HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN

Governor of the State of New York
Member Albany Post No. 105

BEHIND the modern Jew stretch forty centuries of religious and ethical tradition and history. A knowledge of the Jewish past is of vast importance to each Jew. So I believe a knowledge of Jewish tradition will bring to the Jews of today a healthy sense of self-respect and increased spiritual strength. Understanding the Jewish past, he will know that the prophecy that in the seed of Abraham "shall all the nations of the world be blessed" will be fulfilled if the spiritual ideals and the moral values which are embodied in the law and the prophets and in Jewish tradition inspire and guide the thoughts and acts of Jews.

True, the spiritual ideals and moral values embodied in Jewish law and tradition are not confined to the Jewish religion. While Europe was shrouded in the darkness of idolatry, the light of the Lord had been revealed to the Jew in Palestine, and seeing that light, he exclaimed, "In Thy light we shall see light." That light has spread from Palestine over the world. Religion has been the torchbearer. Days of darkness have at times come to us and to the rest of the world when the light of the Lord seemed dim indeed, but it has never been entirely extinguished. Today the world is faced with dangers which threaten civilization itself. In some countries at least, force has usurped the place of reason, might is triumphant over right. Dictators demand that men obey them blindly and deny the right of men to follow the dictates of their conscience. Moral values, they say, exist only through the fiat of the State, itself ruled by a dictator. There indeed, the light of religion is burning dimly. Perhaps more than ever, it is today the function of religion, both Jewish and Christian, to hold high the torch which it has received; to feed the flame until it burns so brightly that all the world may see it and again exclaim "In Thy light we shall see light."

It is our good fortune in this country that freedom of thought and conscience are safeguarded by our fundamental law, and what is perhaps even more important, by the character and spirit of the people. And it seems to me that it is becoming every day more clearly evident to us that for the solution of the great problems which face mankind, mankind needs freedom of thought and conscience, needs moral values and spiritual ideals. Everywhere thoughtful men are constrained to recognize that we are prone to exalt the immediate over the ultimate, and to apply standards of value which are changing or evanescent rather than standards which remain eternally true. Everywhere there is emphasis upon material things which pass away, rather than upon spiritual ideals, which may remain forever.

The industrial age has brought both to poor and to rich comforts, conveniences, even luxuries, undreamed of in the past. In many respects we are better off than we have ever been before, and yet who today can be complacent about the blessings of the machine age? Through scientific and me-

chanical progress we have achieved an age of plenty, and yet in spite of the plenty, and some even say because of that plenty, we have felt during the last years a widespread and acute economic depression. In this age, new means of communication have almost wiped out space and distance, but as means of communication have increased the nations have erected more and more barriers against each other, impeding trade and intercourse and increasing at an alarming rate the spirit of nationalism.

Less than twenty years after the great war which we had hoped would end war, we find the nations of the old world in a race for armament, preparing for another war. Almost everywhere we see intolerance and repression and loss of freedom of the individual. In one great nation we see the hideous civil war. Amongst other nations we see the imminent threat of war. Men have lost faith in one another. In the fierce struggle to gain a livelihood or to acquire wealth, modern man gives little heed to the method he uses. Too often he feels that one man's gain necessarily involves another's loss. As in the evil days, described in the Bible, "each man is for himself and against every other."

Individual ruthlessness finds its counterpart in the relationship between the nations of the world. The rule that "might makes right" seems to govern in wide areas. There the only argument which has been effective during the last years has been force, or threat of force, and again we face the spectre of war,—war with all its ghastly suffering, its breeding of hates, its sowing of seed for future war.

To the problems of economic distress and war, there has been added a third intolerance and repression. Fundamental human rights and liberties which we have thought were inalienable are now completely destroyed in some countries and are challenged almost everywhere. Those in power assert that they have the right to insist that all must accept as final the truth as these rulers see it. In these lands of dictatorship no one is permitted even to discuss any variant from official revelation.

How can religion solve such problems? What has religion to offer us today? How can Judaism furnish us with a basis for a happier, nobler society, a just and peaceful world? Fortunately, we of the Jewish and Christian tradition may find in our Bible a clear statement as to the message and meaning of religion and its relation to social problems. Through Moses the Jews received the two Commandments, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, and with all thy heart, and with all thy might," and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." In those two Commandments are summed

up man's duty to his God and to his fellow man. They represent the spirit of all true religion, given to the Jews through Moses and enjoined again upon Christians in the New Testament.

Religion, with its belief in a universal Father, religion with its insistence upon the reality of the force working for righteousness in the world,—religion, I say, is the natural ally of all those who would bring about a real brotherhood among men, and end for all time man's inhumanity to man. If justice and mercy would supplant selfishness and lust for power which dominate the actions of men, if reverence for God and for man created in the image of God motivated our lives, would brutal war and shallow materialism darken the face of the earth? If these fundamentals of religion were truly to rule in the hearts of men, could we not banish poverty, mass murder, intolerance and superficiality from the world? Once again, religion must come to rescue the world from barbarism and destruction, and the Jew must do his full share. Let us not underestimate what the religious people, regardless of creed or sect, of this country and throughout the world might accomplish were they to work together for justice and mercy in the spirit of divine love.

True, neither vague philosophizing nor empty lip-worship can ever be effective in solving the grave problems that confront us. Religion must not allow its ideals to remain divorced from life. According to the Jewish tradition, religion is indeed "a way of life," dictating all the actions of men, coloring all their thoughts. If divorced from life, religious ideals would become mere well-intentioned platitudes. Those who understand the spirit of Judaism will never suffer that. "Judaism stands in persistent protest against the exploitation or oppression of any human being. It insists that each man, woman and child is an incarnation of the spirit of God, is entitled to the fullest life."

There is a wonderful continuity in the ideals to which Israel has devoted itself throughout the centuries. Judaism has a history which begins with deliverance from bondage and is characterized throughout by a continuous yearning for freedom that has grown out of its own experience. Jews speak in social terms, not as theorists but out of the pain of countless generations who remembered the injunction to bring freedom and justice to all men, even as they themselves were brought to freedom from out of Egyptian slavery.

The Chanukah festival we have just concluded recalls the day when a degenerate Hellenism sought to regiment large portions of the human race. Then Mattathias the priest called upon all who are "zealous of the Law and maintain the covenant" to follow him, and under his dauntless leadership freedom, and especially religious freedom, was preserved. Today again, from religious institutions, the call to arms is being

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THE JEWISH VETERAN

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J. George Fredman

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The New Year

What is more natural at the beginning of the year, than to make Resolutions? This is a fine custom, but generally not practical. Resolutions are observed mainly through their breach. And this should be expected. One day separates 1936 from 1937. Is it reasonable to expect that we shall drop our activities and change the habits of December 31st on January 2nd? Since "no" is the obvious answer, that is generally what happens to the best of resolutions. Let us here rather express our hopes and expectations for the coming year.

During 1936, in the face of spreading dictatorships, the United States retained its democratic form of government. With wars in Ethiopia, China and Spain, we remained at peace. With want and shortage of food in many parts of the world, we have an abundance of necessities, and with the return of prosperity, the wherewithal to purchase them. The Good Neighbor, the Good-Will, and Brotherhood movements have made wide progress, and there is better understanding here between Jews and Christians. While eJws in Germany, Poland, Roumania and other countries have been persecuted and oppressed our own people have continued the even tenor of their ways. Veterans received their adjusted Compensation payments, and disabled veterans continue to receive their compensation and benefits.

All of these things we should like to see continued in 1937.

What we should like to see terminated in 1937 are, the threat of another world war; unemployment in the United States; a reduction in crime (which costs 25c of every \$1.00 earned); a reduction in automobile accidents, the toll of which in lives and money damage annually is colossal. We should like to see sane government and return of rule by the people in all countries, and the end of Nazism, Fascism and Communism. Likewise we would like to see the end of those individuals and groups who seek to spread these alien "isms" in the United States, so that the only "ism" flowering on our bright shores would be Americanism.

For our own organization during 1937, we would hope for a steady growth in posts

Veteran Unity

Harry W. Colmery, new National Commander of the American Legion has reaffirmed the mandate of the Cleveland Convention to oppose Fascism and Hitlerism as well as Communism. Mr. Colmery stated that all three are equally repugnant to American principles and urged the Legion to combat all of them without sacrificing freedom of speech and assembly.

Commander Colmery issued his statement after taking cognizance of the disturbing reports of participation by members of the American Legion in such un-American activities as red-baiting, alien-baiting and cooperation with certain Fascist and quasi-Fascist groups.

This program of the Legion is identical with that of J.W.V. It is also the aim of the V.F.W. and D.A.V. Is there any reason why all veteran organizations should not coordinate their activities in this part of their program to avoid duplication and make their efforts most effective?

All subordinate J.W.V. units are urged to give this matter serious consideration. They are then urged to try and form a joint or united "anti-Fascism, anti-Nazism, anti-Communism" (call it what you will) Committee, composed of all veteran units, or as many as are willing to unite.

It is conceivable that such a united Committee of Veterans could do an excellent job of combatting subversive alien elements, and at the same time promoting Americanism. This committee could first awaken its own comrades, and then appoint qualified speakers to awaken the rest of the community to these perils. Proper literature could be printed and distributed, by a joint committee whereas each organization working singly might be unable to bear the expense of such work.

With war threatened in Europe and Asia; with dictatorships arising everywhere; and with hundreds of organizations already existing in the United States actively engaged in spreading poisons depicting the faults of our Democracy and picturing the advantages of foreign types of Government,—many of these organizations parade under patriotic American masks—(with Americans as their titular heads)—we know of no more worthy activity of all veteran organizations, than to combat these groups. Their propaganda is penetrating homes, schools, colleges and churches.

In Unity there is Strength. In veteran unity we can see nothing but success to this important part of our mutual program.

and membership; the election of the finest possible officers in each post who could carry on the traditions and carry out the objects and purposes of J. W. V.; the raising of sufficient funds to pay off our deficit and to properly carry out our program; the continued success of the Boycott of German goods and services, and victory in combatting the powers of bigotry and darkness; the power

Greetings from General Hines

December 22, 1936

My dear Commander Schaffer:

May I extend to you with all sincerity best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.

May our common interest in the welfare of our country's veterans bring them the happiness and contentment they so richly deserve and for the coming year let me assure you of the full cooperation of the Veterans' Administration in helping to meet the needs of our comrades.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK T. HINES,
Administrator.

Appreciation and Regret

Many comrades do not realize the effort and sacrifice a few devote in the vineyard of J.W.V. And one of the "toughest" assignments is Editor of J.V. Put out a wonderful magazine, and praise is very faint. Omit a dignitary's name, or make the slightest error, and the clouds of criticism burst upon the Editor's head. To sort out, to re-write, to proof-read, to edit, and in addition write many of the articles, and make an interesting and worthwhile magazine, month after month, requires intelligence, patience, and a touch of genius.

Our C.I.C. has been very fortunate in choosing his National Officers. None was more fortuitous than his choice of our Editor, Louis Falk. Most will admit that during the past three months, the JEWISH VETERAN, has been the best yet.

It is with great regret, therefore, that we announce that Louis is compelled to relinquish his office. He has been devoting so much time to J.V., that his business is complaining, his wife is seeking a good lawyer, and the other organizations in which he is active want to get an injunction against J.W.V. As much as he loves this work and his desire to continue, he finds too many forces—and just ones—lined up against him. Much as we dislike to lose his services, we cannot complain because of his decision.

Louis Falk exits as Editor with the goodwill of every comrade in J.W.V., and the appreciation of National of a faithful servant who has done his work well. May the blessings of the New Year accompany him in his other endeavors.

and ability first to bring comfort and aid to our disabled comrades, and then to continue doing good for our comrades and humanity in general; a year of health and happiness for every comrade and his family.

If our hopes for these things can be accomplished, 1937 will be a Happy Year for J. W. V. Meantime, we have outlined a program for 1937.

THE ROAD TO PEACE

By JAMES E. VAN ZANDT,
Past Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars

FOR the past many years, the legislative program of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has included among its objectives, an adequate national defense. This is a question upon which our membership stands united. There is not a single man within our ranks who does not know that our future national security is entirely dependent upon an adequate military and naval force sufficiently strong and well-equipped to maintain America's position among the leading world powers.

Our stand on this question is not founded on theory. It is the result of the personal and practical experience of our entire membership. By the overseas war veterans of the United States—war is hated and feared above all the other evils in the world. We know from our own personal experience that war is bitterly cruel and futile. We know the depths of its inhumanity to man. Many among us have been wounded and disabled in battle. We all have seen our comrades-in-arms horribly injured or killed by gun-powder or poison gas in enemy attacks.

War is drudgery and discomfort multiplied a thousand times. It is horror and agony and despair. Among those of a certain type of mind, the word "veteran" is virtually synonymous with "militarist." That is a grim joke. Above all the people of the world, the true war veteran hates and despises war. He prays that this country may never again be involved in war. He dreads the possible necessity for ever again having to leave his home, his loved ones, to enter the maelstrom of battle. Above all things, he dreads the possibility of war in the future, for he would rather die himself than have his sons forced to endure the suffering and hardship that he himself has experienced in war.

America's war veterans are *not* militarists. In their desire for peace, and their determination to achieve permanent peace for the United States, they are the No. 1 pacifists of the country. And it is because of their hope and desire for peace that the members of our organization stand squarely behind the principle of an adequate national defense for the United States. A national defense against war, you understand. Without an adequate national defense, this country may any day be drawn into the international difficulties, disagreements and quarrels which constantly menace the peace of the world.

At no time since the Armistice of 1918 has the possibility of international war been so threatening as at this moment. Great powers are uneasy—governments insecure. Civil war exists in Spain. Italy defied the rest of the world in its successful invasion of Ethiopia. The need of expansion of territory to provide room for their increasing population is fostering an aggressive attitude on the part of several great nations which make no secret of the fact that they are building up their war strength. Land, natural resources, products to enrich world trade—these are possessions desperately

sought by virtually every country in the world. And these are already possessed by the United States to a greater degree than any other nation. Can America protect her shores, her people and her wealth from the attack of ambitious and greedy foreign powers whose people are inspired by egotistic dictators to believe themselves destined to control the world? Only if our armed forces on land and water and in the air are strong enough and well-enough armed and equipped to repel invasion.

I am no alarmist. I am not crying "Wolf!" But neither am I an impractical idealist who believes it possible to insure peace for this country and for the world by preaching the doctrine of brotherly love. The human race has not yet progressed to the place where we can achieve world peace by moral example. There are well-meaning but mistaken persons in this country today who believe that disarmament is the road to peace. They trustfully believe that racial differences, international jealousies and ambitions and all the other factors that contribute to the development of war, can be overcome if America will only set a good example by scrapping our military equipment, disbanding our Army and Navy and holding out the hand of friendship to other countries. This is a beautiful picture but it has no basis in fact. If unpreparedness could prevent war, the United States of America would *never* have been involved in war! For it is the solemn truth that this country was inadequately prepared for every one of the six major conflicts in which it has been engaged in the 160 years of its existence. We have never had either the men or the military equipment with which adequately to meet the emergency of war and the result has been, from 1776 down to 1917 that the six major wars in which America has been involved have been needlessly prolonged, needlessly wasteful of lives and money, because we were not in a position to achieve the early decisive victory that adequate preparedness would have made possible.

How many more disastrous wars must the United States wage before we learn that armies do not start wars—they *stop* them! How many more fine young American lives must be sacrificed on the field of battle before we learn that military training for the youth of our land will serve as a protection in the event they ever must meet the emergency of war? Because of hastily equipped, hastily trained troops in 1917, the United States lost thousands of its splendid young men who had not been given the chance to learn what they needed to know in war. Because our military equipment and personnel was far below the danger mark in strength, this nation wasted billions of dollars in 1917

and 1918 because there was not time enough to plan and buy and manufacture economically the supplies needed by our troops in the field.

In advocating an adequate national defense, we propose a definite program that will increase and develop our defensive forces to a strength and power that will insure us against the possibility of becoming involved in war. We propose to put the National Defense Act of 1920 into effect without delay. We advocate a full treaty strength Navy with adequate naval and Marine, reserve and necessary auxiliary ships. We propose to have an air force, active and reserve, capable of defending this country against any possible attacks. Our national defense program takes into consideration the fighting against any interference with the Reserve Officers Training Corps, either in Congress or in the state legislatures. We are demanding the indefinite continuance of the CCC; we propose to use all the means at our command in a well-conceived campaign to make the citizens of our country national defense-conscious and we are supporting all individual projects affecting national defense as they are presented by agencies having control of the respective objects.

One of the principal reasons why we are unitedly and determinedly in favor of an adequate national defense is because our organization has for one of its objectives a permanent American neutrality policy. We maintain that this nation should adopt and adhere to a strict "hands off" attitude towards the international conflicts of the rest of the world. Such a neutrality policy would insure this country against ever again participating in international war, except for defensive purposes.

But it would be worse than useless for the United States to adopt such a neutrality policy unless we were in a position to enforce our stand. Our conception of American neutrality includes specific proposals for the maintenance of that neutrality through definite restrictions on American citizens and on American trade and commerce to the end that the neutrality policy shall be superior to the individual interest of any person or group of persons, of any corporation or class.

If it were to be kept inviolate, such a policy would have to be supported by a national defense equal in size and strength to the armed forces of any other nation. There is no question today upon which the people of the United States are so united as upon the question of peace for America. Regardless of religious faith, political affiliations or any other consideration, the American public wants and demands a continuance of the peace we have known for the last eighteen years. Never before in the history of our country have so many of our citizens sought so earnestly and determinedly for a solution to the problem of international warfare.

I submit to you that the greatest contribution this nation can make to the cause of

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Message Of Commander-in-Chief

Dear Comrades:

In my first message of the year, I want to wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I extend my greetings to the new officers-elect for the coming year, and I trust that they will assist me in making this an outstanding year of progress in J. W. V.

There are many current activities, through which J.W.V. can retain its front-rank position. It may be desirable to remind you of some of these activities.

Our Boycott and anti-defamation work under the guidance of Dr. Kalb has been excellent. At the same time, some posts are not as active as they might be, and I look forward to their better cooperation during this year.

To perpetuate our work, we are making a determined effort to organize the "Sons of J.W.V." This activity is yet in embryo, but should be well advanced before this year is ended. Posts will find this work interesting and worth-while.

A group Libel Law is being prepared for introduction in the next Congress. Both England and France have recently found it expedient to pass such a law. In addition to a Federal Law I urge each department to have passed in their own State, a law similar to that now on the statute books of the State of New Jersey, (Chap. 151, N. J. Laws 1935).

Work is progressing on the introduction in Congress of a bill, to grant a National Charter to J.W.V.

Fair progress is being made in forming new posts. I am especially happy at the New Post just formed in San Francisco. Other recent charter applications are Parkside, Wynnefield, Bay Ridge and Philadelphia District Council. I should like Comrades in Washington Post to work on forming posts in Baltimore and Richmond; Atlanta to work on Charleston and Savannah; St. Louis on Kansas City; Indianapolis on Cincinnati. Comrades visiting Miami should have little difficulty in starting a post there. If any comrades have friends or relatives in Denver, Omaha, Minneapolis and St. Paul, and will send me their names and addresses, I shall do my utmost to start posts in these important key cities.

On a recent trip to Atlanta, the post called a special meeting in my honor. I was happy to learn of their activity in the Atlanta Big Brother Movement, which afforded the post much favorable publicity. Commander Wilmer was Vice-Chairman of the drive.

At a stop-off in Washington, National Radio Officer Rose, accompanied me on a visit to General Frank T. Hines. Gen. Hines assured me that the Congressional Committee on Veteran Affairs does not contemplate any cuts in veteran benefits during either 1937 or 1938. This should be good news to all veterans.

Although at the beginning of my term, the condition of the finances of the organization appeared very dark, we have "plodded" through the first four months, continuing our work unabated, and paying current bills. This has been due to the excellent cooperation of the posts in paying their per-capita tax when due and also to contributions voluntarily made by posts and comrades. I expect other posts will send in their pledges shortly. I do not want to overlook the fine spirit of the departments and councils in waiving their per capita tax indebtedness, which will reduce our deficit measurably.

The Finance Committee reports favorably on conferences with other organizations, who impressed with the work J.W.V. is doing and can do for Jewry, may come to our financial assistance.

I anticipate that Marty Horowitz of New Britain, whom I have appointed National Convention Chairman, will in cooperation with Jr. V.C.I.C. Mike Weinstein, shortly, have plans arranged to make the 1937 Asbury Park Convention, the finest in our history.

In order to reduce expenses of the members of the Executive Council and Committee, I have been holding a minimum of meetings. As January is filled up with installations and affairs, the next Council and Committee meetings will not be held until February.

After so many posts had arranged to send delegations, I regret the omission of veteran organizations from the Inaugural Parade in Washington, and the cancellation of our plans.

At the beginning of 1937, the necessity of J.W.V. super-activity on all fronts is still present, and I know that all comrades will consider it their sacred trust to carry out the purposes and ideals of J.W.V., as true soldiers.

Yours in Comradeship,

HARRY H. SCHAFFER,

Commander-in-Chief.

P.S. J.W.V. Athletics

The action of the National A.A.A. in Houston, Texas, repudiating Avery Brundage and electing our champion, Jeremiah T. Mahoney was very pleasant. Judge Mahoney's subsequent action is ousting most of the friends of Nazism from their committee berths was also gratifying.

Judge Mahoney has stated that he intends to extend the sphere of the A.A.U. to include religious and fraternal groups. Most of you may have read that the J.W.V. application to join the A.A.U. was tabled at the convention because of our lack of athletic activity.

I believe that every post should join its local A.A.U. The posts in Pittsburgh have already joined. The membership fee is but \$10.00 per year. In addition, new interests will be created not only for the comrades but for thousands of youths, whose energies might now be directed in activities not so beneficial. Such athletic activities for our youth will be in line with our program for

Veteran Note

A recent piece of Veterans' legislation, Pub. 788, 74th Congress, effective July 1, 1936, has aroused considerable comment. The intention of its proponents was to restore some benefits taken away by the "Economy Act" from those veterans who enlisted between Nov. 11, 1918 and Feb. 9, 1922.

Up to March 20, 1933, they were considered "World War Veterans," and entitled to all benefits, except the "Bonus." Effective July 1, 1933, they were considered as "peacetime" service men, and their maximum pension established as \$45.00 instead of \$100.00 per month. The original intention of the aforesaid legislation was to put them on the same pay basis as that of presumptive service connection for World War Veterans with pensions up to \$75.00 per month, but in its final form, it contains two provisions, which emasculate the benefits intended.

Under these provisos, the case is rerated under the 1925 and 1933 Schedule of Ratings, but instead of giving the veteran the benefit of the higher rating of the two schedules, the law provides for the payment of three-quarters of what the lower rating would entitle him to. The practical effect of these provisos is that in the average case, the increase in benefits is but a small part of what was originally intended.

M.A.C.

The New Deal

First Worker: "Well, have you been 'co-ordinated' in the Nazi state?"

Second Worker: "You bet! Now I'm just as hungry as all the rest."

the "Sons of J.W.V.", and we can help to make them better citizens.

There is no reason why the posts and National cannot stage nation-wide tournaments, including such activities as basketball, football, track and swimming. Inter-post and inter-department competition can also be fostered. Some comrades in each post are athletically inclined and will seize the opportunity to place J.W.V. on the athletic horizon.

I therefore urge each unit to appoint a committee to make application for membership in the A.A.U. Unaffiliated teams and athletes can be enrolled to serve under the J.W.V. Banner. Get in touch with the A.A.U. district representatives and arrange with them for different kinds of athletic meets. Contact your local Y.M.H.A. or Community Center Athletic Directors and I am sure they will be pleased to give you every cooperation.

TO AVOID WAR—BOYCOTT