

JANUARY 1947

The
Jewish Veteran



GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL

Our New Secretary of State

COMMANDER'S COLUMN — By Milton H. Richman

I have spent a busy month, and I wish to report upon my activities.

Over the New Year, I went down to Miami, at the invitation of Post Commander Harry Adam, to deliver an address in connection with the induction of 60 new members of JWV who were being inducted into the Miami Beach No. 330 Post in memory of Sgt. Alfred Kohn, a young Miami newspaperman who was killed in the line of duty while serving as a member of the editorial staff of the Army newspaper, "Stars and Stripes."



Milton H. Richman

This idea of inducting new members into JWV in groups in honor of some casualty of World War II is highly dramatic, and one, I am sure, that will be helpful to the future of our organization. On chatting with the new inductees, I found a real spirit of consecration among them; a feeling that they had to do something fine and good for JWV in honor of the departed comrade in whose name they became members.

I commend this type of ceremony of induction to other posts throughout the country, realizing, of course, that a number of them are already using some similar technique. But for those not aware of the dramatic potentialities of such a program of induction, I recommend this type of program which also has the advantage of having significant public relations aspects for the general community in that it once again calls to the attention of non-Jews the historic war record and sacrifices of American Jewry during World War II.

Your Executive Committee, at its post convention meeting, authorized me to appoint a sub-committee of five to interview qualified candidates for the position of executive director of JWV, and after making their selection to make arrangements for his employment. I appointed Past Commanders Harris, Kraditor, Schaeffer, Edgar Burman and N. E. Committeeman Joseph Barr. The Committee, headed by Past Comm. Harris, has met several times and has made an excellent choice; unfortunately, he is unable to assume his duties for another month and we are unable to release his name until the organization with which he is now connected officially gives him his release. I feel that this is important news for JWV, and I am eager to make public the name of the man we have chosen, for he is of high calibre and reputation, a man who will be able to do a great deal for the JWV.

I believe that the JWV must have an entity of its own, grow on its own and thereby strengthen itself, both nationally and in the posts. This does not, however, preclude the necessity of our cooperation in major undertakings with other Jewish organizations, on both national and local levels. There are some things for which JWV is eminently qualified, other things for which other organizations are better equipped. In the

interest of the totality of American Jewry, it is to our interest as American Jews to do only what we can do well, and to turn over to others those jobs which they are best equipped to do.

Nationally, as many of you know, we are members of the American Jewish Conference and the National Community Relations Advisory Council. The American Jewish Conference is composed of some sixty organizations, practically all of the major Jewish organizations in the country with the exception of the American Jewish Committee, and it is generally accepted as the voice of American Jewry in its representations to our Government as well as foreign governments.

The NCRAC is a coordinating organization of the six major organizations concerned with the problems which have been variously defined as civic protective, or as it is now becoming to be known, community relations. The other organizations in the NCRAC, aside from JWV, are the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Labor Committee and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. I felt that one of my first duties as new national commander was to get acquainted with the leaders of these other groups. I have met with many of these leaders already, and those few I haven't seen, I expect to see in the near future.

I also met with Frank Weil, the president of the Jewish Welfare Board, with whom we jointly operate a veterans' service. At this meeting, it was agreed that a new statement will be shortly issued by the JWV and the JWB which will, once and for all, settle the question of service to veterans. This agreement is now being worked out by representatives of both organizations, and I have high hopes that it will be of great benefit to our organization.

I also conferred with Colonel Paul Griffith, National Commander of the American Legion. At our annual encampment in Atlantic City, Colonel Griffith pledged the support of the American Legion to the JWV in promoting a program of combatting intolerance in America. Colonel Griffith made it plain that the Legion, in its contacts with other Jewish organizations, feels that the organization with which it should work is the Jewish War Veterans, because it is a fellow veterans organization. I assured him that this is our intention, and there is no doubt that the cooperation between the two organizations, always good, will be further cemented during the administration of Colonel Griffith.

At or about the time these words reach you, I shall be attending the conference in Atlantic City of the National Council of Jewish Welfare Funds and Federations. This is the overall agency of local fund raising agencies in the United States and is composed of the directors and officers of the local welfare funds throughout the country. More and more, it is expected, that JWV will win recognition and raise funds through these organizations. What develops along these lines is something I will communicate to you in a succeeding report.

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COVER—J.W.V. extends congratulations to Gen. George C. Marshall on his elevation to the post of Secretary of State and pledges to support his role as a soldier of peace.

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PERSONAL . . . NEC Harry Wengrow appointed by Gov. Arnall to Georgia's "Veterans Building Commission" . . . DC Charles F. Mayer was appointed to Veterans Affairs Commission by Gov.-Elect Jester of Texas . . . Col. Julius I. Peyser of No. 58 was awarded American Legion's Badge of Merit . . . P.D.C. Herbert J. Jacobi of DC Legion, also of Post 58, is National Chmn. of Legion's Vet Preference Committee . . . Rudy Hennick, formerly Dept. Com. of Connecticut, is now serving as Commander of Fannick Post . . . Lt. Samuel Sobel is the first Rabbi ever assigned to U. S. Navy as a Chaplain . . . Revision of "Jews in American Wars" (including statistics of WW II) by Louis A. Falk and J. George Fredman is now ready for distribution . . . Comrade Jacob K. Javits was elected a Congressman from the 21st District of Manhattan.

SPANKED . . . We now know that some comrades DO read JV . . . a few wrote in to criticize us for Readers Digest Ad. which appeared in Nov. issue . . . the criticism was merited . . . it was slipped in last day, without our knowledge, which is no excuse . . . we have consistently refused doubtful ads, and it won't happen again . . . let it be understood that the acceptance of any ad would never and has never altered our editorial policy . . . Now, let's see if our critics will do something constructive to aid us in making this periodical self-sustaining and procure for us some desirable ads. This is a Challenge to ALL comrades!

HOUSING . . . When Pres. Truman accepted Expediter Wilson Wyatt's resignation, the hope of low-cost and low-rent veterans' housing ended . . . for many years before the war private building material supply men and real estate interests were unable to furnish low-cost housing. They're interested in profits and not veterans . . . Foxhole promises from the home-front are being forgotten and vet economy moves can now be expected . . . Which means that vet orgs. must alert themselves and fight all the harder for essential vet benefits . . . We must force the new Congress to enact favorable vet housing laws, likewise the States and municipalities. Wire, write, and talk to your Congressmen and State Legislators.

PHOBIAS . . . We have one on Membership, as we think it the clue to all JWV problems . . . Post near to colleges and universities, where so many

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EDITORIAL LIVING MEMORIALS

Many communities this year will start thinking and planning for an appropriate memorial of the recent war. Generally, what is the best and most useful type of memorial?

The Russell Sage Foundation recently made a survey of 500 cities to find the answer to this question. The poll showed that most communities favored "living" memorials in preference to statues and columns.

What is a "living" memorial? The survey answered that question also. One of the best memorials is a community center, planned and equipped to serve the leisure time needs of a neighborhood, which also sponsors the ideals and traditions of democracy, for which our servicemen fought. Such a community center should offer club rooms, auditorium for meetings, lectures, music and dramatics, a gymnasium and outdoor fields for sports. Such a community center will serve as a forum and a "focus of local patriotism," and might we add, as a meeting place for legitimate veteran organizations.

Abilene, Kansas, is planning a "living" memorial, on a national scale. It was originally conceived as a tribute to its most celebrated citizen, General Dwight D. Eisenhower. When General Ike's fellow-townsmen discussed the project with him on one of his visits, the General was all for it—on two conditions: first, that it honor *all* the men and women who fought with him; and second, that it help his fellow-countrymen to be better Americans.

To accomplish the first, the building will contain the battle records of American armies, as well as the General's personal collection of medals and mementos. It will also house a military library, a chapel for religious worship and a display of World War II arms.

But it is the second function that makes the building a real *living* memorial.

Leading educators and teachers will gather there to interpret the social, political and economic sciences. A national center for studying the best ways to educate people for citizenship

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