

*The*

# Jewish Veteran

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

● JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ●

FORTY-THIRD  
● NATIONAL ●  
ENCAMPMENT

●  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
SEPTEMBER 2-3-4-5

CONVENTION ISSUE

SEPTEMBER - 1938

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1938

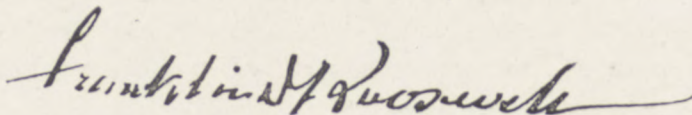
My dear Commander Schaffer:

It is with pleasure that I again greet the members of the Jewish War Veterans and all who participate in their Forty-third National Encampment.

The American people need no reminder of the service which those of the Jewish faith have rendered our nation. It has been a service with honor and distinction. History reveals that your people have played a great and commendable part in the defense of Americanism during the World War and prior wars, and have contributed much in time of peace toward the development and preservation of the glory and romance of our country and our democratic form of government.

On behalf of the American people I commemorate your loyal and commendable service and wish for you a happy and successful Encampment.

Very sincerely yours,



National Commander Harry H. Schaffer,  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States,  
1409 5th Avenue,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



FRANK MURPHY  
*Governor*

*To the Jewish War Veterans of the United States  
in Convention at Detroit*

My dear Comrades:

It is a pleasure and a privilege indeed to welcome you to our great State of Michigan. I am sure you will find that Detroit lives up to all expectations as a convention city and that you will meet with friendly greetings, satisfying accommodations, and a genuinely warm welcome.

I hope to be able to greet you in person and plan, of course, on doing so. It is my hope that your gathering in Detroit will be successful in every way and that as many of you as possible will plan to spend some time in Michigan either before or after the convention. We have a wonderful State which offers many attractions, and it is our hope that you can avail yourselves of this opportunity to vacation with us.

We are glad indeed of your decision to meet with us and assure you of all possible cooperation.

Sincerely,

FRANK MURPHY, *Governor*.



RICHARD W. READING, *Mayor*  
Detroit, Michigan.

*To the Jewish War Veterans of the United States:*

Please consider this a personal invitation to attend the 43rd National Encampment of the Jewish War Veterans to be held in Detroit September 2 - 5.

Your program committee has assured me the recreational and business program for this year's encampment is "tops." Consequently, you'll want to be in Detroit on the convention dates.

Detroit is proud that you've chosen us to be your hosts. We'll do everything within our power to demonstrate to you that we do know the meaning of hospitality—if you'll just let us.

Detroit appreciates the ideals which motivate your organization. Your promotion of Americanism is but one example of the need for more groups such as yours.

Don't forget Detroit's numerous sight-seeing and recreational advantages. These, added to our genuine pleasure at being your hosts, should combine to make your visit a most enjoyable one.

So come to Detroit September 2 to 5. We'll be glad to see you, and you'll be glad you came.

Cordially yours,

RICHARD W. READING, *Mayor*



SAMUEL J. LEVE  
President, 43rd National Convention Corporation

*Comrades and Friends of the  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States:*

AS President of the Convention Corporation of the Jewish War Veterans and as a member of Detroit Post No. 135, it is my privilege and extreme pleasure to cordially welcome you to this our forty-third national encampment.

My greeting would be an idle gesture if I failed to pay due tribute to the members of Detroit Post No. 135, and the citizens, merchants, newspapers and radio stations of Detroit, who have all contributed toward making this convention a success.

We hope that this 43rd national encampment will prove a happy and successful one. We hope you will like Detroit and that you will carry away fond memories of your visit here.

Before concluding my message, may I state that Detroit is a real American city, proud of its history and heritage and its contribution patriotically, industrially and spiritually to the up-building of our beloved nation. We are proud to welcome the Jewish War Veterans, an American association steeped in the traditions of the finest Americanism, and pledged to uphold the privileges and liberties of our democratic form of government.

It has indeed been an honor and a privilege to be of service to you, my comrades and sisters, and I appreciate your trust and confidence.

Cordially yours,

SAMUEL J. LEVE, *President*



MAURICE BORDELOVE  
*Commander Detroit Post No. 135*

*. . . Greetings . . .*

*Comrades and Sisters:*

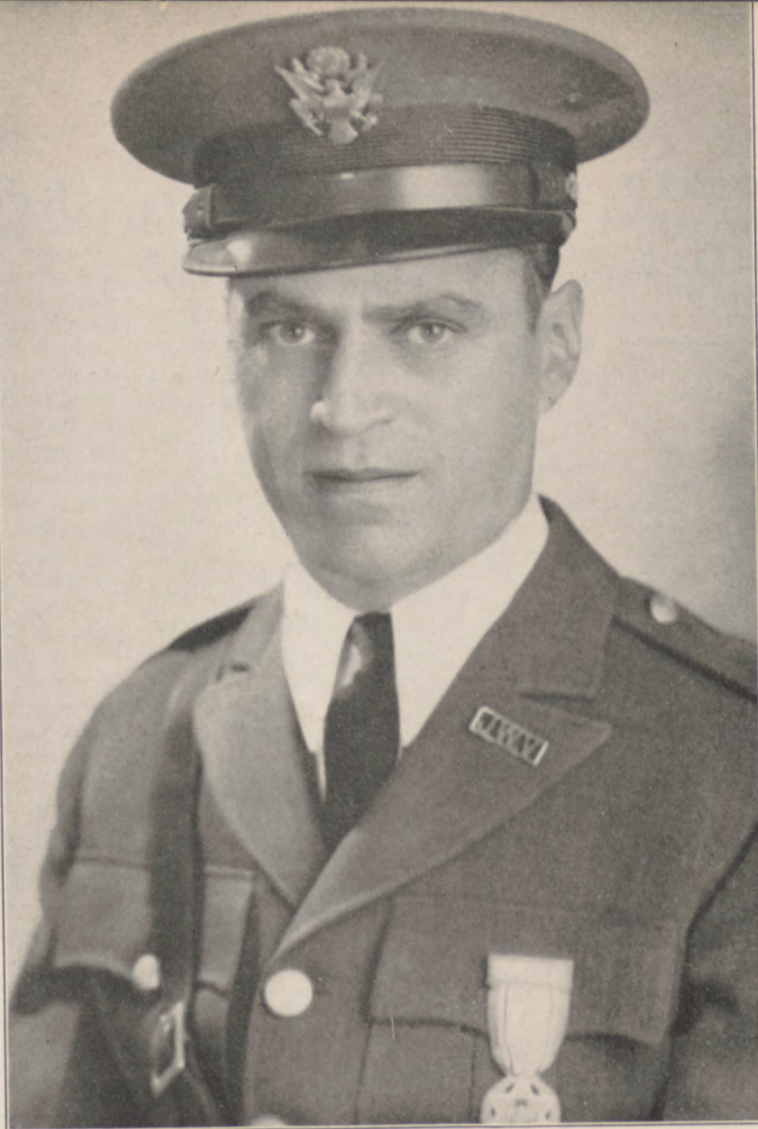
It is with genuine pleasure that I extend to all of you a most cordial welcome on the occasion of the forty-third National Encampment of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States in convention in the City of Detroit, Michigan.

We in Detroit are proud of our affiliation with this great veterans organization, and more so, that we are privileged to entertain a National Encampment of the Jewish War Veterans, the first convention ever held in the middle-west.

Our Convention Committee, in arranging for your comfort and entertainment, prepared a program that is packed-full of interesting moments for every minute of your stay in our midst and I urge you to take advantage of everything we have to offer.

On behalf of the Jewish War Veterans of the City of Detroit I greet you, and I trust that your stay with us will be most pleasant and when you depart to your homes, you will carry back fond recollections of having attended the finest convention of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

MAURICE BORDELOVE, *Commander*  
Detroit Post No. 135



HARRY H. SCHAFFER  
*Commander-in-Chief*

*Comrades, Sisters and Friends:*

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I welcome you to Detroit, our Convention City. Elaborate arrangements have been made by the Encampment Committee for your entertainment and amusement.

Many important business items will come before us for consideration and attention. It is my opinion that this convention, when it has concluded its deliberations, will become one of the important events in American Jewish history.

Let us enjoy ourselves immeasurably; at the same time let us rededicate ourselves to those American principles for which so many of our comrades gave their lives to make America a free country; and at the same time help continue the Jewish War Veterans of the United States an outstanding American organization.

Yours in Comradeship,

HARRY H. SCHAFFER,  
*Commander-in-chief*

# THE JEWISH VETERAN

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### On to Detroit!

By the time the comrades receive this issue of the Jewish Veteran they will be packing for the trip to Detroit. "Go West J.W.V." is this year's slogan for our national encampment. And no slogan could be more apt. In a year of remarkable growth and progress under the administration of our outgoing Commander-in-chief, Harry H. Schaffer, J. W. V. has spread to every corner of the country. At last we are a real national organization. The largest number of new posts during the past 12 months were formed beyond the Alleghenies. So in meeting beyond the Alleghenies for the first time in our 43 year history we are paying a deserved tribute not only to the western posts but to J.W.V. itself. So, on to Detroit!

When we get there, comrades, let us remember that our national encampment will focus nationwide attention upon us. Upon us rests a grave responsibility. We must decide policies for the coming year, elect new officers, adopt resolutions of far-reaching import. These are all vital matters. Let us deal with them sincerely, soberly, and without passion. Let us make the Detroit encampment a landmark in J.W.V. history, an encampment in which petty, personal and selfish interests and ambitions are subordinated to the greater good of the whole organization. No man or group of men is bigger than J.W.V. J.W.V. will be here long after many of us are gone. It is up to us to see that our Detroit encampment is not only successful from the point of view of attendance (from the viewpoint of program and entertainment we have nothing to worry about since Comrade Leve and his committee have done a swell job) but from the point of view of achievement.

J.W.V. goes west this year for the first time. Let us go determined to give Detroit something to remember us by for years to come, something good, fine and constructive. So, on to Detroit comrades!

### A Constructive Year

The annual encampment is traditionally a time for reviewing the achievements of the organization since we last met in national convention. Much has happened since we convened in Asbury Park, much that was constructive, wholesome and progressive and that contributed greatly to the continued growth and prosperity of J.W.V. Looking back upon the past twelve months leaves one with a feeling of pride in J.W.V.

Our membership has reached record proportions. New posts have been established in key cities and we now extend from coast to coast and from Maine to Florida. The west, once a no-man's land for J.W.V., is fast becoming one of our most flourishing centers. Sons of J.W.V., organized on an experimental basis two years ago is now a vital adjunct which grew from strength to strength. The Ladies Auxiliary also made encouraging gains in membership.

Perhaps the most significant feature of the last J.W.V. year was the remarkable recognition accorded J.W.V. as a major veteran organization. There was hardly a national undertaking of concern to veterans in which J.W.V. did not have a prominent part. J.W.V. was ably represented at the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. It took a leading part in the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Federal Constitution. It was regularly consulted on veterans legislation. We also gained additional standing by coming to the rescue of Mrs. Sadie Monssen, widow of a non-Jewish naval hero, who was threatened with the loss of her home, and by the dramatic gesture of Isadore Gennett in laying a J.W.V. wreath on the German war memorial in Berlin.

In the special sphere of Jewish affairs J.W.V. came to the fore with a rush last year. An entente cordiale was reached with the B'nai Brith. J.W.V. was invited to become a member of the Committee on Cooperation. Everywhere our posts played important roles in Jewish communal affairs.

J.W.V. was also to the fore in the fight against subversive movements, taking its rightful place in the militant war against Communism, Nazism and Fascism. J.W.V. took the lead in extending the boycott to Austria and acted promptly to aid the Jewish War Veterans of Austria when their country was gobbled up by Germany.

To the comrades converging on Detroit the year's record should be an inspiration. It is to be hoped that what we have achieved during the past twelve months will be an incentive to J.W.V. and the new officers it will elect to make still bigger strides in the coming year.

And so, as we take leave of the present year, we say hail and farewell to National Commander Harry H. Schaffer whose administration was productive of so much good. We say hail and farewell too to his staff of loyal devoted and able officers. To

### Rosh Hashanah

To cast away the sins and errors of the past year and to determine upon a course of righteousness and justice for the year to come is an immemorial custom of Jewry on Rosh Hashanah. As we prepare to usher in the new year of 5699 it occurs to us that it would be well to look back upon the year we are leaving behind and record some of the sins and errors which the world at large would do well to cast away.

Here we are on the eve of the twentieth anniversary of the Armistice that ended the war that was to end all wars. Yet we are no closer to universal peace. If anything we are nearer to a new world war. The face of the world is splotted with civil war in Spain and undeclared wars in the Far East. Italy has only recently conquered Ethiopia. Germany is preparing to gobble up Czechoslovakia, by force if necessary, after having swallowed Austria. Over half of Europe, governments are warring upon their own citizens for reasons of race, creed or political opinion. Millions of people are being persecuted and driven into exile in what is tantamount to an undeclared war. Everywhere nations are frantically arming in anticipation of news wars. The people talk of and pray for peace but the drums of war sound ominously louder with each passing day.

To a world suffering from economic dislocation and increasingly more tense national hatreds peace is the great desideratum. To its achievement everything else is subordinated. Yet while working for peace we dare not overlook the danger of war and therefore we must be prepared for all eventualities. We in America want no war. We seek only to be left alone to pursue our peaceful way. We want no part of Europe's political rivalries. We have our own problems and our own American way of solving them.

Let us therefore dedicate the coming year to something more than mere repentance of sins of commission. Let us repent the motives that causes the sins to be committed and may bring about their repetition. Before the peoples of the world can honestly resolve to lead a better life in the coming year they must erase from their hearts the base qualities that have crept in—selfishness, greed, hate, prejudice and any other moral arming in anticipation of news wars. The period of moral cleansing.

To all comrades we extend the heartiest greetings of the seasons. To our country and its leaders we extend wishes for continued peace and renewed prosperity. To our comrades of the other veterans organizations we say Happy New Year with the hope that it will be really a happy new year for one and all.

all of them we express the hope that they will continue to serve J.W.V., making available to the organization the benefit of their experience so that J.W.V. can go forward to greater prestige in the years ahead.

# Militant Democracy.....

## The Defense Against Dictatorship

By HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN

THIS country was settled by men who came here because they differed from the majority of their fellow citizens at home in political thought and religious belief. Here they sought for themselves freedom to assert the truth as they saw it and to worship according to their own consciences. A new spirit was awakening. Pioneers who had left their native lands to find in a new country liberty of thought and of conscience soon felt the quickening of that spirit.

The founders of our nation realized that democracy must not only recognize the rights of the majority but must protect the individual against the oppression of the majority and of government. Constitutional democracy requires that even the will of the majority must be exercised through constitutional means. Democracy means freedom of the individual. Our democracy bestows upon its citizens the guarantees and safeguards emblazoned in our Bill of Rights. In the eighteenth century the philosophic concepts of civil and religious liberty were discussed and formulated. In the nineteenth century they were accepted by all Western civilization. The growth of democracy and the spread of liberal doctrines seemed to doom all civil and religious disabilities. The traditional policy of the United States bade fair to become the policy of every enlightened country. Prejudice was decreasing. Men who loved their own religion were ready to extend the hand of fellowship to the sincere followers of other faiths. Men here and abroad insisted as a matter of course, that respect be accorded to the individual rights and liberties of their fellowmen. Many of us felt confident that the twentieth century would mark the end of oppression and intolerance everywhere.

We have had a rude awakening. What has happened? In the wake of the World War has come a flood of new-born ill-will and intolerance. Dictatorships in many countries have superseded democracies. Freedom of thought and of conscience is stifled. America gasps in horror when it sees great groups of people persecuted solely because of race, religion or political belief. Whole peoples have been ruthlessly and without mercy marked down for economic, religious and political destruction. They have been deprived of the primary rights of citizenship, of the means of livelihood and of the privilege of worship in accordance with their consciences.

Almost over night the work of centuries has been undone. No longer does the road lead forth to the light of good will and of freedom and of fellowship. Half of the peoples of the civilized world are today living under powerful and ruthless dictatorships. They have been stripped of their individual liberties—they work and live alone

*We all talk about opposing Communism, Nazism and Fascism, but what are we doing about preserving democracy? That's the theme of this trenchant article by the Governor of the State of New York.*

THE EDITOR

by the will of their masters. We would be reckless if we blinded our eyes to the threat which dictatorship constitutes to democracy and to democratic principles.

Dictatorships use force when force is in their own interest. Dictatorships employ insidious propaganda at home or abroad. Democracies on the other hand must depend for their strength solely upon a deep-rooted and passionate devotion to liberty on the part of their citizens—a devotion which can permit no weakening of democratic principles. If we should lessen for an instant our devotion to and constant insistence upon the principles on which this nation was built, democracy here would likewise be doomed.

The vast majority of the people of our country sincerely abhor both Fascism and Communism. And yet many of our loyal and devoted citizens appeal to feel that they are compelled to make a choice between Fascism and Communism—that there is no alternative. Nothing could be more untrue—nothing could be more dangerous. There is no choice between Fascism and Communism. Their objectives are substantially identical. What is their philosophy? Both stand for dictatorship of an individual or of a ruthless small group. Both stand for the breaking down of religious influence. Both stand for the arraying of class against class. Both stand for the arousing of hatreds and for the regimentation of the individual to the end that he becomes merely a cog in the great machine of the State.

It is natural and right that we should express abhorrence of certain forms of government and of acts foreign to our own conception of democracy and liberty. But we must not only be against subversive acts which strike at democracy. We must stand affirmatively and militantly for the principles of democracy and of liberty and of free institutions. We gain nothing if in our fight against Communism we invoke Fascism. We gain nothing if in our fight against Fascism we invoke Communism. Both Fascism and Communism can successfully be fought only by invoking an uncompromising devotion to democracy.

In all despotic states the first step towards dictatorship has come through the curtailment or denial of the rights of some of their citizens, under the alleged sanction of the majority. A denial of the fundamental rights of any of our citizens would lead us inevitably to the plight of despotic coun-

tries abroad. Those who would stimulate dictatorships can gain no ground if we adhere to the principle of exact equality to all and to the maintenance of freedom of conscience, of thought and of expression. Any violation of our personal liberties may encourage subtle changes in the form or administration of our government that would endanger true democracy. Any compromise of Constitutional guarantees may serve as an entering wedge for hatreds and suspicion and persecution and undermine the very rights and liberties of all.

The gravest threat to democracy is lethargy and complacency. The greatest danger to democracy lies in the acceptance by an inert people of encroachments on their constitutional rights and in the failure to realize that Constitutional democracy cannot survive where the rights guaranteed by the Constitution are not guaranteed to all citizens. If these rights are to be preserved, no one of us may dare to be supine or indifferent. There must throughout our Nation be an aroused affirmative and vigilant public opinion that permits of no weakening of our faith in democracy—that tolerates no encroachment on our liberties. Against the wall of such public opinion undemocratic or subversive doctrines will crush themselves. The blessings of our democracy were gained through struggle and sacrifice and unending vigilance; they can be safeguarded only through struggle and sacrifice and unending vigilance.

The world today is passing through the most important and most critical period of modern times. To me the world threat to democracy by dictatorship is so real that I am convinced it is the duty of every citizen to devote his loyalties and his energies to arousing public sentiment in affirmative defense of democratic principles.

The struggle between democracy and dictatorship may be long and bitter. Dedicate yourselves now to the cause of humanity and justice. For it is only under democracy that we can hope abidingly to have the blessings of religious and civil liberty and of tolerance. Where democracy has been blotted out persecution, religious intolerance and civil oppression have invariably raised their ugly heads. Those who are indifferent to the blessings of their liberties may lose them. But freedom of conscience, freedom of worship and the guarantee of civil rights will be kept inviolate if those who value their liberty stand firmly together in defense of democracy. That we *must* do if we are to preserve democracy for ourselves and our posterity.

Do not only be *against* Fascism and *against* Communism, but be *for* democracy. The defense against dictatorship is *militant democracy*.

NATIONAL  
VICE  
COMMANDERS



SAMUEL FRIEDMAN



MAXWELL COHEN



EDGAR H. BURMAN



SIDNEY SUGARMAN



HARRY M. WENGROW



ISADOR S. WORTH



## ❖ MESSAGE OF NATIONAL COMMANDER ❖

THIS Encampment brings to a close my two years of stewardship of our beloved organization. I should have liked to close this album on a happy note, but world events prevent this. Wars are being fought in Spain and China, and the Sino-Japanese-Russia, and Germany-Czecho-slovakia embroglios may any moment precipitate a world war. The German-American Bund, the Pelleys, the Trues, the Edmondsons and subversive groups and individuals are actively seeking to undermine our Republic. The 700,000 Jews of Germany and Austria, are being tossed around like a cork on the ocean. Add to this the Jewish situations in Poland, Roumania, Hungary and in Palestine, and the fate of the Jew throughout the world looks dark indeed. Only recently, Italy has embarked on the Nazi racial scheme. In the United States many millions are still unemployed, and the return of prosperity (one of the roots upon which anti-Semitism nourishes) does not appear too imminent.

The most luminous rays of optimism in this situation are the sympathy of humane Americans like President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Hull, James MacDonald and Myron C. Taylor. Also the fundamental tolerance and understanding of the average American. Not to forget of course, the realization at last of the leading National Jewish Organizations in the United States, that they must coordinate their efforts and strength in combatting the common enemies and promoting the utmost of understanding and good-will.

As I look back over the last two years, I am happy to have been a part in shaping this cooperation among Jewish organizations. We were more than eager originally to cooperate with other national groups prosecuting the boycott, so there would be unity and not duplication of effort and expense. We joined willingly in the original coordination group consisting of the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-defamation League of the Bnai-Brith, the American Jewish Congress, the Jewish Labor Committee and the Jewish War Veterans.

American Jewry today realizes that the Jewish War Veterans are the balance-wheel against any accusations of lack of patriotism or communism. Such charges fall flat against the record of J.W.V.'s service and heroism. They realize that J.W.V. is the best front to be advanced in the battle against anti-Semitism.

At the beginning of my term, we often heard the question, "Why a Jewish War Veterans organization?" Today this question is seldom heard, due to our policies and our level-headed activities, and a better understanding by those organizations which opposed us, and in many instances hampered our growth. During the past year, Alfred Cohen, then President of the Bnai Brith wrote his letter to all lodges of Bnai Brith in the United States not to oppose our organization, but to cooperate with us. As a result, J.W.V. posts have been

formed in many key cities, where difficulty was previously experienced.

I have always believed that anti-Semitism was not merely a Jewish problem. Anti-Semitism has always been the first weapon of tyranny and reaction—the first simply because it is the handiest. But it is never a final step. The freedom and security of the Jew are inextricably united with the freedom and security of his gentile brother.

As a result a great deal of my efforts have been concerned with creating better understanding with the millions of veterans who belong to the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Spanish War Veterans and others. I submit that these efforts have been successful and productive of worthwhile results.

I wish especially to pay tribute to National Commander Daniel Doherty and the leaders of the American Legion. They have been more than sympathetic and cooperative. At their last national encampment, they passed a strong resolution to promote Americanism and combat all the known "isms". This resolution has been put into actual practice in many sections of the country. At the National Rehabilitation conference of the Legion in Washington, Commander Doherty introduced me as the "head of the Jewish War Veterans, whom we consider a definite adjunct to the American Legion." I was invited and attended all of the National Executive Committee meetings of the Legion held during my administration, and accorded the privilege of addressing them. I was invited also and attended the National Encampments of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled Americans, and spoke in each instance. I attended and addressed innumerable Department Encampments of the various veterans' organizations, as a result of all of which, I feel certain that millions of Gentiles have a better understanding not only of the Jewish War Veterans but of Jewry in general. I also feel positive that should any crisis develop here that these veteran friends will be our staunchest protectors.

In return, of course, we have done our utmost to cooperate with the veteran organizations on their programs. We have gone along with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Bill, the Universal Service Law, laws liberalizing benefits to veterans, those to prefer veterans in Government and other employment projects, and for increased hospitalization. Many of our individual posts sponsored "Good-Will Dinners", at which other veterans were our guests.

I cannot leave this subject without expressing my personal appreciation and the thanks of J.W.V. to our dear friend General Frank T. Hines, Director of the United States Veterans Administration. He has attended personally our past two Encampments, and has assisted J.W.V. and our officers and comrades immeasurably where his department could do so.

Our organization does its work with a minimum of publicity, and accomplishes its purposes for the good we can do, and does not seek undue credit for its achievements. We have done many things where our assistance and interest is generally unknown. However, I am happy to report that J.W.V. more than any other organization deserves credit for arousing the veteran organizations and the American public in general to the peril of the Bund and other Nazi and Fascist subsidized organizations. Incidents on the West Coast, in St. Louis, Milwaukee, upper New York, Yaphank, only to mention a few, were the result of Americans awakening to the real un-American purpose of these groups. And so there be no quibble, I cannot say too emphatically that we are as unalterably opposed to Communism, as we are to Nazism and Fascism. These three are only different names for "dictatorship," which in the final analysis are anti-democratic, and would deprive us of the rights and privileges for which our forefathers and we fought and died for. They all teach hatred and intolerance, and there is no place of these in our peace-loving, neighborly republic.

I cherish the two invitations I received from President Roosevelt, as a represent of J.W.V. to discuss the problems of our organization.

I have been invited to represent J.W.V. before the Dies Congressional Investigating Committee, and shall shortly take advantage of the invitation.

So many matters have been handled, so much achieved and I have been in so many different places the last two years, that a good sized book would be required to chronicle them in my final message. I can only give you here in brief form a very brief summary with a few conclusions. As your National Commander, I could have accomplished little, without the unselfish and loyal cooperation of you my comrades. I should like to give honorable mention to all who have assisted me, but space does not permit. I can only mention a very few who have rendered outstanding service during my administration, and if I should overlook some deserving comrade, I ask to be pardoned, because it will be through oversight and not by design.

In my humble opinion, our outstanding accomplishment the past two years has been the formation of the "Sons of J.W.V." We have but a short span on this earth, and our sons are being taught through this junior organization to carry on our ideals and objects. Less than two years old, they now have 115 units, about 8,000 members and 65 Drum and Bugle Corps. It sounds almost like a miracle. Yet it was mainly done through the sacrificing efforts and perseverance of a modest comrade from Newark,

(Continued on page 12)