

The **Jewish Veteran**

JULY, 1947



REMINDER!

TWO YEARS

SINCE

HIROSHIMA--

WHAT,

NO PEACE

YET?

BOOBY TRAP AHEAD - - -

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National Commander

THE conflicting viewpoints set forth elsewhere on this page do not take in the entire range of differences that presently exist between some JWV comrades of World War I and World War II. They are, however, sufficiently clear in their divergence to constitute a challenge to JWV's maximum effectiveness as an organization at a time when we are in the formative stages of a program far in advance of anything we have previously undertaken.

SAYS WORLD WAR II VET

"THE TROUBLE WITH THE AVERAGE WORLD WAR I VETERAN is his bent for passing wholesale judgment on the G.I. of World War II. We World War II veterans are assumed to be in the main wide-eyed youngsters who entered military service directly from class rooms or minor jobs in commerce and manufacture. What is overlooked is that among us, as well, were men of every professional, business and industrial skill. And many of us had already achieved considerable standing in our communities when war broke out. We do not deny that the older generation of JWVs came back from war to the same inadequacies and disruptions that are presently harassing the G.I.s of World War II, but we do contend the problems of 1947 cannot be effectively met by the slow-but-sure organizational techniques of 1918-1940 inclusive. In a time of rapidly shifting social and political developments both at home and abroad, JWV can expand and move forward only if its perception is quick and its action prompt and courageous. If we are to develop a mass appeal for thousands of Jewish World War II veterans who have not joined our ranks, we must build and put into play a program that can stand with the best in vigor and progress. To move on the challenging issues of our time with excessive caution, to lean too heavily for guidance upon past experiences that lie bone-dry and crumbling in organizational
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In one form or another, I have heard these contending views from comrades in every corner of the country. Whatever the immediate basis for charge and counter-charge, it has been plain in every instance that JWV is confronted with a contest for leadership that can be a healthy development if the contestants do not permit their convictions to divide them into groups that scorn compromise and mutual understanding.

To allow personal disagreements and policy disputes to become all-important issues at the Post and Department level is to booby-trap an influence for good.

This is a prospect calculated to please only the anti-Semite. It is tantamount to posting a go-ahead sign for the street-corner hate shouter and the night-running synagogue wrecker. And it holds out even darker portents. Once permitted to disperse JWV units into scattered groups of stubborn disputants, it can undermine the Jewish community itself by depriving it of a vigorous, united force for the maintenance and protection of democratic processes and institutions.

It can sap JWV's authority in its relationships with veteran and community organizations everywhere, and it can deprive the Jewish community of the benefits of those relationships.

It can discourage Jewish youth from participating more fully in Jewish community activities.

It can oil the vocal cords of those who proclaim that JWV builds a ghetto around the Jewish veteran.

It can weaken Jewry's voice in law-making councils on every level from

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SAYS WORLD WAR I VET

"THE TROUBLE WITH THE AVERAGE WORLD WAR II VETERAN is that he sees JWV as a horse-and-buggy organization that required only his advent to bring it to an outlook of vigorous purpose. He ignores the basic factors that enabled the organization to take root and flourish in community life when its numbers were small, its posts scattered. For the veteran of 1918 there was no easy escalator to leadership in JWV. There was no pocket digest of knowledge or experience to help him in his climb. He had to solve his own problems of social and economic readjustment, and he had to devote simultaneous efforts to building an organization that might call public attention to American Jewry's war participation and its determination to preserve the principles for which the war had been fought. By the time this veteran arrived at a position of leadership in JWV he had fought Hitlerism abroad, through a boycott of Nazi goods and he had fought Nazi tendencies at home through unrelenting pressure on its lunatic satellites in the rising domestic hate groups. It was partly through such efforts that his capabilities won recognition among those individuals and groups in the community with whom JWV worked towards common objectives. The development of this organization took years of grinding effort. It rests today upon a brick-by-brick foundation of experience in building personal and commu-
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The "Jewish Veteran" believes that JWV can best be served by turning the healthy light of democratic opinion on the issue presented on this page. It invites your comments on the most practical, constructive steps that can be taken by comrades of both World Wars in putting a permanent end to divisive action within JWV.