

The Jewish Veteran

"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

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JWV PREPARES FOR 66TH CONVENTION IN BALT.

EDITORIAL

Why You Must Attend Convention

In traveling about the country one is apt to encounter a diversity of opinions on questions involving the policy of the national organization of JWV.

In the American Jewish Community for example, two issues come to mind over which there is much debate and disagreement.

The first of these is the question of group libel legislation. On the one hand there are those who believe that any type of group libel legislation would ultimately water down civil rights and civil liberties.

These people believe that any such legislation would be bad, that it would have the effect of a two-edged sword which, some day, could conceivably work to the disadvantage of the American Jewish Community.

On the other hand there are those who would like to see some form of legislative action leading to a group libel statute. JWV finds itself in the camp of these exponents, and the full force of our legislative program is directed toward the exploration of this issue by Congress.

Another subject on which there is divided thinking within the Jewish community is the question of quarantine. Quarantine in this sense means the deliberate isolation of the hate monger and his activities. Indeed, the quarantine method of dealing with hate mongers has considerable advocates within the organized Jewish Community and it can be said that the community has lived by the quarantine method for more than a decade.

But on this subject too, there is deep opposition by many members of JWV. Last month the Letters to the Editor column of this newspaper was filled with bitter denunciations of the quarantine method as an instrument which had reached the stage of obsolescence.

Many among JWV leaders agree in principle with these letters and the thinking they represent and recent organizational policy definitely does leave the door open to new thinking . . . a matter that will most certainly be resolved at the National Convention.

Which brings us to the main point of this editorial. **AS A MEMBER OF THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HELP FORMULATE THE POLICY OF THE ORGANIZATION THAT SPEAKS FOR YOU.**

The National Convention is your opportunity to speak up and be heard in the discussions and debates which will surely surround these and other vital issues.

Too often, JWV members assume that others in the organization think and act the way they themselves would under similar circumstances.

DON'T LET OTHERS SPEAK FOR YOU.

JWV prides itself on its concept of democratic action. The National Convention will consider issues of considerable importance to yourself and your families. You owe it to yourself to attend the convention and help us reach decisions which will protect your family's future.

Big Confab To Feature First-Time Events!

The curtain is about to go up . . . on the biggest and best convention ever held by the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. Baltimore JWV is all set to go all out, in order to welcome to convention city in royal style the 2000 delegates, representing over 1000 Posts and Auxiliaries.

JWV Sponsors Vets Luncheon

On June 5, the Jewish War Veterans sponsored a luncheon for leaders of the major Veterans organizations at the Hotel Statler in Washington, D. C. It was attended by representatives of some ten veteran groups.

The Jewish War Veterans were represented by National Executive Director Joseph F. Barr, National Director of Public Relations, Warren Adler, National Legislative Director, Felix Putterman, and National Membership Director, Louis Shrier.

Also present was the originator of the idea of periodic get-togethers by leaders of Veterans groups Past National Commander Sam Shaikeitz.

As planned, JWV brought up two vital issues for the consideration of the group. The first was the so called "Tractors for Freedom" which involved the trading of Cuban Revolutionary Prisoners for farm tractors. The second issue was the problems of our lagging interest in Civil Defense on all levels.

National Commander William C. Burke of the American Legion, who had just returned from a tour of the United States defenses talked at length about what he had seen during his trip and pointed out that he was greatly impressed with the job that our military forces are doing overseas.

Commenting on the Cuban situation Burke said that he was in Guantanamo Bay, our foremost Naval base in the Carribean just three weeks ago. He said that 1200 United States Marines had volunteered to join the invasion forces in Cuba, if permission was granted.

In connection with the "Tractors for Freedom" movement, he agreed that the motive was humanitarian, but he questioned whether this was the best way to serve the people of Cuba and the United States.

He stated that the American Legion had taken an early stand on Communist infiltration in Cuba and that it was intolerable that Russia could have a Soviet link just 90 miles from our shores.

National Senior Vice Commander, Bob Hansen of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, termed our civil defense program as "lagging."

"Welcome JWV" banners, heralding JWV's first convention in Baltimore, will be displayed, greeting the thousands of delegates, who are expected to overflow the city.

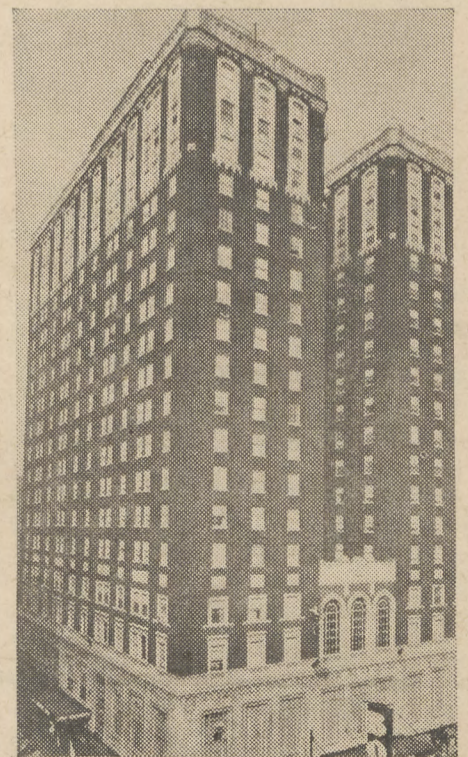
Formal invitations have been extended to many national dignitaries who have been invited to participate in the convention program. Included among these are Cabinet Members, Senators and Congressmen and other government officials, as well as top leaders from the Jewish Community.

The 66th National Convention, involved with the usual business sessions, will also emphasize a fun-filled social program.

Lou Holtz, the famous comedian—who is noted for his "Sam Lapidus" stories—will be the featured entertainer of Baltimore Cabaret Night, which will be held Tuesday night, August 15. In addition to the "bill" which will include an array of Broadway talent, dancing and refreshments will be featured.

Other entertainment highlights of the convention will be an Early Bird Night

(Continued on Page 6)



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Convention Headquarters

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The Commander Reports

By

I. L. Feuer

National Commander

As I come to the end of my year as your National Commander, I begin to see the future of our organization in its full perspective.

At the outset let me say that I see a tremendous future for our organization, not only in terms of growth of membership, but in power and influence.

Our national organization can look ahead to the promise of great things. We have reached a stage in our development that puts us four square in the very heartland of the Jewish Community.

Our legislative activities have grown considerably over the past few years. Our voice on Capitol Hill is listened to with great enthusiasm. Great weight is put on our words. When a Congressman wants to feel the pulse of the American Jewish Community, he invariably asks an opinion of the Jewish War Veterans.

We speak for more than 1,000,000 Veterans of the Jewish Faith who fought in the wars of the Republic and who are today an influential and affluent group in the United States.

During the past year, we have spoken out on many important issues of the day, from defense spending, to aid to education; to the threat of the hate-mongers and the use of public facilities to promote hate, such as the mails.

We have spoken out with all the vigor at our command to those in government who have it in their power to change the course of events.

We have made our views known to the President, to the State Department, to the Department of Defense and all other areas of Government that can be helpful to our cause—the furtherance of democracy, and the nourishment of the free way of life.

Today, we talk in terms of images, the image of ourselves as an organization, the image of the people whom we represent.

Our image today is unmatched in the Jewish Community. We are known as a vigorous, powerful voice in the community. And we have carefully tried to further this image of ourselves by a judicious use of all the avenues of public relations.

We have increased our activities, too, within the Jewish Community taking the lead on many issues that are pressing and represent the future of Jewish life in this country.

But while our image is sound and reflects our thinking and our motivation, there are some general weaknesses within the organization that we must do all in our power to correct.

Part of our problem lies in the fact that active members are all too few. We must seek the involvement of more and more of our comrades in the deliberations of the organization.

If we do not, we stand the risk of

becoming, as the years progress, merely a paper organization with a powerful voice but little help in bringing our objectives to fruition. On the local level, we must search for ways and means to build leadership, because in building leadership we assure the future of our organization.

Without leaders we cannot hope to build the membership into a vital, dynamic force with maximum participation on all levels by the largest number of members.

We have maintained the status quo in membership this year, and have not lost any members. But our gains are insignificant. This is a hard cold fact that bears further study.

Without a continual flow of new blood into the ranks of the organization, our future plans can be retarded. I am hopeful that my successor, whoever he may be, will devote a great deal of his time and effort to seeking ways to promote membership in the organization.

Our recruitment and membership programs must be beefed-up. I would recommend, if possible, even larger outlays to gain this end. Nothing, I repeat, nothing is more important than attracting new members to the organization.

And I believe, too, that if the facts of our organizational life are presented with candor to those who are eligible throughout the country we will gain the kind of membership that we need to surge ahead. New posts must be formed and of course, new Auxiliaries to carry out our programs on the distaff side.

Too often at the various meetings on the National level, or even on the local level, one encounters the same faces year after year after year. This is not to say that these dedicated and devoted men should step down and let others take their place. That would be foolish. But these men, who are now actively engaged in the affairs of our organization should become the foundation upon which we can build an even greater and more forceful group than we have today.

In an organization like ours one cannot think in terms of the here and now. Everything must be geared to future growth. In many ways, we are like a medium-sized company seeking to expand our facilities. Every company puts some sums aside to develop more business; for research and development, and for other aspects of growth. We should do the same.

This, perhaps, might entail an entirely new approach to the methods we have used in the past to obtain new members. But one thing is certain—a reevaluation is absolutely necessary.

I am satisfied that at the National level we have created the kind of staff and leadership of which we can be justly proud. But, the many hands that are needed to do the job throughout the country are still lacking.

Capitol Corridors



by Felix Putterman

National Legislative Director

With the advent of the 66th National Convention all JWV members should be properly concerned with the Resolutions presented for adoption to the convention. These will represent the best thinking on matters relating to each of us as citizens, veterans and taxpayers. In so doing we provide interested persons such as Members of Congress with an expression of the JWV position on subjects directly related to national policy and its substance as spelled out in the laws of our country.

At last year's convention in Miami Beach 97 resolutions were adopted by the assembled delegates. These ranged in subject matter from Veterans Affairs to the great problems of National Security, and from the defense of the rights and privileges of all Americans to the limitless dimensions of our National Defense. A quick rundown of the Resolutions adopted provides ample proof of our interest in the affairs of mankind and our vitality on the national scene.

Since last August new situations have arisen that demand our time, energy and thought in order to provide the basis for a proper public posture in the general community as well as the narrower ones in which we serve as Veterans and Jews. Some positions remain steadfast and, in fact, have taken on a permanent coloration. This is especially true for veterans problems. Others require new expressions resulting from rethinking and refashioning in light of a changing and dynamic world situation.

In addition to the traditional JWV positions on compensation pensions, hospitalization and the other Veterans household items, we must reiterate our emphasis on the Resolution calling for the establishment of a Committee on Veterans Affairs in the United States Senate. Too many bills concerned with ex-service personnel are passed in the House of Representatives only to die on the vine in the Senate where the major repository, the Senate Finance Committee is much too busy with other matters.

It is highly likely that this coming year will witness a full scale effort, once and for all, to push the organization of a Veterans Affairs Committee through the Senate. Other veterans organizations aim to implement this long-standing principle by launching an aggressive campaign here in Washington as well as back in the home states of Senators. Indeed, as the third largest item in the Federal budget directly affecting the lives of some 22 million citizens plus their dependents, Veterans Affairs are of more than sufficient importance to merit the serious proposal for the creation of a cabinet-level post of Secretary for Veterans Affairs. Surely if this were to come to fruition the trials of frustration in Senate Committees relatively unconcerned with the welfare of veterans would come to a well-deserved end.

The coming of a new President and a new Administration always brings with it a wonderful opportunity to re-examine old positions and to take new ones in the critical areas of Foreign Affairs, National Defense, Civil Rights and the persistent problems of our Domestic Economy.

For the foreseeable future we shall be plagued with recurring crises throughout the world. As the leader of the Free World the United States cannot abdicate its responsibility by ducking the difficult questions or by acting intemperately. Our actions have direct bearing on the lives of each individual in the world whether he is bearing the burden of Fidel Castro 90 miles from our power or is living within the shadow of Chinese Communist domination in Southeast Asia extended 20,000 miles at the end of our line of National commitment. The destiny of the United States is intertwined with that of the most insignificant little non-Communist country. As an enlightened patriotic organi-

zation our resolve in the complex Foreign Affairs picture should establish and reinforce our reputation as a leader among those who recognize national responsibility and are willing to make the necessary sacrifices.

Undoubtedly the Federal government will call upon the country to undertake a comprehensive, expensive and SERIOUS Civil Defense program. The JWV should take the lead in reversing public attitudes that prevail in this crucial matter of human survival. Unless the prevailing lethargy is shaken out of the American attitude toward Civil Defense, the most comprehensive and well-planned National Shelter Policy and a modernized warning system will not be allowed to see the light of day by Appropriations Committee members who count pennies in preference to lives. If in fact JWV recognizes this difficult situation it should take a first step by giving it meaningful expression at the National Convention.

Space and time does not permit an inventory of past resolutions as well as the prospectus of new ones. However, the morning newspaper and the very latest television or radio news show is full of the most meaningful substance for our contemplation in Baltimore this coming August. The Resolutions adopted there will provide a showcase to the Veterans community, to the Jewish community, to your neighbors, to your Senator and Representative as well as for your own satisfaction in being a member of a worthy organization.

Grover Post Informs Public

The following editorial, appearing in the May 24 issue of the Jersey Journal and Jersey Observer, shows the effective manner in which the Lt. Robert P. Grover Post 10, of Jersey City, N. J., served its community by striving to enlighten the citizenry as to election issues.

THE GREAT DEBATE

The mayoralty debate sponsored by Grover Post, JWV, was as informative a bit of campaigning we have yet heard in the Jersey City election.

Meyer Pesin spoke for Thomas Gargemi, Albert Burnstein spoke for Bernard Berry. Pesin is a key man in the Jersey City corporation counsel's office. Burnstein, likewise a lawyer, was executive secretary of the Charter Commission.

Each presented his side's claims and counter-claims in well organized, intelligent and poised style. Each was hard hitting and effective. Neither resorted to the kind of name calling and personal abuse which have made Jersey City politics notorious elsewhere. Both proved that intelligent exposition can win more votes than squawking and sound trucks.

Jersey City needs more campaigning such as Pesin and Burnstein provided and it needs more organizations like Lt. Robert P. Grover Post to provide the forums for such presentations. If Burnstein and Pesin could repeat their performance elsewhere in the city enough times not even the laziest voter could plead ignorance as his excuse on June 13.