

THE  
*Jewish Veteran*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

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MARCH



1938



# ATTENTION!



Fore-warned is fore-armed! Department and County Conventions will soon be here. Are you prepared for them? Is your post going to turn out in uniform? (A little too much girth around the middle, say you? Tut-Tut-we have models to fit all shapes, and you'd be surprised how that Sam-Brown belt pulls you in and straightens back your shoulders). And how will your buddies know whether you're rightfully in that caucus unless they can see from the number on your cap? Yes-siree, uniforms and caps are important equipment for every veterans encampment. Money? Dough? Mazuma? Why worry now? Didyever hear of a "Uniform Club?" Just have your Commander appoint a Uniform Committee, and pay the Chairman only a few cents each meeting, and when Convention time rolls around you'll have saved enough for a uniform. Some idea—what?

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# AMERICANS, AWAKE!

## *Alien Isms Threaten Our Democracy*

It was the Pilgrim Fathers who laid the foundation for one of America's greatest gifts to civilization—the revolutionary principle of complete separation of church and state. The basic idea of the Europe from which the Puritans fled, assumed the necessity of a vital relation between church and state. In clear denial of all such theories, the American principle, first enunciated by the Pilgrim Fathers, declared them and their fundamental idea to be oppressions of conscience and abridgements of that liberty which God and nature had conferred on every living soul.

The revolutionary principle of complete separation of church and state may be confidently reckoned therefore, as of distinctly American origin. Here this pure religious liberty may be rated justly as the great gift of America to civilization and the world, having among principles of government no equal for moral insight, and no equal for recognition both of the dignity of the human soul and of the spiritual majesty of the church of God.

The principle of the religious equality of all men before the law became the solid rock upon which the greatest democracy in the world's history was erected, a government deriving its just powers from the consent of those governed. The "Compact of the Pilgrims" grew into the Constitution of the United States, that great guarantee of individual freedom and liberty which today is the shining lode star of hope for all peoples oppressed by tyranny! The ideals of the Pilgrim Fathers lived after them. They are today the ideals of America: to maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Compact signed on the Mayflower, to cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity. This is the same objective as that of the American Legion.

We need to transmit today the spirit, the purity of purpose and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers to all our citizens to the end that those who shall come after us will be assured of an undiminished heritage of freedom and liberty. These principles which our Pilgrim Fathers implanted in American soil, are being attacked these days in many parts of the world. They are not wholly safe in America today!

Democracy and liberty have lessened everywhere in the world. Even here in the United States, the acceptance of these ideals which Americans have cherished and guarded for a century and a half is not as great

By **DANIEL J. DOHERTY**

*Commander-in-Chief of the  
American Legion*

**The Jewish Veteran is proud to present this article by the commander-in-chief of the American Legion on a subject of vital interest to all veterans and all Americans. Mr. Doherty's message is particularly timely in view of the dual fight being waged by veterans against Communism and Nazism.**

### THE EDITOR

as when the members of the American Legion went abroad to fight, that democracy might be made safe. There is no question but that our democracy will decline unless the people awaken and call a halt. One of the chief aims of the American Legion is to arouse the American people to the danger that threatens.

Great tidal waves of un-American doctrines are lashing at the bulwarks of our American institutions these days. Strange heresies are abroad in the World. With Communistic organizations of all kinds, Nazi camps, Fascists cells and other un-American elements springing up over our country, it is a fact that propaganda directed at our existing form of government is alarmingly on the increase. Groups are

meeting boldly, drilling, flying foreign flags and loudly preaching allegiance to alien dictators. Respect for all laws seems to be weakening.

If America is to retain those ideals of liberty as laid down by our Pilgrim Fathers; if America would survive as a republic; if America is to remain the land of the free and the home of the brave and the "Pilgrims' pride," then it is high time that organized effort be made to curb and destroy those influences that threaten to undermine the foundations of free government. The principle of individual liberty must never be surrendered in our country, for individual liberty properly exercised with due regard for the rights of others is the very essence of democracy.

I can think of no greater mission that the American Legion can carry out than that of enthusing all of our citizens to rededicate themselves relentlessly to the idea that the doctrine of liberty as we have known it, democratic theory as we have followed it, the principle of majority rule, the repudiation of the doctrine of force, both in our own domestic relations and in our foreign contacts, is the only worthy life for free people of the kind we are and have been!

To this end the American Legion at its recent national convention in New York City reaffirmed its opposition to Communism, Fascism, Nazism and all other alien "isms," forces and organizations that seek to destroy the free institutions of our constitutional system. We called upon Congress to investigate and make public its findings on organizations in the United States which are militantly serving Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, or any other alien power or system. We demanded also the enactment of national legislation to punish American citizens who advocate the overthrow of our government by force, fraud or violence, and to deport all aliens who so advocate such overthrow.

The building up of a sturdy defense of Americanism is the first task of the American Legion! We share in common with our Pilgrim Fathers in sacrifices for the perpetuation of our American institutions! We consider the heritage of our forefathers to be too precious to permit smudging by a vandal touch! Let us all join in educating our people, especially the young, in the fundamentals of our Constitution and the inalienable rights of human beings it was designed to protect and perpetuate. Thus we will carry on the noble task begun by our forebears.

### Doherty Warns Of Alien Isms Wave

A warning that "tidal waves of un-American beliefs and doctrines" were endangering the balance between governmental authority and individual liberty in America was sounded by Daniel J. Doherty, national commander of the American Legion, in speech made at Springfield, Illinois, at memorial exercises commemorating the 129th birthday of Abraham Lincoln.

"We need a return of Lincoln's spirit in the breast of every American citizen today, far more than we need a return of so-called prosperity," he said. "Economic revivals will surely come in the course of events, if we cleave to the principles of our founders."

## THE JEWISH VETERAN

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### Remove The Communist!

The unanimous determination of war veterans not to permit representatives and advocates of or spokesmen for any alien "ism," either of the left or the right, whether he be citizen or foreigner, to hold public office under the American form of government is most strikingly evidenced by the campaign to force the removal of Simon W. Gerson as confidential examiner in the office of the President of the Borough of Manhattan. Gerson is an avowed Communist, which means that he belongs to a party pledged to overthrow and destroy the American constitutional form of government. There can be no quarrel with Gerson's right to preach and advocate Communism or any other ism but if he or anyone else holds such views he is ipso facto disloyal to our institutions and automatically disqualified from holding public office.

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States applauds the stand of the American Legion, the Catholic Veterans and other groups which are demanding Gerson's removal, and joins with them in calling upon Borough President Isaacs to dismiss Gerson forthwith. The attitude of J. W. V. on this question was made plain when Meyer Neumann, commander of the Department of New York, J.W.V., publicly identified himself with the fight to oust Gerson. It was further emphasized when Samuel Untermyer, one of our distinguished honorary members, offered his services in legal proceedings or other action against Gerson.

The J. W. V., in common with all veterans and patriotic organizations is uncompromisingly opposed to Communism, Nazism, Fascism and every other ism that conflicts in the slightest way with Americanism and democracy. We protest most vehemently the appointment of Gerson which we regard as an affront and an insult to everything for which J. W. V. stands, and we demand his immediate removal from office.

43rd NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT  
DETROIT, MICH.

SEPT. 2, 3, 4, and 5th, 1938

## FIVE YEARS AGO AND TODAY

Only now, when democracy everywhere is being challenged by what Rear Admiral Clark H. Woodward so aptly termed "gangster dictators" and "swaggering bandit legions" in Europe and Asia, and by alien propagandists within our midst are Americans beginning to appreciate more fully what Woodrow Wilson meant when he said more than two decades ago that the United States was entering the World War to make the world safe for democracy. Only now, when Communism, Nazism and Fascism constitute a greater threat to democracy than the Kaiser was in 1917 are we beginning to understand how far in advance of his time was Woodrow Wilson.

Equally ahead of time was the Jewish War Veterans of the United States. It is just five years ago this month that JWV staged its great parade in New York City as the first public anti-Nazi demonstration in this country. Intended as a protest against Nazi persecution of the Jews in Germany, that parade became something far bigger and more significant. It became the opening shot in a campaign of education that was destined to impress most forcefully upon the American people the fact that Nazism was not only anti-Jewish but anti-democratic and anti-American. It was with that parade that JWV, far in advance of most other organizations, took the lead in calling attention to the peril of Nazism and in launching a militant fight against it. It was JWV that first aroused the country to an awareness of that Nazism connoted not only abroad but at home. It was JWV that led the way in showing that Nazism meant war and danger to democracy.

The clarion call sounded by the Jewish War Veterans in 1933 also had a vital effect on our own organization. Had the emergency that occurred in 1933 happened a year earlier it would have found JWV unprepared and unable to assume the major role it did. Although the second oldest veterans organization in the land (only the G.A.R. antedates us), until 1932 JWV comprised but a handful of posts. Its membership, painfully small, was concentrated in a few cities on the Eastern seaboard. Its influence was almost nil. The great masses of Jewish ex-servicemen were not only members but most of them had not even heard of JWV.

It was during J. George Fredman's incumbency as commander-in-chief that JWV underwent a metamorphosis that was destined to change the character of the organization. He gave it a new lease on life by promoting the establishment of new posts, imbuing it with much lacking vigor and putting it on the map, so to speak, both as a veterans and as a Jewish organization. By the time he relinquished the reins of office to William Berman, JWV was ready for the biggest job in its history. And just in time, too, for in 1933 the advent of Hitlerism in Germany provided JWV with an opportunity for service which it grasped firmly, boldly and eagerly. We started the boycott. We fought for it when others opposed it. We encouraged and furthered the militant spirit that bore fruit when all the other veterans organizations more recently joined us in a united crusade against Communism and Nazism.

And in so doing we have grown from strength to strength. Under the successors of Fredman and Berman—Kraditor and Schaffer—JWV has acquired standing, prestige and influence. Today we are recognized as a major veteran group and as one of the major Jewish organizations of the land. At last we are truly a national movement, with posts in every part of the country and a membership that is on the upgrade. Our voice is heard with respect, for we have made ourselves felt by our vision, our consistent and persistent insistence on a program of uncompromising Americanism and our achievements.

For quite a while we were a voice crying in the wilderness. Five years ago few Americans dreamed that the time was not far off when our peace-loving country would have to embark on a vast program of armament because power-drunk dictators would be readying the world for a new holocaust. Five years ago Communism was regarded as the chief enemy of democracy, and justly so. Fascism was still only a word. Nazism was a new term, virtually unknown in this country. In the last two years, however, America has at last become aware that the foe is really the triple-headed evil of Communism, Fascism and Nazism, all equally menacing, all equally un-American and alien.

It required this tragic triplication of the menace to arouse the American people to a belated recognition of the dangers threatening

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