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Telephone
202-543-2239

NEWS *Release*

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(17 DECEMBER 1982)

VFW: STAND BY THE PEOPLE OF POLAND

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- "Now, more than ever, the people of Poland need the unified support and understanding of America and our NATO allies.

"Repression in Poland has not been lifted; it has merely been cynically 'suspended.' General Jaruzelski's military courts still decide political and security cases. The Solidarity labor movement remains broken and intimidated."

James R. Currieo, National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, continued by urging that "sanctions against the repressive Polish military regime not be lifted and that the flow of credit not be resumed.

"The Pope has not been fooled by this phoney 'liberalization' of the martial law cruelly imposed on the Polish people a year ago and neither should we.

"Freedom is indivisible and the 2.6 million Americans in the VFW and our Ladies Auxiliary will continue to stand by the people of Poland, as distinct from their military oppressors, for as long as it takes."



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FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(Dec. 15, 82)

VFW URGES VIETNAM

UNKNOWN BURIAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"The VFW fully supports H Con Res 413, legislation which urges the president and secretary of defense to act expeditiously to bury the remains of an American serviceman who was killed in Vietnam and whose identity has not been established," said James R. Currieo.

The VFW National Commander-in-Chief stated that, "At least one set of remains exists which could be designated as an unknown of the Vietnam era who served in Southeast Asia."

"In the opinion of the VFW, legislation under consideration would not in any way affect efforts to locate and recover members of the Armed Forces who are missing," Currieo said.

"Plans exist which would honorably and with dignity return the remains to the United States and inter an unknown at Arlington National Cemetery. The VFW believes that next Memorial Day is an appropriate occasion for the ceremony.

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"If legislation to expedite the burial does not pass this session, the VFW will request similar action in the new Congress," said Currieo.

-30-

January, 1983

VETERANS NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Cooper T. Holt
Executive Director
VFW Washington Office

Veterans have a new administrator. Harry N. Walters has taken over from Robert Nimmo who resigned. Walters is a West Point graduate and comes to the Veterans Administration from the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

He told the Senate hearing concerning his nomination, "I intend to run the Veterans Administration and represent our budget to OMB, and not the other way around."

The VFW told the same hearing that officials in our organization were optimistic and that the VFW looks forward to working with Mr. Walters.

Walters has met with President Reagan and with the directors of your Washington Office. We hope that he will strengthen the programs of veterans and will continue to provide the best medical care possible.

- - - - -

A change in policy by the Bureau of the Census has eliminated 1.5 million veterans from the statistic of veterans in civilian life. Starting this last quarter there are now only 28.5 million veterans in the country.

Before, there were 30 million, but those living overseas are no longer counted. Beginning with the 1980 census, the government stopped collecting information on U.S. citizens living-abroad. Now, only ex-service personnel living in the U.S. and Puerto Rico will be counted.

- - - - -

The VA has notified World War I veterans that they no longer have to pay premiums on their United States Government Life Insurance policies.

Currently, there are about 27,000 policyholders of this insurance. The VA has indicated that the funds available in the reserve are sufficient to meet obligations for claims.

Starting January 1, all premiums for this type of insurance are waived. Each policyholder will be informed by the VA.

- - - - -

It is likely that social security adjustments will be postponed next year. Cost-of-living increases, under a proposal being discussed, would be made October 1 rather than July 1 as presently being made.

Almost all adjustments are made October, except for retired military pay. The three month delay next year would save \$3.6 billion in 1983, \$4.4 billion in 1984 and further savings in future years.

This is one of the recommendations of the National Commission on Social Security Reform.



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"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(29 DECEMBER 1982)

VFW SALUTES 24 COURAGEOUS U. S. REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- James R. Currieo, National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, today saluted "24 courageous Catholic U. S. Representatives" who signed a letter to a leader of their church opposing a draft pastoral statement that declares nuclear weapons and some of America's strategic policies are immoral.

"At a time when much that transpired during the lame duck session of the 97th Congress seemed almost a perversion of responsible government," Mr. Currieo continued, "the forthright action of these 24 members stands apart as a true profile of political courage.

"On behalf of the nearly 2.6 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Ladies Auxiliary, these brave 24 have earned our profound gratitude and admiration.

"I enclose herewith a summary of the letter these Congressmen signed and their names."

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

Two dozen Roman Catholic members of the House of Representatives have written a leader of the church in the United States to oppose a draft pastoral letter that declares nuclear weapons and some of this country's strategic policies immoral.

"In short, our real threat is not embodied in weapons -- however gruesome modern weaponry might become," they wrote last week to Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, who headed a panel of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops that prepared the draft policy statement. "Our real threat comes from an ideology which challenges our fundamental faith in human dignity."

"No true peace is possible unless human dignity is upheld," the Congressmen said. "The crisis we face today does not involve two morally equal forces, but the contention of human freedom against totalitarianism."

"We would hope that those who disarm us in the name of peace might dwell more deeply on their responsibility for the moral character of the peace that would follow our surrender. Peace without justice is moral violence."

The threat to most of the world's population "still involves conventional weapons," they said. "Particularly in Western Europe, the Soviet Union has an awesome preponderance of conventional weaponry. Only our nuclear deterrent force inhibits the Soviets from using that advantage to intimidate our allies."

The letter was signed by the following members of the House of Representatives:

Henry J. Hyde, Illinois
Edward J. Derwinski, Illinois
Tom Corcoran, Illinois
John N. Erlenborn, Illinois
Edward R. Madigan, Illinois
Charles F. Dougherty, Pennsylvania
James L. Nelligan, Pennsylvania
William Carney, New York
Raymond J. McGrath, New York
George C. Wortley, New York
Guy V. Molanari, New York
Eldon Rudd, Arizona

Gene Chappie, California
Robert K. Dornan, California
Bill Lowery, California
Dan Lungren, California
Vin Weber, Minnesota
E. Clay Shaw, Jr., Florida
Joe Skeen, New Mexico
Manuel Lujan, Jr., New Mexico
John B. Breaux, Louisiana
W.J. (Billy) Tauzin, Louisiana
John Hiller, Indiana
Thomas F. Hartnett, South Carolina



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FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(Jan. 20, 83)

VFW IDEAS ACCEPTED FOR AGENT ORANGE STUDY

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"All Vietnam veterans will benefit from the Centers for Disease Control decision to broaden the Agent Orange study to include health problems caused by all other toxic agents and medications," said National Commander-in-Chief James R. Currieo.

"The VFW had recommended an independent agency to study the effects of Agent Orange and other health problems of those who served in Vietnam. The contract between the Veterans Administration and CDC was signed and money and employees transferred in mid-January.

"Significantly, the CDC has agreed with the VFW to also study whether other chemicals such as dapsone have caused health problems," Currieo said.

According to reports, the CDC will receive \$3 million and 28 employees from the VA for the study which should be finished by 1987. The VA and the Defense Department will continue

(over)

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other related studies, but CDC will conduct the main research project. CDC officials have promised to consult with the VFW during the study.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE

April 24, 1981

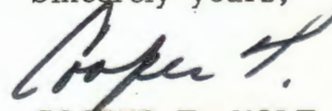
Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Enclosed is a copy of the April issue of our V.F.W. Magazine. Inasmuch as this issue of our magazine contains coverage of our Washington Conference and Congressional Dinner held here in our nation's capital, I thought perhaps you would want to furnish a copy to the President. I am sure he would be interested in pages 11 and 29.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp
Enclosure



VFAW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

MAGAZINE

APRIL • 1981



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Loafer

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Tan Oxford	0	
Lt. Blue Loafer	0	
Navy Loafer	0	

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77K-476 Exp. Date ____/____/____

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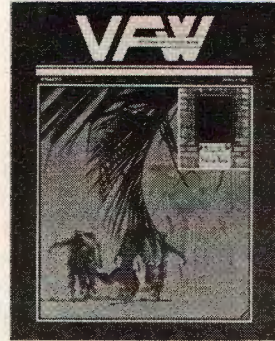
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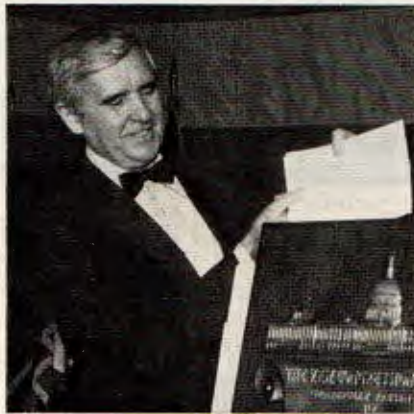
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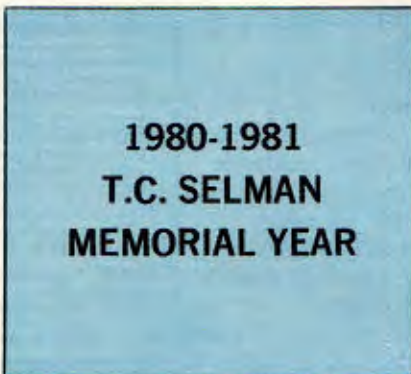
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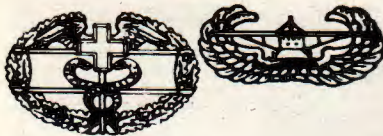


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The Cover

"Medical Evacuation," painted in Vietnam by SP4 Felix R. Sanchez in 1966, recalls the agonies of combat in Southeast Asia. And Mrs. Elenor Plunkett, a member of Auxiliary 6428, and her husband, Newton, a member of Post 6428, Addyston, Ohio, did not want Vietnam veterans to be forgotten in the welcome given the hostages on their return from Iran. So Mrs. Plunkett put a sign on the Vietnam portion of the veterans' monument in Addyston thanking the Vietnam veterans for their sacrifices and ringed it with red-white-blue ribbons (inset). Mrs. Plunkett spent two years collecting money and planning the Korean War and Vietnam wings of the monument, which originally honored World War II veterans. "In grateful tribute to those who faithfully served in the Vietnam War Era," reads the inscription, followed by the names of all from the Addyston area who served then.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. Navy Commendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. Navy Good Conduct |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22. Navy Unit Commendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23. Navy Presidential Unit Cit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24. National Defense Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25. Philippine Liberation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26. Philippines President Unit Cit. |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. Purple Heart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29. Rep. Korea Presidential Unit Cit. |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | 34. Vietnam Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 35. World War II Occupation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 36. World War I Victory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 37. World War II Victory |

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MAIL CALL

More on Gen. Hale

Albert C. Leighton's statement in his article "All Hail Number One" (February) that Gen. Irving Hale, USMA Class of 1884, was West Point's number one ranking graduate is purely conjecture on his part.

Additionally, his remark that my recently published book entitled "West Point" contains "capsule biographies of several class leaders, but it does not even mention the real number one" should be elaborated upon and clarified. I purposely avoided the long-sought-after question of "who was the brightest cadet in the history of the U.S. Military Academy?". The story in my book is entitled "A Select Group of Honor Graduates From the U.S. Military Academy, 1802-1950." I emphatically stated that the honor graduates cited were selected because of their dedication to the Military Academy, and more importantly, to our country.

The Military Academy does not maintain comparative records of different classes. It would be impossible to do so since both the curriculum content and grading systems have changed frequently over the years. It would be impossible to say, for example, that the first ranking man of any one class was academically equal to or superior to the first rank or even the second or third ranking man of any other class.

Today, the cadets are studying scientific subjects unheard of 74 or 100 years ago. Therefore, it would not be possible to compare the academic achievements of the members of the Class of 1980 with the members of the Classes of 1930, 1903 or 1884.—
Kenneth W. Rapp, 12 Fostoria Street, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928.

Remember POWs, MIAs

Numerous sightings have been made of Americans being held in slave labor camps in Southeast Asia. These men are listed as POWs and MIAs from the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

As you get in a warm bed with a full stomach, think of these men. Ask yourself, do they have enough food and a warm bed to sleep in or any at all?

I urge everyone to write your senator
(See Mail Call page 17)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MAGAZINE



Official Publication of the
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 OF THE UNITED STATES**

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 Except December and July

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V.F.W. OBJECTIVES

- TO INSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

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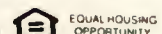
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membership I

commanders-of-the-month

These Commanders-of-the-Month for Feb. 28, 1981, are the ones whose work is keeping the V. F. W. Always Faithful to America's veterans. Numbers in parentheses to the right of their names indicate the times they have won this honor.

Div. I	Name J. R. Brewer (2)	Dept. Ohio	Div. VI	Name Russell Benning (6)	Dept. South Dakota
Div. II	Name Lenas Weisheit (3)	Dept. Indiana	Div. VII	Name Edward Haykel (6)	Dept. North Dakota
Div. III	Name John M. Burns (2)	Dept. Florida	Div. VIII	Name James S. Forest (5)	Dept. Vermont
Div. IV	Name Melvin R. Rucker (1)	Dept. Iowa	Div. IX	Name James C. McKee (2)	Dept. Utah
Div. V	Name Larry W. Rivers (5)	Dept. Louisiana	Div. X	Name Zoilo Kupukaa (6)	Dept. Hawaii

By W. Benny Bachand,
Membership Director

THE FINAL QUARTER

The gun sounds. It is the end of the third quarter. Your team is winning, but the margin of difference remains such that the opposition could rally and deny you the victory that you deserve.

This scenario resembles a lot of football games you have watched or attended. But this is not a football game. It is a description of the 1980-81 membership year as it stands today.

With over three-fourths of our membership year behind us, the Veterans of Foreign Wars stands poised to record another successful year or the agony of suffering our

first loss in membership in over 25 years.

As in any game, the players (members) and not the coaches (leadership) will determine the outcome of this competition and it can be won or lost in this, the final quarter of the year.

The V.F.W. needs each other to get the job done. Each of us is on the same team and each is crucial to the success of our organization. Without each member recruiting and working, our goals and objectives as an organization would fall short, our responsibilities to the veteran, his family and dependents would be

negligent, and we would falter in our commitment to national security and a free America.

When we all cooperate and join together, the V.F.W. moves ahead, but if we fail, the opposition will regain the momentum and destroy the progress that our organization has made.

To insure our victory for 1981, to continue to build an organization that has helped America's veterans for over 80 years will require that all members do their part and recruit at least one member during the remaining quarter of this year.


Be a part of the team, a team of

membership II

Membership I....

(Continued from page 4)

veterans working for veterans and working for the security of our nation.

On any team, there's no substitute for winning and we can WIN by attaining our 2 million member goal before the gun sounds to end this year's membership contest. 

order of parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through Feb. 28, 1981.

NATIONAL AVERAGE 93.14%

1	Hawaii	103.76
2	North Dakota	99.70
3	Florida	97.99
4	Arizona	97.89
5	Indiana	97.66
6	Louisiana	97.38
7	Virginia	96.97
8	Vermont	96.70
9	Minnesota	96.66
10	South Dakota	96.22
11	Iowa	95.87
12	Ohio	95.81
13	Nebraska	95.73
14	California	95.61
15	Maryland	95.46
16	Michigan	95.44
17	Washington	95.37
18	Wisconsin	95.16
19	Idaho	94.33
20	Oregon	94.14
21	Kansas	93.55
22	Arkansas	93.46
23	Illinois	93.42
24	North Carolina	93.28
25	Missouri	93.26
26	Connecticut	93.03
27	New Mexico	92.92
28	South Carolina	92.61
29	Colorado	92.37
30	Rhode Island	91.80
31	Wyoming	91.70
32	New Jersey	91.30
33	Texas	91.22
34	Alabama	91.19
35	New Hampshire	91.13
36	Montana	91.11
37	New York	91.08
38	West Virginia	90.96
39	District of Columbia	90.83
40	Mississippi	90.80
41	Utah	90.41
42	Delaware	90.39
43	Massachusetts	90.32
44	Pennsylvania	90.06
45	Oklahoma	89.50
46	Maine	88.57
47	Georgia	88.00
48	Kentucky	86.95
49	Tennessee	86.63
50	Alaska	84.79
51	Nevada	84.76
52	Panama Canal	78.07
53	Pacific Areas	75.66
	LAST Germany	73.64

posts of 1,000 members or more

Recorded as of Feb. 28, 1981.

Place	Post No.	Location	1981 Membership
1	1114	Evansville, Indiana	3747
2	3579	Park Ridge, Illinois	2748

3	628	Sioux Falls, South Dakota	2449
4	1308	Alton, Illinois	2354
5	131	Lincoln, Nebraska	2234
6	1064	Huntington, West Virginia	2211
7	49	Mobile, Alabama	2205
8	47	Uniontown, Pennsylvania	2186
9	1146	Saint Clair Shores, Michigan	2179
10	360	Mishawaka, Indiana	2096
11	5555	Richfield, Minnesota	2064
12	1273	Rapid City, South Dakota	2061
13	6704	Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania	1949
14	2290	Manville, New Jersey	1949
15	1736	Alexandria, Louisiana	1944
16	1296	Bloomington, Minnesota	1916
17	6640	Metairie, Louisiana	1885
18	2100	Everett, Washington	1813
19	249	Butler, Pennsylvania	1782
20	4903	Tucson, Arizona	1773
20	3382	Kingsport, Tennessee	1773
22	6975	Bristol, Virginia	1762
23	3851	Carmi, Illinois	1733
24	283	Kingston, Pennsylvania	1722
25	401	Albuquerque, New Mexico	1714
26	8541	San Antonio, Texas	1693
27	367	Joliet, Illinois	1660
28	2130	Lake Charles, Louisiana	1651
29	5263	Fort Sill, Oklahoma	1626
30	969	Tacoma, Washington	1604
31	379	Yakima, Washington	1598
32	6506	Rosedale, Maryland	1566
33	573	Clarksburg, West Virginia	1557
34	5632	Saint Louis Park, Minnesota	1555
35	762	Fargo, North Dakota	1525
36	112	Wichita, Kansas	1512
37	4372	Odessa, Texas	1481
38	9619	Morningside, Maryland	1464
39	1000	Independence, Missouri	1455
40	1989	Indiana, Pennsylvania	1453
40	6896	Detroit, Michigan	1453
42	2539	Gulfport, Mississippi	1445
43	1621	Janesville, Wisconsin	1430
44	1857	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	1417
44	589	Hazleton, Pennsylvania	1417
44	9400	Sunnyslope, Arizona	1417
47	7119	Indianapolis, Indiana	1416
48	1216	Austin, Minnesota	1406
49	2754	West View, Pennsylvania	1404
50	23	Lebanon, Pennsylvania	1398
51	1275	Lima, Ohio	1390
52	53	Jamestown, New York	1386
53	2704	South Omaha, Nebraska	1377
54	1003	Jefferson City, Missouri	1370
55	733	Mason City, Iowa	1359
56	2199	Joliet, Illinois	1357
57	891	Asheville, North Carolina	1356
58	295	South Saint Paul, Minnesota	1337
59	2012	Abilene, Texas	1336
60	5225	West Memphis, Arkansas	1332
61	2529	Sandusky, Ohio	1321
62	1201	Ponca City, Oklahoma	1313
63	577	Tulsa, Oklahoma	1312
63	641	Columbia, South Carolina	1312
65	1432	Salina, Kansas	1310
66	7330	Oakville, Connecticut	1303
67	4087	Davison, Michigan	1296
68	6251	Cheektowaga, New York	1288
69	447	Albert Lea, Minnesota	1286
70	1865	Kenosha, Wisconsin	1271
71	1435	Spokane, Washington	1269
71	2093	Orlando, Florida	1269
73	428	Saint Cloud, Minnesota	1265
74	1599	Chambersburg, Pennsylvania	1262
75	1650	Topeka, Kansas	1254
76	1810	Brentwood, Pennsylvania	1251
77	2640	Wallington, New Jersey	1244
78	501	Denver, Colorado	1232
79	1079	Elyria, Ohio	1229
80	3838	Cape Girardeau, Missouri	1215
81	1	Denver, Colorado	1207
82	7987	New Port Richey, Florida	1205
83	549	Tucson, Arizona	1196
84	5466	Morristown, Tennessee	1185
85	2346	Saugus, Massachusetts	1184
86	6796	Dallas, Texas	1176
87	2166	Elizabethtown, Tennessee	1171
88	2503	Omaha, Nebraska	1170
89	305	Eau Claire, Wisconsin	1167
89	1474	Spokane, Washington	1167
91	1120	Indianapolis, Indiana	1165
92	6240	Russell, Kansas	1160
93	3777	Festus, Missouri	1148
94	1944	Puente, California	1147
95	832	South Portland, Maine	1146
96	2773	Denison, Texas	1145
97	3074	Lexington, North Carolina	1141
98	425	Hopkins, Minnesota	1140
99	1639	Willmar, Minnesota	1139
100	191	Canonsburg, Pennsylvania	1135
101	1087	Great Falls, Montana	1134
102	1590	Daytona Beach, Florida	1124
103	4488	Grenada, Mississippi	1119
104	1693	New Albany, Indiana	1112
105	1936	Hagerstown, Maryland	1105
105	7175	Millington, Tennessee	1105
107	6827	Saint Petersburg, Florida	1096
108	1475	Amarillo, Texas	1084
109	99	Decatur, Illinois	1083
110	9969	Del City, Oklahoma	1079
110	8790	Houston, Texas	1079
112	1115	Hillsville, Virginia	1077
113	6800	Somerville, Massachusetts	1075
113	3790	Logansport, Indiana	1075
115	1990	Greeneville, Tennessee	1064
116	2940	West Seneca, New York	1060
117	3368	Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania	1055
117	4051	Colorado Springs, Colorado	1055
119	5206	Hendersonville, N. Carolina	1053
120	1223	Moorhead, Minnesota	1052
121	3588	Lake Worth, Florida	1050
122	737	Council Bluffs, Iowa	1049
123	3553	Chester, Illinois	1048
124	8919	El Paso, Texas	1045
125	3376	Ephrata, Pennsylvania	1044
125	1848	Jackson, Tennessee	1044
125	905	Gardner, Massachusetts	1044
128	155	Johnstown, Pennsylvania	1043
129	753	Minot, North Dakota	1041
130	1536	Sayre, Pennsylvania	1035
131	1271	Central Falls, Rhode Island	1034
132	847	Superior, Wisconsin	1032
133	145	Bridgeport, Connecticut	1024
134	167	Charleroi, Pennsylvania	1021
135	6874	Lemon Grove, California	1014
136	1881	Cheyenne, Wyoming	1013
137	701	Lansing, Michigan	1004
138	4075	Frankfort, Kentucky	1002

national aides-de-camp, recruiting class

The following V.F.W. members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, during March, 1981. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

William A. Harper, Post 3513, Phoenix, Ariz.; Karl J. Ford, Post 2259, Conway, Ark.; Philip Montgomery and James C. Ramey, Post 3246, Mountain Home, Ark.; Michael J. Salome, Post 3982, Merle Park, Calif.; Victor M. Figueroa, Post 4327, Merced, Calif.; Ben Leonard, Post 5477, Imperial Beach, Calif.; Donald E. Rush, Post 8679, Seaside, Calif., and F. Joe Dwyer, Post 9631, Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Tony A. Wasinger, Post 9644, Littleton, Colo.; John J. Hiller, Post 4171, Aurora, Colo.; John J. Poharcyk, Post 2097, Hartford, Conn.; William Pope, Post 1590, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Thomas F. McCarty, Post 2185, Lynn Haven, Fla., and Charles E. Swank, Post 2420, Lake Wales, Fla.

James E. Barkley, Post 6605, Warner Robins, Ga.; Chester W. LeViness, Post 10364, APO, N.Y.; Reinhold Zimmerman, Post 468, Aurora, Ill.; Hal-lie Whitehead, Post 755, Mechanicsburg, Ill.; LeRoy Landry, Post 2130, Lake Charles, La.; John A. Simonelli, Jr., Post 3106, Leesville, La.; Joseph Burke, Post 2346, Topsfield, Mass.; Agnes W. D'Entremont, Post 2578, Hyannis, Mass.; Jackie L. Pickard, Post 2780, Traverse City, Mich., and Edward Olinger, Post 3023, Grand Rapids, Mich.

William H. Allen, Post 1639, Spice, Minn.; Rueben A. Olson, Post 3289, New York Mills, Minn.; Joseph F. Allen, Post 125, Plattsburgh, N.Y.; Stanley F. Gasiewicz, Post 6251, Cheektowaga, N.Y.; Rolla M. Ethridge, Post 2573, Wilmington, N.C.; Merlin L. Sorenson, Post 4376, Seven Points, Texas; Alfred J. Louper, Post 9191, Killeen, Texas; Robert L. Hendrix, Post 992, Walla Walla, Wash., and Richard H. Hanna, Jr., Post 1054, Yokosuka, Japan.

Don J. Auletta, Post 4364, St. Petersburg, Fla.; O.D. Travis, Post 1957, Hickory, N.C.; William J. Rodriguez and Johnny Phillips, Post 1857, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Roy L. Davis, Post 4777, Idabel, Okla.; William H. Crowell, Post 641, Columbia, S.C., and Jimmy Glatt, Post 17, Aberdeen, S.D.



V.A. Budget, Defense Needs Pressing

(This is the text of Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock's speech at the General Session, March 2.)

Welcome, my comrades, to the 1981 Washington Conference of National Officers and Committees. I want you to know that I consider you here today to be the leadership of the entire Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. As such, you have a great responsibility resting on your shoulders.

It is to you to whom the membership looks for leadership. It is you who carry the hopes, desires and thoughts of our great organization to the membership. And, it is to you to whom I must turn for support for the many programs of the V.F.W.

I believe that it is fitting at the outset to restate a personal belief which some of you have heard as I have traveled about this country.

I consider myself a caretaker—a custodian, an administrator. This year belongs to T. C. Selman, one of the finest men our organization has had as a leader and a fine man, personally. I have designated this period as the T. C. Selman Memorial Year and by that I mean each one of us should work our very hardest to accomplish the lofty goals set forth by T.C.

As you know, this year's programs are those T.C. planned before his untimely death. No changes have been made and his appointments have been honored. In return, the response from you, the leadership, and from the field, has been outstanding and heart-warming.

The most important effort you can continue to address is that of mem-

bership. January's report shows that we are ahead of the same time last year by over 44,000. Many Departments are much ahead of others and some need help badly.

To make a truly successful T.C. Memorial Year, all V.F.W. leaders must think of ways to sign up new and reinstated members. It is imperative that the V.F.W. continue its constant growth and never have a year of loss.

Why? For two reasons. Each one of the committees present here today needs volunteers in the communities in this land no matter what title the committee bears. We need activists.

The second but equally important is the fact that Congress understands strength in numbers. Increased membership lets the V.F.W. mandates carry weight. It allows our Washington Office to speak and be heard on Capitol Hill. It allows me to ask you Department Commanders to have your membership write their Representatives and Senators. It allows an avalanche of mail, telegrams and cards to let these representatives of the people know what the people want.

I want you to know also how much I believe the decision to organize the V.F.W. Political Action Committee has meant to the V.F.W. and all veterans.

Now, let's turn to the problems facing veterans in the next year. I know that some will take offense at the next statement, but it must be said. President Carter and his Office of Management and Budget (OMB) did gross damage to veterans programs and the defense of this country for which we fought.

President Reagan has apparently

exempted veterans programs from any large cuts in his first economic message just recently given. But the problem is that veterans need additional funding, not just exemptions from cuts.

Some fine and needed programs are going to suffer during this year and next because of the cuts made by the Carter Administration. These endangered programs urgently need assistance.

The Veterans Administration, particularly the medical care system, was required to absorb 9% of the pay raises voted by Congress.

The employment in that system is down 5,000 from several years ago and now a freeze retroactive to November of last year is in effect. Even if we are successful in getting the White House to lift that freeze, the medical system will suffer from the long period without sufficient personnel.

Congress passed a scholarship program to train doctors. It would require the doctor to pay back the VA with employment. OMB would not ask for the funding for this year and next, so the program is on the books, but inactive.

Next year, if more money is not added, a reduction in travel reimbursement for those non-service connected disabled veterans receiving care at a VA facility will occur.

While the 1982 VA budget shows a loss on only a few number of people in the hospitals, in reality well over 1,000 will be taken from hands-on care because of the opening of new and expanded facilities. They need manning.

The Carter budget proposes the purchase of new CAT Scanners which improve the doctor's ability to diagnose ills. The VA is authorized to buy nine, but is allowed money for only two.

These are but some of the difficulties facing veterans and the V.F.W. The pressures are very real. And unless veterans are led by our organization to let Congress know

(See Command Post page 30)

Congressional Award 'Faith in America'

Attendance largest in history of V.F.W. Mid-Winter Conferences.

(Here are the remarks of Sen. Paul Laxalt (Nev.) after receiving the annual Congressional Award from Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock at the Congressional Banquet at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. More than 2,500 attended the event, largest in the history of Mid-Winter Conferences.)

This is a very special award and I thank the membership of the V.F.W. for it. It means a lot to me for a couple of reasons.

First, I'm very much aware of the kind of Representatives and Senators you have chosen to honor in each of the past 18 years, and I am proud and truly honored to be included in their company.

They were selected not because of any commitment to war or its machinery or trappings.

On the contrary, no one hates war more than those of us who have been there. No, they were chosen because of a commitment to their country.

Not my country, right or wrong, but rather my country through thick and thin, we stand beside her.

In each war this nation has had to fight, each time an American soldier dies, we ask ourselves why? What is so important that we must pay such a price?

And, of course, only the man or woman who pays the price can give us a true answer.

Americanism. Faith in peace through strength and, perhaps most important, faith in each other.

Nearly 40 years ago, I was an Army corpsman in the South Pacific with the 7th Division under MacArthur on an island called Leyte. And, as many of you here tonight, I saw young men, some of my buddies suffer.

So I accept this award tonight not just for myself, but for the millions of Americans who have stood beside this lady of ours who may have stumbled at times but has never fallen and never will. Like those of us here tonight, those millions of Americans have always taken pride in America and what America means.



Winner of this year's Congressional Award, Sen. Paul Laxalt poses with it and Commander-in-Chief Fellwock at Congressional Banquet.

I recently came back from a visit to my home state of Nevada. In my travels around that state, I can't tell you the number of people who came up to me to say how proud they were of our new President and how confident they are that the future holds better times.

I'm absolutely convinced that all across this nation we're on the road to a new resurgence, a revival of faith in democracy, faith in capitalism, faith that we're not second anymore, not by a damsite.

Since his election, we've seen more guts, more unity, more pride in our country than we've seen for far too many years, and our President is just getting warmed up.

People feel genuine hope because they sense in him the courage and ability to truly redirect this country.

The second reason the award means so much to me is that it comes at a time when this nation of ours has its self-confidence somewhat battered.

Let's face it. We've been kicked around a lot these past few years. If we had been boxing, there would have been times when we would have had to take a standing eight-count.

But let me tell you this. The election of Ronald Reagan was almost divinely inspired. And it protects each and every American for all time from the excesses of government.


We believe also that the United States of America stands today as a beacon, a benchmark for the rest of the world, be it free or enslaved.

We believe that this nation of ours is the best there is. We're number one. There is none better.

To the winners of this award, I would like to say we all share your belief in the basic goodness of our nation. A belief in the principles upon which it was founded and a belief in its people. We believe this country is rooted in a Constitution meant to safeguard individual rights and to promote self-reliance.

And we believe, to paraphrase Lincoln, it is for the living to dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work for which they fought.

We must resolve, each of us, that their deaths were not in vain. That this country shall continue to be free and that this government of, by and for the people shall not perish.

Thank you and God bless. 

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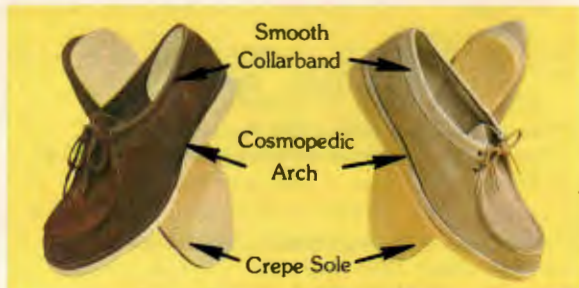
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WIDTHS: C, D, E, EE, EEE

WOMEN'S SIZES
5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10; ALSO 11
WIDTHS B, C, D, E, EE, EEE

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Congressional Banquet

Distinguished Guests

(Continued on page 14)



Mrs. Nancy Reagan, President Reagan, Mrs. Norma Fellwoc, Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwoc, Sen. Paul Laxalt, Mrs. Laxalt and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger pose with Laxalt's Congressional Award.



Commander-in-Chief Fellwoc, Gen. Milnor Roberts and Past Commander-in-Chief Howard Vander Clute.



William Frank, Aux. Pres. Jeannette Frank, Mrs. Fellwoc and Commander-in-Chief Fellwoc.



Past Commander-in-Chief Leslie Fry, Commander-in-Chief Fellwoc.



Sen. Alan Simpson, Mrs. Fellwoc, Commander-in-Chief Fellwoc.



Gen. Richard Trundy, Commander-in-Chief Fellwoc, Mrs. Fellwoc, Gen. Hillman Dickinson.



Commander-in-Chief Fellwoc, Army Secretary John O. March, Jr.



Past Commander-in-Chief Tim Murphy, Mrs. Mildred Selman.



Past Commanders-in-Chief John Mahan, Ray Soden.



Past Commander-in-Chief John Stang, Mrs. Elizabeth Dole.



Past Commander-in-Chief Richard Homan, Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, Rep. Melvin Price.



Sen. Laxalt, Past Commander-in-Chief Leslie Fry.



Rep. Larry Winn, Quartermaster Gen. J. A. Cheatham.

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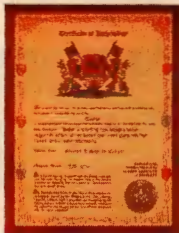
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Award Winners

Voice of Democracy

\$31,500 in college scholarships in honor of T.C. Selman

Seventeen-year-old Laura Agoston, of Montville, N.J., is this year's top winner of the Voice of Democracy \$14,000 college scholarship, renamed the T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship in honor of the late Commander-in-Chief who died in office last Oct. 21.

The other winners are David Terry Warner, of Provo, Utah, second place, \$7,000; Dana Sue Benfer, of Broomall, Pa., third place, \$4,500; Stanley Joseph Kuzia, of Manchester, N.H., fourth place, \$3,500, and Catherine Marie Pagel, of Fort Lee, Va., fifth place, \$2,500.

A sixth winner, Robert Joseph Morris, of Raleigh, N.C., received the newly-created Francis J. Tallman \$1,000 Memorial Scholarship, honoring an insurance executive who until his death had long been associated with V.F.W. activities.

The following Posts sponsored the six National winners: Laura Agoston, Post 5481; David Warner, Post 2162; Dana Benfer, Post 5203; Stanley Kuzia, Post 5239; Catherine Pagel, Post 622, and Robert Morris, Post 10225.

The names of the winners were announced at the annual Congressional Banquet where Miss Agoston read her winning broadcast script. Their assigned theme was "My Commitment To My Country." Here is her text:

The homeroom bell has just rung. A voice over the loudspeaker: "Good morning. Would everyone please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and salute to the Flag?" This is the way my schooldays have begun for as long as I can remember. And it is something I want to remember. For my mornings are drab and rushed—stumble out of bed, throw on some clothes, choke down breakfast, run for the bus—except for those 20 seconds. For those 20 seconds they are perfect. I stand up and look past the many different faces, past the two girls who continue to chat until we sit down again, past the boy who remains seated and half-sneering at the picture he sees. I look past it all and stare at that small cloth rectangle of white, red, and blue. I see something inside that Flag. I see a person. I see



Flanked by Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock and Auxiliary President Jeannette Frank, Voice of Democracy winners pose with their souvenir plates. They are, in order of their standing in the contest, Laura Agoston, David Terry Warner, Dana Sue Benfer, Stanley Joseph Kuzia, Catherine Marie Pagel and Robert Joseph Morris.

myself. In a voice barely above a whisper, I shout to anyone who cares to hear my constant loyalty to my country.

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." It's so familiar it is easy to slur together in a droning voice so you can't even understand the meaning of the words anymore. Yet, even on the thousandth time, I can't say them lightly. In hopes for myself, hopes for the preservation of ideals I admire and a way of life that nurtures the wildest variety of people, there is, there can only be, America. Liberty, equality—these aren't corny impossible dreams to me; they are a living, working, reality to be striven towards every day. A vision set before our eyes in unforgettable prose by the men who founded this nation. Over the castles of Europe, the Founding Fathers chose America. A difficult decision? Not for them, because they had foresight. Europe was experienced and wise, yes, but America was young and strong, with limitless possibilities. What was true then is still

true today.

We have come to expect from America everything she has to give, because America demands it of herself. We are that self. I am that self. A part of it, anyway. A part insignificantly small, yet vital, as we all are vital. My commitment to my country? How can it be anything less than total and lifelong? I am, always shall be exultant at her triumphs, devastated by her failures. Patriotism isn't sentimentality; it's logic. The kind of logic that tells me that I would be diminished as an outsider, in terms of attitude and philosophy if I had to live indefinitely in any other nation. America takes everything I have and returns it with multiplied strength. If I don't grow up to build a monument in marble or to plant a Flag of the United States in the soil of another planet, know now of my faithfulness to my country.

The Pledge of Allegiance is over now in homeroom. People remove their hands from their hearts, and the noise level rises. I have affirmed my felt-out and thought-out commitment to my country yet another time. I sit down, alive and whole. An American.

VFW

Distinguished Guests...

(Continued from page 11)



Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James R. (Bob) Currieo, Rep. Trent Lott.



Past Commanders-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt, Byron Gentry, Dr. Joseph Menendez.



Past Commanders-in-Chief Joseph Lombardo, Howard Vander Clute, Byron Gentry.



Past Commanders-in-Chief R.D. Smith, Richard Roudebush, Eric Sandstrom.



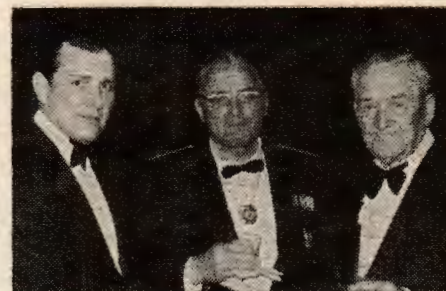
Sen. Simpson, Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Rep. Montgomery, DAV Commander Stan Pealer, Rep. John Paul Hamerschmidt, Rep. Price.



Mrs. Mildred Selman, Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Mrs. Fellwock.



National Chaplain Roman Schaefer, Adm. C.G. Stewart.



Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James R. (Bob) Currieo, National Chaplain Schaefer, Past Commander-in-Chief Robert Merrill.



Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph Scerra.

(Continued on page 29)

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The Amazing Hidden Money Secret Of The Social Security Department!

Do You Know Exactly How Much Money You Have In Your Social Security Account In Washington?

By JOHN P. CLARK

WASHINGTON, D.C.—You may be cheating yourself out of big money from Social Security and Medicare. And, you do not have to be over 60 or retired to start collecting.

Almost a million American men and women, starting as young as 30 years of age get Social Security checks each and every month.

But, no one in Washington, D.C. will write to you and tell you about these benefits, payments and services.

You must know about them; you must know how to apply for them. Then your checks can start to arrive regularly.

For example, has anyone in government ever told you how much of your money is already in the Social Security fund?

No. Even the government takes the money out of your pay every week.

Would you like to know exactly how much you have invested in Social Security now, and how you can start getting every penny you've got coming to you?

Then would you like to know how to get the most from that investment including all the brand new 1981 Social Security payments and benefits?

Now you can do both. When you fill in the Official Form reproduced in this story and send it to the publisher, it will be sent to the proper government office. They will run a check on your account and then send you a report in a confidential sealed envelope. This report will tell you how much of your earnings have been recorded in your Social Security account year by year. There is no charge for this service, not even postage.

And, when you follow the simple instructions at the end of this story, you will receive a copy of a new book: "The Hidden Money Secret Of The Social Security Department."

If you think that you have to wait until retirement to start collecting your Social Security payments and benefits, this book will really open up your eyes.

Here are some of the little-known facts about Social Security and Medicare you will find out about in this book:

- How to increase the amount of your payment if you are already on Social Security.

- How to collect your share of the brand new Social Security benefits just passed by Congress.

- How to qualify for Social Security disability pensions at any age.

- How to increase your Social Security benefits.

- How to report your Farm income for Social Security.

- How to make your whole family eligible for Social Security benefits, even your youngest children.

- How to replace a lost Social Security card.

- How to replace a lost Social Security check.

- How to get a refund if you have overpaid your Social Security taxes. (Studies show that two out of three people overpay.)

- How to figure out what your Social Security retirement payments should be.

- Should you tattoo your Social Security number on your body?

- What papers do you need in order to file a Social Security claim?

- How ten million people who are only 30 years old, on the average, collect Social Security.

- Should you get a divorce in order to get more Social Security? (a lot of people already have.)

- Should you have two Social Security cards?

- How to get a huge lump sum Social Security payoff.

- How to make sure your employer is not cheating you on your Social Security.

- How you may be cheating yourself out of your Social Security benefits.

- When are the five times you should get in touch with your Social Security office?

- How to work and still get Social Security benefits.

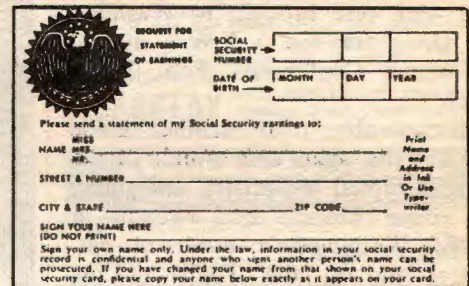
- How to cash in on Social Security even if you've never paid a penny into it.

- How to get hospital and medical insurance for the aged.

- How students between the ages of 18 and 22 can get Social Security cash benefits.

- How to get the special Social Security benefits that are only for veterans.

It is sad to say that until now there has been no easy way for the average man or woman to find out about all these payments, benefits and services.



Official Form for Social Security Statement of Earnings. The form includes fields for Social Security Number, Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year), Name (Mrs., Mr.), Street & Number, City & State, and ZIP Code. It also contains a signature line and a warning about confidentiality.

OFFICIAL FORM: When you fill out this form you will get a report in a sealed envelope showing exactly how much money has been recorded in your Social Security Account in Washington, D.C. There is no charge for this service, not even postage.

Even though, heaven knows, it has been easy enough for the government to take your money.

Today there is a way, the brand new book called "The Hidden Money Secret Of The Social Security Department."

It is easy to read and easy to follow. Remember, it is not enough to qualify for Social Security payments, benefits and services.

To get your benefits and payments, even starting as young as 30 years of age, you must know how to apply for them.

This book tells you how to qualify, including all necessary names and addresses of the people you must contact, and even what to say.

Although this book can mean hundreds and perhaps thousands of dollars to every man and woman in America, it is priced at just ten dollars.

You can order this book today by mail without a worry in the world because it is a 100% no-risk offer. Start using it the minute it arrives in your home. If you don't find out exactly how to get at least \$500.00 worth of new benefits, payments and services from Social Security and Medicare, return the book to the publisher who will return your money without quibble or question. You still get the confidential report on your Social Security account.

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If you don't take advantage of your new 1981 Social Security and Medicare benefits, payments and services, you are only cheating yourself since you have already paid for them.

Washington, D.C.

Nation's Capital Thrills Winners

America's greatness is its heritage.

The greatness of America's heritage imprinted itself upon this year's 52 Voice of Democracy winners, who were brought to Washington, D.C., for the V.F.W.'s annual Mid-Winter Conference, Feb. 27 to March 3.

Unseasonably mild weather made taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capital especially enjoyable. The young winners laid wreaths at George Washington's tomb at Mt. Vernon and at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Other sites they visited included the Smithsonian Institution, Ford's Theater, where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, the Washington Cathedral and National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Library of Congress, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., where they were taken on a tour and had lunch in the world's largest dining hall.

On March 2, the day before V.F.W. Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock presented the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees with V.F.W. legislative recommendations, the winners visited Capitol Hill to tour the House and Senate.

Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.), Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, arranged a luncheon for them in the House cafeteria. Their stay in Washington also included a tour of the White House, but they were unable to meet with President Reagan.

Judges for the national finals were Past Commanders-in-Chief Ray Soden and Joseph L. Vicites; David Delgado, of the National Association of Secondary School Principals; Mrs. Rae Evans, of CBS government relations; Peter B. Kenney, NBC vice president; Paul Myer, ABC's director of government relations; Thomas O'Brien, MBS's vice president for news; Robert E. Lee and James H. Quello, FCC commissioners; Rep. Elwood H. (Bud) Hillis (Ind.), Rep. Robert S. Walker (Pa.), 1959-60 Voice of



Voice of Democracy winners pose on the Capitol steps during their tour of Washington.



Voice of Democracy winners lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Democracy winner; John H. Lloyd, vice president and Washington representative of BCMA Associates; Vincent T. Wasilewski, National Association of Broadcasters president;

Nicholas Zapple, former assistant and Warren Featherstone Reid, special assistant to Sen. Warren Magnuson (Wash.), and Louis March, special assistant to Sen. Jesse Helms. **WVA**

Mail Call

(Continued from page 2)

tor and representative, even President Reagan and demand they look into this matter. Get the men back. I don't think it is much incentive for our young people to serve in future wars, if they know our government hasn't the spine and backbone to retrieve our POWs.—*Charles Trump, Rt. 1, Box 142, Blue Springs, Nebr. 68318.*

Seeks Vets' Accounts

If any veterans were present at the Nazi death camps and witnessed the human carnage, I would appreciate hearing from them. Replies will be held in strictest confidence. I have been a member of the V.F.W. since 1945 and was Commander of Post 4602, Depue, Ill., 1952-53. I am now commander of Post 175, Jewish War Veterans in Anaheim, Calif.—*Nathan Dobovsky, 1340 Oriole St., Anaheim, Calif. 92804.*

Correction

In processing the article, "All Hail Number One!" (February), an error crept in. Camp Hale, Colo., was the training center of the WWII 10th Mountain Division. Fort Carson, Colo., now is the home of the 4th Division.

Recent Books

Pebbles in the Stream by Peggy Bal, Easter Publishing, 113 pages (soft cover), \$6.95 (available from author at 108 Chevy Chase, Minot AFB, North Dakota 58704). This illustrated work traces the establishment and operational history of Camp Beale, later Beale AFB, in California. Anyone ever stationed there will find this book of special interest.

The Hidden Handicap by Dr. Judith Ehre Kranes, Simon and Schuster, 269 pages, \$10.95. Drawing on actual case histories, this humane and perceptive work on youngsters whose IQ 75-95 range marks them as being slow learners, offers parents and teachers of such children the hope and guidance necessary for helping them develop their maximum potential.

(Continued on page 28)

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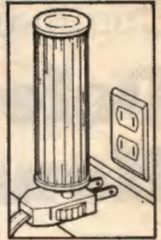
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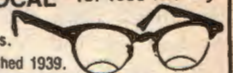
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Recent Books

Dr. Pfeiffer's Total Nutrition by Carl C. Pfeiffer, Ph.D., M.D., and Jane Banks, Simon and Schuster, 191 pages, \$9.95. This easy-to-understand guide explains the various functions of each trace element, mineral and vitamin found to be essential to human life. Persons interested in good health will find this book useful.

How to Sell Yourself by Joe Girard, Simon and Schuster, 350 pages, \$10.95. Brimming with practical advice that works, this book, written by America's greatest salesman, is the tool to a better, happier, more successful life for every reader.

Marathoning by Bill Rodgers, Simon and Schuster, 226 pages, \$11.95. Entrancing is this illustrated autobiography by one of America's greatest Marathon runners ever.

The History of Sea Warfare by Gervis Frere-Cook and Kenneth Macksey, Sterling Publishing Co., 245 pages, \$14.95. Lavishly illustrated, this concise history of warfare at sea traces its evolution from canoes to nuclear power plants, provides a wealth of invaluable statistics, discusses the men who designed the ships and fought the battles and presents a scenario of naval war to come.

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Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock Defend Veterans, Chief Tells House, Senate

He speaks before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

(This is virtually the complete text of Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock's presentation before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, March 3.)

Although it is a singular honor for me to appear before this distinguished committee representing the more than 2.5 million men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Ladies Auxiliary, it is with heavy heart that I do so.

This, since I am here today in the place of our beloved T. C. Selman who expired Oct. 21, 1980, two months to the day following his election as Commander-in-Chief of our great organization. T. C. was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II who served in every position of leadership and responsibility in the V.F.W., was a former mayor of Freeport, Texas, and a man who gave unstintingly of his time, his effort and his own means to assist our nation's veterans and to assure an America dedicated to the principles established by our founding forefathers. Therefore, my first act in office was to dedicate this administrative year as the "T. C. Selman Memorial Year. . ."

Mr. Chairman, the V.F.W., we who, above all others, are responsible for our nation being free today, applaud the President's goal to re-establish a stable economy. We believe the cure must come and the longer it is deferred, the more painful it will be for us all. However, and let the record reflect, veterans' benefits have already sustained disproportionate cuts the past several years. In 1976, the Veterans Administration budget was 5.02% of the federal budget in outlays and for the fiscal year 1981, has fallen to 3.39%, a reduction of 1.63%. Now I would not insult your intelligence by intimating that the Veterans Administration requires 1.63% more of the budget or \$10.8 billion this year, but, by comparison, let us examine the social and welfare programs. In 1976,



Senators hear Commander-in-Chief Fellwock's recommendations. Wearing V.F.W. cap is Strom Thurmond.

the budget for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare was 35.14% of the federal budget in outlays. For 1981, the combined budgets of the successors to HEW, the Department of Health and Human Services and the new Department of Education total 36.53% of the federal budget, up 1.39%. That translates into an increase of \$113.3 billion in five years and the whole 1981 budget for these programs, \$242 billion, is more than one-third of the entire federal budget of \$662.7 billion in outlays. If anyone can identify fat, fraud, waste or abuse anywhere within the Veterans Administration or its programs, the V.F.W. stands ready to lend its full support in its eradication, although we do not know where any fat exists.

Under no circumstances, however, can we ever in any way subscribe to emasculating veterans' benefits and services as enunciated in the Heritage Foundation report entitled "Agenda for Progress." Those of you familiar with this document know that it recommended (1) that compensation payments should be limited to veterans and survivors of veterans whose disabilities are traceable either to combat or job-performance as defined under workmen's compensation regulations; (2) Congress should eliminate all

pensions for veterans and survivors of veterans which are not compensable as service-connected, and (3) that the present VA health-care system be dismantled. The thrust of this unfeeling document reflecting how ungrateful the protected can be makes the Economy Act of 1933 pale by comparison. We of the V.F.W. would fight implementation of its provisions with every resource at our disposal.

Disturbing to me, Mr. Chairman, is that one of your former colleagues, now the Director of the President's Office of Management and Budget, David Stockman, felt obliged to take a gratuitous and onerous slap at our nation's veterans. You no doubt read that he stated many Congressmen "admit to holding noses" while voting benefits for veterans "who do not even have a hangnail" to show for their experience in uniform. This is unfortunate, indeed. What this country does not need, Mr. Chairman, are those who never heard a shot fired in anger, never even donned a uniform and may even have brought comfort to the enemy making disparaging remarks about our veterans whose personal sacrifices have kept our nation free.

On the other side of the coin, when President Reagan was campaigning for the Presidency and addressed our 81st

National Convention last August, his profound and sincere statements with respect to veterans and veterans' benefits caused him to be interrupted numerous times by resounding applause and standing ovations. . .

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, and not a part of my prepared text, only late last night I received an unconfirmed report, from a most reliable source, that apparently and unfortunately, campaign rhetoric is, once again, far, far different from presidential deeds. Would you believe that the game plan for the Veterans Administration is to reduce 1,600 employees in the Department of Veterans Benefits in 1982, and, now brace yourselves, the Department of Medicine and Surgery by 5,000 personnel in 1982 and, believe it or not, by 20,000 in 1986. Now, think of this, the VA presently is operating 84,000 beds with 190,000 personnel—a staff-patient ratio of 2.26 to 1, far below community hospitals. With the planned reductions, the VA could operate only 65,000 beds with the same poor patient-staff ratio. This, to me, is a clear signal that the anti-veteran social welfare planners, to whom everyone is equal and no one is special, have gotten to the administration. How, gentlemen, can we hold our heads high as a proud nation and so betray our veterans? How can we induce men and women to serve in our armed forces and so betray our veterans? This proposal points up quite clearly the necessity to soon integrate the Department of Defense and Veterans Administration medical care facilities to care for future casualties from conflicts.

Bad as is the foregoing, and it is very, very bad news, there are more cuts in the offing. Vet Centers, Authorized by Public Law 96-22, will cease to exist. Practically all new construction will be eliminated. Medical research, in which the VA has been a world leader, will be drastically reduced. Debt collection involving \$600 million to \$900 million, will be contracted out to professionals who are known to use strong-arm tactics.

Mr. Chairman, we have indicated our desire to help the President reestablish a sound financial government, but not, so help me, at the further expense of our nation's veterans. I call upon this committee, here and now, each and everyone of

you, to quash this dastardly deed.

In addition, and most reassuring, is the Republican Party Platform with respect to veterans which fulfills many of our current priority goals. . .

We will, if necessary, remind the administration time and time again of these commitments. The Democratic Party Platform contains some similar points.

The compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation programs are the keystones of all veterans' benefits. Compensation remunerates in part some 2.2 million veterans, including more than half a million Vietnam veterans whose earning capacity has been reduced by their service-connected disabilities. The more than 350,000 survivors of those killed on active duty or who were permanently and totally disabled at the time of death due to their service-connected disabilities including unemployability, receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Congress, through this Committee, has made changes in these programs as dictated by the test of time and our primary concern is that these benefits are never permitted to be eroded by inflation.

The pension program for those disabled by non-service connected disabilities and their survivors has come under particularly harsh criticism recently. Not only by the Heritage Foundation, but a publication of the National Tax Limitation Committee which in an advance proof dated Feb. 15, 1981, entitled "Meeting America's Economic Crisis: A Roadmap to an Emergency in Federal Spending Reductions" opined that "the necessity of this program (pension) is questionable, particularly in light of other income security plans such as social security, Medicaid, Medicare and AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children)." You know, as we know, that the pension program established by Public Law 95-588 is intended to keep nearly all veterans of World War II and subsequent conflicts and their dependents off the pension rolls. As of today, a veteran alone under current pension law is assured an income of \$4,460 counting 100% of all other income from all other sources, including Social Security benefits. Thus, the dignity afforded our wartime veterans in need is \$69 a year above the Orshansky update of the poverty line as reported in the November, 1980, Interim Report of the President's

Commission on Pension Policies. We believed at this time this legislation was passed, as we do now, that the assured income levels are too stringent. The key word is dignity and we do not believe that any veterans who served this nation in uniform during periods of hostility should ever, under any circumstances, and for whatever reason, be reduced to the status of a welfare recipient.

Mr. Chairman, the educational benefits authorized by 38 USC are most beneficial for both veterans and the national treasury. Although approximately \$52 billion has been paid in behalf of veterans pursuing their education since World War II, increased taxes paid by veterans whose income increased because of their education, repays the money invested several times over. Although it is heartening that 65% of our younger Vietnam veterans have availed themselves of the GI Bill, there are still those who have not for any number of reasons. With this in mind, our last National Convention passed resolutions to extend both the delimiting date and the period of eligibility from 45 to 48 months.

While on the subject of educational benefits, a number of bills have been introduced in both houses of Congress to establish a new far-reaching and costly educational program for active duty personnel in our all volunteer armed forces. Needless to say, we of the V.F.W. fully support anything the Department of Defense believes will enhance the recruitment and retention of the necessary high caliber personnel. However, we object to the basic educational assistance in pending bills being funded by the Veterans Administration. These bills are all costly and would send the VA budget skyrocketing and subject all veterans' programs to renewed attack. Educational programs for active duty personnel should be fully funded by the Department of Defense, administered by the Veterans Administration and the Congress and the people of this nation educated to the fact that this additional money in the DOD budget is necessary to maintain an adequate defense posture to ensure their continued freedom.

Speaking of Vietnam veterans, Mr. Chairman, one of the provisions of Public Law 96-151 which was approved Dec. 20, 1979, mandated the Veterans Administration to design a
(See *Defend Veterans* page 20)

"Reagan has promised that programs for the truly deserving needy will be untouched," says Fellwock.

protocol for and conduct a study of persons, who during service in Vietnam, were exposed to chemicals known as dioxins used in various herbicides, including Agent Orange. To my knowledge, the Agent Orange study has not even commenced and 15 months have elapsed. Notwithstanding, the V.F.W. has been very active in an outreach program to encourage veterans who believe they were exposed to file a claim and be examined at a Veterans Administration facility. It is hopeful that this Committee will take whatever action is necessary to get this study underway which, incidentally, we recommended should be conducted by an agency outside of the Veterans Administration such as the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Chairman, the greatest concern of the V.F.W. and, yes, the entire veteran population is maintaining the integrity of the separate and vast Veterans Administration health-care system which presently consists of 172 medical centers, 92 nursing home care units, 16 domiciliaries and 49 outpatient clinics. It is imperative, Mr. Chairman, that these facilities be properly funded and staffed so that no veteran in need of care be turned away as many are now. In the 1940s the VA hospital had 121,000 beds which have now been cut to 84,000, with additional reductions to 81,000 scheduled and in the interim the veteran population has doubled, standing at 30 million. Because of inadequate funding and staffing, 16,000 or more beds stand empty each month and, yet, it is nearly impossible to gain admittance to a nursing care bed for a veteran in need. As you know, the VA was authorized to maintain 12,000 nursing care beds in 1980 and each year thereafter, but according to the most recent figures available, the VA is operating only some 8,300 nursing care beds. The need for more rapid expansion of long-term care is self-evident when you realize that the average age of World War I veterans is 84.9 years, World War II veterans—60, and Korean veterans—50.7. In addition, and although Vietnam veterans are now only 33.8 years of age, over half a million of them are



Arthur Fellwock

disabled and in need of varying degrees of continuing care.

Coupled with the foregoing, Mr. Chairman, is the tenuous personnel situation within the Veterans Administration and, in particular, within the Department of Medicine and Surgery. Medical care facilities still suffer from the reduction of some 5,000 personnel in 1978 and 1979 due to the Leach Amendment which cut personnel ceilings to those in effect on Sept. 30, 1977, and former President Carter's hiring freeze wherein only one replacement could be employed for each two losses. Although the upcoming budget reflects an additional loss of only 54 personnel, the fact of the matter is that the reduction will amount to 1,344 employees due to the drain on existing facilities to staff new activations. In addition, we now have President Reagan's hiring freeze which will further complicate matters and must result in the reduction of health-care. As of this writing, informal information indicates that the personnel within the Department of Medicine and Surgery will be exempt in whole or in part. Furthermore, the General Counsel of the Veterans Administration has rendered an opinion that this latest hiring freeze is illegal and in violation of the law predicated upon the provisions of Title III, Public Law 96-151 which requires the Office of Management and Budget to provide the personnel ceiling for health-care staffing for which appropriations are made.

Mr. Chairman, we have always had a proprietary interest in veterans' preference in federal employment

which came under heavy attack during the last administration. We believed this matter had been laid to rest when the 95th Congress retained veterans' preference virtually unchanged. However, an attack thereon has appeared in a panel report of the President's Commission for National Agenda for the Eighties alleging that the most outstanding persons, particularly women, are not hired by the Civil Service and the issue of preference for veterans should be reexamined. This allegation has been repeatedly and thoroughly rebutted in testimony and we look for the continued support of this Committee should a serious threat to veterans' preference in federal employment again surface.

Although at this point in time we do not know what cuts will be made in the Veterans Administration budget by the new administration, two prime targets previously have been the construction program and beneficiary travel. We all know that renovation or replacement of antiquated hospital facilities is not luxury but a necessity, as is the construction of new and expanded long-term care facilities. When I look at the new Senate office building under construction, which is a Taj Mahal of office buildings, I do not see how anyone in good conscience could agree to restricting construction of facilities needed by the veterans of this nation. I also note that there is a proposed reduction in the upcoming budget of \$15 million in beneficiary travel with a view toward further curtailing such for our veterans most in need, those with non-service-connected disabilities who are in real financial need. Informal information available to me also indicates that there is a proposal under consideration to require those with non-service-connected disabilities to pay the first \$10 of beneficiary travel each time they require necessary medical care. President Reagan has promised that programs for the truly deserving needy will be untouched. We believe beneficiary travel is, indeed, one of those areas and full funding must be restored. There can be no doubt that restricting beneficiary travel to needy veterans also restricts their access to proper VA medical care.

VFW

At General Session:

Defense Imbalance Critical

It is important to see things turn around, says Rep. Dickinson.

A grim picture of United States military inferiority compared with Soviet strength was painted by Rep. William L. Dickinson (Ala.), ranking minority member of the House Armed Services Committee.

He spoke at the General Session of the Mid-Winter Conference at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, March 2.

But Dickinson found a bright spot in the attitude of the Reagan Administration toward national defense.

"They aren't saying 'we can't afford it,' but 'we will decide what we can afford,'" Dickinson said. "There is an optimism that has not existed for many years and we will see the gap between us and the Soviets begin to close."

The Russians began their weapons buildup after the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 when they decided they would never be inferior again to the U.S., he said. Since then they have increased defense spending 5% a year.

"We are behind and falling further behind with every advancing year," he said.

Dickinson cited as examples manpower, 2 million, U.S., compared with 4.5 million, Soviet; 11,000 tanks, U.S., and 48,000, Soviet; four B-1s, U.S. and 150 Backfires, Soviet; chemical warfare troops, 6,000, U.S., and 100,000, Soviets, and in strategic and tactical nuclear weapons the ratio is in the Soviets' favor 3 to 1.

In addition the once-secure U.S. technological advantage is being overcome by the Soviets who last year graduated 300,000 engineers compared to the American 50,000, he continued.

Besides that, the U.S. is relying more and more on foreign sources for supplies like strategic metals—100% for 40% of them.

"It is important to see things turn around," he said. "We are not in as good shape as we were 10 years ago."



Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock holds aloft the T.C. Selman plate membership award at the general session of the Mid-Winter Conference. With him is Mrs. Mildred Selman, widow of the late Commander-in-Chief.



The National Honor Guard opens the general session at the annual Mid-Winter Conference.

Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock held aloft the T.C. Selman Memorial Award for membership recruitment named in honor of the late Commander-in-Chief who was the first to die in office.

Fellwock also introduced Selman's widow, Mrs. Mildred Selman, who said, "His spirit is here and he will be with me forever. All I want is that we go ahead and reach the 2 million member goal. This would be

the greatest tribute to him."

Fellwock said, "I know he is with us, saying 'go, boy, go.'"

Among other speakers were Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James R. (Bob) Currieo, who reviewed the successes of the V.F.W.-Political Action Committee in the November elections and the reasons for its establishment, and Adjutant Gen. Julian Dickinson.

VFW

V.F.W. Backs POW/MIA Cause

The V.F.W. will do all it can to help the effort of POW/MIA issue.

“The V.F.W. will not let you down,” Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock told Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths, of the National League of Families. “Continue the effort until all the prisoners and missing are accounted for. We will have to generate public support.”

Fellwock expressed that view at the meeting of the POW/MIA Subcommittee of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee held March 1 during the Mid-Winter Conference at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

Subcommittee Chairman John P. Flynn, a retired Air Force lieutenant general and former prisoner in Vietnam, explained that the United States is in a state of “absolute frustration” over the POW/MIA issue.

“We must keep the issue alive because it gives hope to the families, even though the hope may not be justified,” Flynn said.

Mrs. Griffiths said the Defense Intelligence Agency currently is investigating more than 1,000 sightings, more than 100 of which are first-hand live sightings.

“It has taken 6½ years to get the kind of information we are getting now,” she said. “The families are very realistic; they want only the truth and we are working with Gen. Flynn to find out what can be done.”

As governor of California, she said, President Reagan “was very involved in the POW/MIA issue and we feel strongly that he will not sit idly by.”

Another source of possible information, Marine PFC Robert R. Garwood, the former prisoner convicted of collaborating with the enemy, has not been allowed to provide clues to possible prisoners until the charges against him have been settled, it was brought out at the meeting.

“Vietnam is an amorphous mess like Iran,” Flynn said. “The problem with Vietnam is that it is not coming from the same direction as we are.



V.F.W. POW/MIA Subcommittee discusses reports of sightings after hearing Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock pledge continued V.F.W. support.

The Vietnamese have shown they will not do anything except on a quid pro quo basis. The question is what is their price for the information. We are willing to take measures against them, but would they be successful? There is a great deal of frustration and the options are limited.

“The sightings of Caucasians by Scandinavians raise the possibility that they might be prisoners of war, deserters or drug busts. Because they are Caucasians does not mean they

are Yank POWs.”

Mrs. Griffiths pointed out that holding prisoners for 16 years “is nothing new to the Vietnamese.”

“We all agree that we cannot do anything to impede the momentum of what the POW families ask,” Flynn said. “We should increase the momentum of getting an accounting.”

He noted also that the Vietnamese would like to have normal relations with the U.S. to offset Chinese and Soviet influence and the French still have a foothold in Vietnam. **VFW**

Dickenson Announces Retirement

Retirement of Julian Dickenson as V.F.W. Adjutant General after the 82nd National Convention was announced at the meeting of the V.F.W. National Council of Administration during the organization's annual Mid-Winter Conference.

Dickenson, who lives in Leawood, Kans., a short distance from National Headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., has had 36 years' association with the V.F.W.

Dickenson has held the office of Adjutant General continuously since his first appointment in 1950, following five years of V.F.W. activity in Texas, ranging from Post Commander to State Commander, before accepting the national office.

During his years, the organization's membership almost doubled to 1.9 million, the record shows.



After his retirement, he will remain with the national organization in an advisory and consultancy position for two years, it was announced.

Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock, who announced Dickenson's retirement, said he will be succeeded by Howard Vander Clute, of Montvale, N.J., who served in 1979-80 as Commander-in-Chief.

The National Council of Administration voted to approve Dickenson's decision.

"I don't have the words to express what a pleasure it has been to work with the V.F.W.," Dickenson said. "You have been too good to me and my family. It has been a great career for me. I couldn't have thought of a better career than working for the V.F.W. I love you all."

Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James R. (Bob) Currie said of Dickenson, "We are not losing an employee but a top-flight executive."

Vander Clute said, "His nurturing and shepherding, patience and understanding were an example to all of us. I know you all will join me in wishing him a long life and health."

After the announcement, several Past Commanders-in-Chief, who had served the V.F.W. during Dickenson's tenure, joined in extending personal tributes to him.

Fellwock said Dickenson "will go out with high honors and a 21-gun salute."

Veterans' Needs, Foreign Policy Concerns

Veterans' legislation and American foreign policy in the Middle East and Latin America were major concerns of V.F.W. leaders who attended the annual Mid-Winter Conference in Washington.

Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.), who chairs the House Veterans Affairs Committee, speaking before the National Legislative Committee, linked veterans' benefits with national security.

He said HR 1400 would provide educational benefits to volunteers who are high school graduates and who serve at least two or three years on active duty and four in the National Guard or Reserve.

Montgomery described the proposal as VA-administered and paid for in its basic elements, with additional provisions covered by the Defense Department.

It also would encourage the volunteers to make a career of the service by letting them transfer their educational benefits to their dependents.

He described this as "a last effort to make the All-Volunteer Army work" because, he added, he does not believe Congress will adopt conscription.

Montgomery cited another bill, HR 1969, that would offer VA hospital

treatment "to active duty members of the armed services wounded in combat under contingency or actual wartime conditions."

This bill, he said, contrasts with the Carter Administration idea of treating combat-wounded in private hospitals.

Montgomery said another bill, resulting from a two-year VA study of 100,000 living former POWs, would liberalize benefits for them, authorize VA in and outpatient service for them and establish a special VA advisory committee to study their problems.

Further, he said, a bill introduced by Rep. Ronald M. Mottl (Ohio) would "allow the VA to expand the scope of the study of Agent Orange to include in-depth examination of additional factors which have adversely affected our Vietnam in-country veterans."

William Ayers, former Ohio Representative who headed the VA transition team, said his group put together an exhaustive report, but he is disappointed that "no one has read it."

Garner Shriver, majority counsel for the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, said he expects 1981 to be a year "of intensive oversight to be sure veterans' legislation is adequately funded and administered."

He said Congress is concerned about the \$900 million owed the VA in veterans' overpayments and with speeding up Agent Orange studies.

From the State Department, Gary Dietrick and Kevin-John McIntyre and Roger Conner, executive director of the Federation of American Immigration Reform, appeared before the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee.

Dietrick, contrasting Reagan Administration policies with those of the Carter Administration, said they would view international problems from an overall point of view rather than focusing on one critical area at a time.

The Middle East, he said, is one of the few regions where the U.S. and Soviet Union could be drawn into a direct conflict, so stability there is necessary.

Discussing Latin America, McIntyre reviewed the situation in El Salvador, which he said is different from Nicaragua in that it has not been identified for years with the rule of one "strong man."

Conner warned of the drain on the American economy caused by illegal immigration, but added that legal immigration contributes to it by encouraging people left behind to attempt entering the U.S. by any means.

Register Early for Philadelphia

Register early for the 82nd National Convention in Philadelphia, Aug. 14 to 20, is the advice of Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock.

He also reminds all Post Commanders that each Post is required to register one or more delegates.

Changes have been made in the Convention schedule for 1981. The annual Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, followed by the Distinguished Guests Banquet at 7 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 17, the annual Military Parade will get underway. The Million Dollar Pageant of Drums is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18, and the Conference Banquets at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Days and times of the other events and meetings are unchanged.

Philadelphia holds many attractions for delegates, their families, friends and guests when they are not required to be present for Convention business.

Philadelphia boasts a wide variety of museums, catering to just about every interest in every season. In fact, recent studies tally more than 104 institutions in the city and environs.

The cultural hub of Philadelphia is the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, a broad boulevard, often compared to



Paris's Champs-Elysees. There you'll find the Franklin Institute, a science wonderland for all ages; the Academy of Natural Sciences, boasting a two-story dinosaur skeleton and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the queen of the city's museums, noted for its outstanding collection of both American and European paintings, Oriental exhibits and American furniture. A short walk away is the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, displaying 200 years of the best America has to offer.

Dozens more museums wait to be explored, including the Afro-American Cultural and Historical Museum, Atwater Kent Museum, Buten Museum of Wedgwood, Civic Center Museum, Museum of American Jewish History, Norman Rockwell Museum, Penn Mutual Tower, Perelman Antique Toy Museum, Philadelphia Maritime Museum, University of Pennsylvania Museum, Please Touch Museum and the Rosenbach Museum. They all reflect the cosmopolitan nature of old and new Philadelphia.

In addition, some other great attractions which lure visitors are the Philadelphia Zoo, the nation's oldest; the nearby Great Adventure theme park, and Sesame Place, a Bucks County educational playland. **VFW**

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Enclosed is my check money order in the amount of \$6. Register my name or the name and number of our V.F.W. Post for representation at the 82nd National Convention in Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 14-20, 1981. Do not enclose your delegate or alternate credentials with this form. (Please type or print name and address.)

Name V.F.W. Post State

Address

City and State Zip

SERVICE REPORT

By FREDERICO JUARBE, JR. Director, National Veterans Service

V.F.W. EXPANDS AGENT ORANGE ISSUE

During recent years, more and more Vietnam veterans have contended that the onset of various diseases is a direct result of exposure to dioxin.

Up to now, research has dealt primarily with this issue. Now, the V.F.W. has reason to believe the real culprit's identity may have been obscured by the preponderant attention given to the dioxin.

Research by a member of the V.F.W. Washington Office staff has given rise to the implication that arsenic is the cause of many ills of Vietnam veterans.

Until early February, 1981, the V.F.W. had informal representation at the VA's Advisory Committee on Health-Related Effects of Herbicide. However, recently at V.F.W. request the Administrator of Veterans Affairs recognized the valuable input of Frederick J. Mullen, of the V.F.W. National Veterans Service staff, by appointing him to the VA's committee. Segments of Mullen's insight into the Agent Orange dilemma are quoted here from his remarks before a recent meeting of the committee.

"There were approximately 3½ million pounds of heavy metals (arsenic) disseminated in Vietnam. When you consider that five milligrams constitute a toxic dose, then we believe there is reason for concern in this area.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars would like to see more done in this area of screening by the Veterans Administration, such as studying nail and hair samples and using a possible patch test in the cases

of skin diseases.

"Just about the only skin disease at this point that is being related to exposure of any type is chloracne. And when you consider that the different skin diseases caused by exposure to arsenic are protean (multiple) then, again, we believe a lot more cases can be allowed, based on arsenic exposure alone.

"Again, we are up against a no-win situation at this time and we would like to see more done and a little bit more speed put into the study that is being conducted at this point."

Mullen also has noted that, while the arsenic used was in organic form, it nevertheless had potential to change to inorganic form when strained by the soil, thereby becoming more highly toxic. Further, research has disclosed that many specific diseases which are the cause of veterans' complaints can be attributed to arsenic exposure.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that a study done by the National Academy of Sciences completed in 1977 reveals evidence substantiating the V.F.W. position. Also, an article appearing in the Washington Post indicated that leading federal toxicologists and other health experts believe "long-term exposure to arsenic, a poisonous chemical used in the manufacture of insecticides and medicine, could result in diarrhea, discoloration of the skin, damage to the kidneys and central nervous system and ultimately death."

The Veterans Administration has contracted for a private research group to conduct a study into the effect of herbicide exposure, includ-

ing arsenic containing herbicides.

The V.F.W. is mandated to an early resolution to the Agent Orange problem. One step toward this goal is to continue urging the VA to investigate arsenic exposure in more depth and concurrent with dioxin screening since the V.F.W. believes many of these cases can be allowed by recognizing arsenic as an etiological or causative factor.

WORLD WAR II USE OF SULFA DRUGS PROBED

Several weeks ago a Buffalo, N.Y., newspaper published articles regarding its investigation into the use of sulfa drugs by the U. S. Navy during World War II.

The articles alleged that the Navy conducted experiments with sulfa drugs in order to control respiratory diseases at certain training bases from 1943 through 1945.

According to information contained in the news accounts, participation in this experiment was mandatory and may have affected 600,000 or more Navy and Marine servicemen. It was further alleged that the administration of sulfa drugs was conducted even in the presence of medical evidence that its use could produce potentially serious side effects, including kidney disease.

In light of this evidence, the V.F.W. called upon the Veterans Administration to undertake immediately a study to identify the veterans concerned and to determine whether their physical problems connected with the test are service connected.

The VA expressed its concern with the issue and acknowledged its willingness to work with the Navy to investigate the matter. The Administrator of Veterans Affairs indicated that the Chief Medical Director has initiated a cooperative dialogue with the surgeon general of the Navy to ensure a coordinated effort. Further, the Chief Medical Director is developing a medical evaluative procedure to be followed at all VA medical centers if veterans request evaluation for alleged sulfa toxicity resulting from administration of this drug in 1943 and 1944.

In the final analysis, it must be remembered that the determination of service connection for any disability is based upon the evidence in each individual claim.

Even if it is determined that "sulfa drugs" may have been administered to a veteran, the evidence must establish that they caused a disability and that it is the disability from which the veteran continues to suffer.

VA BENEFITS BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE

Copies of the 1981 edition of the Veterans Administration's publication Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents are off the press. It is available for \$2 a copy through the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., 20402.

The 1981 volume contains a benefits timetable and includes updated compensation and pension rate tables and rates of pay to veterans training under the G.I. Bill.

ATTACKS ON VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUE

In last month's issue we reported that the Heritage Foundation proposed emasculating veterans' benefits to a degree that would make the Economy Act of 1933 pale by comparison.

Another report, this by the National Tax Limitation Committee and entitled "Meeting America's Economic Crisis: A Road Map to Emergency Federal Spending Reductions", is not as harsh as the Heritage Foundation's. However, it would still reduce benefits. It says of non-service connected pensions, "The necessity of the program is questionable, particularly in light of other income security plans such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, and Aid to Families with Dependent Children."

Of service connected compensation, it says, "While one of the most justifiable benefit categories for veterans, its application to dependents is extensive and long-lived . . . This problem is evident in non-service compensation as well. By restricting dependents' benefits to spouses and children under age 21, savings from both areas could total \$2 billion."

Medical care would be altered and reduced "by redirecting resources to non-acute facilities, reducing the average length of stay in acute centers, and phasing down medical care for non-service disabilities, savings of approximately \$1.5 billion could be realized.

"Additional savings are possible by easing restrictions on the location of health

care services for veterans. Currently, VA-funded health care is available only through VA facilities. High quality, lower cost services may be available through other sources and could help slow VA expansion plans."

VA burial benefits were not overlooked: "Free interment is currently provided for all veterans and their families, regardless of income level, provided that burial takes place in a VA cemetery . . . Applying a means test to burial benefits for veterans and their families would lower current expenditures by \$50 million and act as a cost avoidance measure for future acquisition of grave sites."

In a separate publication of the President's Commission for a National Agenda for the Eighties, a report of the panel on the electoral and democratic process renewed the attack on veterans' preference in federal employment:

"Although it is generally agreed that this compensatory provision for disabled veterans is just, point bonuses for non-disabled veterans have been questioned because they have had a significant impact on the quality of entry-level Civil Service personnel. The problem is not that unqualified persons are hired, but that some of the most outstanding persons, particularly women, are not hired by the Civil Service."

In addition to these comments, the ideas of some in Congress fly in the face of the concept and philosophy of veterans' benefits. Nearly all these benefits have historically been granted to civilians drafted into service

in defense of the nation and its policies.

When Civil Service reform was considered by Congress, Rep. David E. Bonior (Mich.) pressed hard to restrict veterans' preference to Vietnam Era veterans who served in Vietnam or contiguous waters.

The new Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Alan Simpson (Wyo.), if accurately quoted, has made some highly disturbing statements. For instance, he suggested granting different benefits "for those who served in the combat theaters of the fray and those who never left the continental United States."

Another: "I just think we can draw a distinction in benefits" between those "who might have served baking bread at Camp Beetle Bailey, and those who served in Vietnam."

And, "I'm even going to look into the matter of veterans' care and benefits based on need. I think we're going to have to start allocating and watching programs. I'm not coming in to eliminate anything, but I'm sure coming in to look at a lot of stuff."

Sen. Simpson wants "to find a way to have the government reimbursed for VA care when a private insurer also pays the costs, and consider whether the VA should be providing medical care for health problems that are not service related."

All these comments accentuate the need for each member to maintain contact with members of his or her Congressional delegation and key staff members to remind them of the V.F.W. mandated position as outlined in

the Priority Goals.

Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock summed it up last month in testimony before the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees like this:

"We must never forget, nor permit the nation to forget, that those of us who served during periods of war and hostility have rendered a very special service to our great nation."

NEW BILLS INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

The following were referred to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee:

S. 417 by Alan Cranston to amend title 38, U.S. Code, to provide a new educational assistance program for persons who enter the armed forces after June 30, 1981, to modify the Dec. 31, 1989, termination date for the Vietnam Era GI Bill, and for other purposes.

S. 458 by Cranston to amend title 38, U.S. Code, to extend the period of eligibility for certain Vietnam Era veterans to request readjustment counseling, to extend the program of veterans readjustment appointments in the federal government and to extend the educational assistance and rehabilitation program delimiting periods for Vietnam Era and veterans, respectively, under service connected disabled certain circumstances.

S. 468 by Strom Thurmond to amend title 38, U.S. Code, to expand the eligibility of former prisoners of war for certain health-care benefits provided by the Veterans Administration and for other purposes.

SECURITY CLOSEUP

By COL. PHELPS JONES (U.S.A., RET.) Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs

OUR ENDANGERED SUBMARINES

For long years, the V.F.W. has spoken out to assure that submerged submarines, proceeding at operational speeds, should be provided assured radio communication with the Chief of Naval Operations here in the United States.

National Security Resolution 449 calls upon the President and Congress, together, to select a site for this extremely low frequency communication (ELF) grid now.

Recently, Comrade Bill Palo, chairman of the District 10 ELF Committee, Flushing, Mich., wrote to President Reagan on this long overdue military requirement. His letter, slightly edited, which follows, tells it all:

"April 1, 1981, is the deadline Congress has set for your decision on where to build the Navy's Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) communications system—to help protect and improve the effectiveness of our submarines.

"Because of your commitment to increase our military preparedness, and to make such decisions on need, not on politics, I feel I can congratulate you in advance for approving the Navy's long-standing plan to build ELF in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, with a connecting link to a small existing test site in Wisconsin.

"I can also assure you that such a decision will have the active support of veterans' groups in Michigan—and throughout the country.

"It is hard to understand how such a critical national

issue could become so bogged down in political cowardice and distortion.

"Originally, there were environmental concerns. But in 1977, these were conclusively dismissed by the report of the National Academy of Sciences. For years, the highest authorities in the Navy and the Department of Defense have testified as to the need for ELF; the urgency; and the fact that there are no adequate alternatives. Yet, there are still some politicians who grope for reasons to disagree because they've found no way to gracefully admit being wrong.

"Gov. William Milliken, I believe, fully recognizes the necessity for ELF—and that it is environmentally safe.

"President Carter's record on ELF is disgraceful. Yet, as Commander-in-Chief, he

was willing to deprive our submarines—and the country—of this protection, for what can only be judged personal political motives.

"When first running for President, Carter sent a telegram to a Democratic candidate in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, promising that if elected, the ELF system then known as SEAFARER 'will not be built in the Upper Peninsula against the wishes of the citizens.'

"Such a promise is hard to understand, since national defense decisions are national—not local—decisions.

"Later (as documented by the press), President Carter lied to the public, when at a town meeting in Flint, Mich., on Oct. 1, 1980, he stated that his decision on ELF was awaiting a recommendation

from the Secretary of Defense, and 'I have not gotten such a recommendation.'

"This was almost two years after President Carter had the written recommendation of his Secretary of Defense, Harold Brown, who called ELF 'vitaly important,' and stated: 'I recommend that you approve selection of the combined Michigan-Wisconsin proposal as the site for deployment of the ELF communications system.' (Unclassified memorandum for the President, Dec. 8, 1980.)

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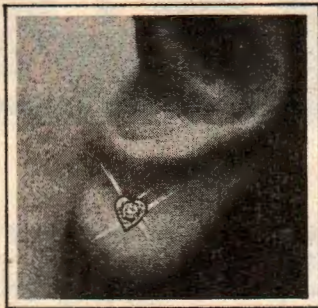
Thank you, Comrade Bill Palo from all of us. (PJ)



Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock welcomes Rep. William L. Dickinson (Ala.) to the podium. With him is Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the Washington Office. The occasion was the general session. (Story on page 21.)

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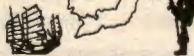
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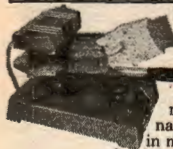
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Recent Books (Continued from page 17)

Lingering Contrails of the Big Square "A" by Harry E. Slater, Nicholson Book Bindery, 393 pages, \$30 (available from Harry E. Slater, 1007 Sunset Ave., Murfreesboro, Tenn.).—Over 500 photographs and numerous charts highlight this outstanding unit history of the 94th Bomb Group of World War II. Each chapter covers a month's operations and concludes with a mission summary chart. Veterans of the 94th will especially enjoy this memorable volume.

A-20 Havoc at War by William N. Hess, Scribner's, 128 pages, \$17.50. Aviation veterans and air buffs will enjoy this illustrated story about this remarkable series of aircraft told in the words of the crews who flew them in action. Contains many previously unpublished photographs.

Avenger At War by Barrett Tillman, Scribner's, 128 pages, \$17.50. This work portrays one of the most adaptable aircraft produced during World War II. Highlighted by more than 150 action photographs, it is also a source of personal experiences and eyewitness accounts by the men who helped make the Avenger a flying legend.

Conquer: The Story of the Ninth Army 1944-45, The Battery Press, Inc., 406 pages, \$22.50. This is the history of the Ninth Army in World War II as related through the major contributions of its Divisional elements. Maps and photographs highlight this quality presentation.

The Hawk Flies on Sunday by Michael Jahn, Bantam, 192 pages, \$2.25 (paperback). This is the third exciting adventure story based on the exploits of Marine fly-

ing ace, Col. Greg "Pappy" Boyington during World War II. This episode features Boyington's tangles with Japanese ace Adm. Shigota.

Guerrilla Submarines by Edward Disette and Hans Christian Adamson, Bantam, 209 pages (paperback), \$2.25. Here is the full, astounding story of how a small group of valiant American submarines supported the free Filipino guerrilla forces in the epic struggle with their Japanese oppressors in World War II.

Cry Comanche by Harold B. Simpson, Hill Junior College Press (Hillsboro, Texas), 186 pages, \$10.50. This work details the story of one of the finest regiments in the United States Army, the 2nd U.S. Cavalry in Texas, 1855-1861.

Lancaster at War-2 by Mike Garbett and Brian Goulding, Scribner's, 160 pages, \$17.50. Contained in this second volume is a totally new collection of Lancaster stories and photographs which compliments, not duplicates, volume one. Closely examined are the lives of those who flew and serviced this remarkably effective bomber.

P-40 Hawks at War by Joe Christy and Jeff Ethell, Scribner's, 128 pages, \$15.95. More than 150 photographs, detailed appendices on the production figures, and data of the various marks and types, this authoritative work portrays the history of one of the most widely used aircraft of World War II. Also contained are numerous personal accounts.

U.S. Army Handbook, 1939-1945 by George Forty, Scribner's, 160 pages, \$14.95. Every facet of warfare is explored in this outstanding reference about the U.S. Army in World War II. Examined are the organization, structure, tactics, weaponry and equipment utilized by America's greatest Army. More than 115 photographs and numerous line drawings and charts enhance this handy volume.

Star on Many a Battlefield by Francis C. Kajencki, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 280 pages, \$18.50. This military biography about Brevet Brigadier Gen. Joseph Kargé examines him as a leader and assesses his contribution to the overall Civil War effort by reviewing the battles and campaigns in which he took part.

Away All Boats by Kenneth Dodson, Bantam, 472 pages, \$2.50 (paperback). This is the story of the Navy's Attack Transport Service in World War II as seen through the eyes of those whose job it was to land the Marines and U.S. Infantry on many a hostile shore.

The Milepost, 32nd Edition, the guidebook of the North from the publishers of Alaska magazine, 498 pages, \$7.95 (\$9.50 in Canada). Anyone planning a trip to Western Canada or Alaska will find this up-to-date travel guide brimming with useful information about things like highway routes, railroads, major attractions, Ferries, cruise ships, gasoline availability, motels, hotels, camp grounds and eating establishments, just to name a few.

Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 9, edited by Alfonso Ortiz, U.S. Government Printing Office, 701 pages, \$17. This volume covers the prehistory, general history and the languages of the Southwest tribes, including the cultures and histories of the Pueblo peoples.

Distinguished Guests...

(Continued from page 14)



Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph Vicites, Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Past Commanders-in-Chief Soden, Clyde Lewis.



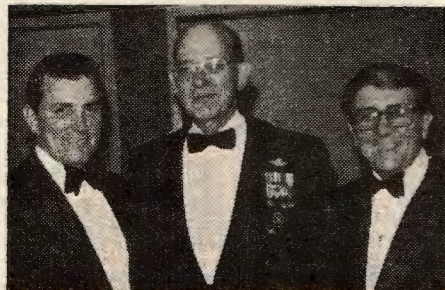
Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Mrs. Fellwock, Mrs. Leilani Watt, Interior Secretary James G. Watt.



Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Mrs. Fellwock, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Currieo.



HHS Secretary Richard Schweiker, Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Mrs. Fellwock.



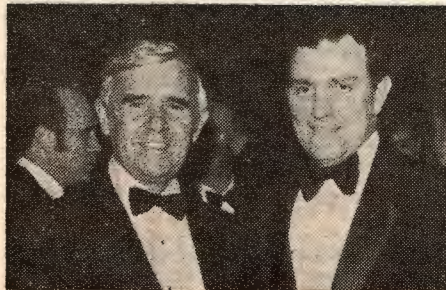
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President Reagan is greeted by Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James R. (Bob) Currieo.



Past Commander-in-Chief John Mahan, Sen. William V. Roth, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Currieo.



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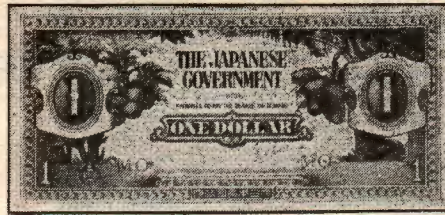
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Command Post (Continued from page 6)

their needs, VA programs will wither and die.

Veterans have given enough already. They have made their sacrifices on the field of battle, away from home, job and school. They have made their sacrifices for the past four years under a vindictive administration. They will suffer for the next several years because of program deficiencies in current budgets.

Either we are good enough to get a square deal or we aren't. The V.F.W. says we are!

As for the defense of our beloved country, I will say it just one time: We told them so—and told them again, again, and again over the past 10 years.

America is in mortal peril and even with the new determination and added dollars that the Reagan Administration will apply to our common defense, we will need luck running our way and against the Soviet Union to survive the 1980s as the leading nation of the free world and with a free world to lead.

No man could have been more wrong than President Jimmy Carter was in 1977 when he congratulated the American people for losing what he called our "inordinate fear of Communism." No greater example of wishful thinking can be found than former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's 1979 statement that President Carter and Soviet Boss Leonid Brezhnev "shared similar dreams and aspirations."

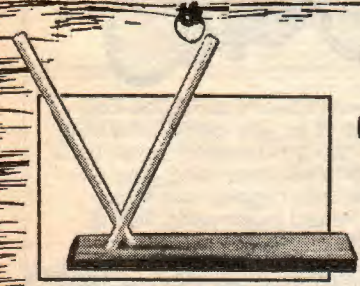
I said a moment ago that we would need the rest of the 1980s to get well. The reason is clear: it took us all of the 1970s to slide down the slippery slope to second best in a contest with no prizes for second place.

CIA figures reveal that for the period 1970 through 1979, U.S. and Soviet defense procurement expenditures totalled \$240 billion for the United States and \$360 billion for the Soviet Union.

Of this total, we spent \$40 billion on strategic forces; they spent \$110 billion.

We spent \$45 billion on naval forces, they spent \$60 billion. On land forces, we were out-spent 3 to 1, or \$30 billion for us and \$90 billion

(See Command Post page 32)



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Fellwock Meets Congress

(See Fellwock page 36)



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Command Post
(Continued from page 30)

for them.

The average annual defense production rates for 1970-1979 show where these dollars (or rubles) wound up:

	United States	Soviet Union
Planes	275	500
Attack Submarines	3	6
Tanks	650	2,000
Other Military Vehicles	1,000	5,000

Small wonder that Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger has already stated that "we must re-arm" or that Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman David Jones, free at last from domestic political manipulation, stated that "I am pessimistic in the near term because the risks are here now and will grow in the years ahead while the remedies will take time under the best of circumstances."

The news from the Navy is no better. Speaking to the Preparedness Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Adm. Robert C. Davis, commander-in-chief Pacific, laid it on the line: "We just cannot guarantee winning at sea today."

To turn our peril around where must we start?

One thing is for certain. Not even under President Reagan's increased defense budget, can we do everything that needs to be done at once. And, if forced to choose, I'll take military "people" over defense "hardware" everytime.

First, a pay raise for the armed forces to catch up fully with pay lost to inflation since 1974.

Second, funds for operations and maintenance so that tanks can roll, pilots can fly more, ships can steam more, and guns can shoot more. For example, U.S. pilots average 10 flying hours per month, while Israelis average 30. In some cases, pilots are permitted only one practice firing of an air-to-air missile in their entire flying career.

Above all, the hard-pressed middle leadership of our armed forces—sergeant through major and the naval equivalent—must be given the special programs and support they require so that the hemorrhage of their departing talent and experience is brought to a halt.

Of course, a modern era GI education bill is needed—paid for by

(See Command Post page 34)

Mail Call
 (Continued from page 17)

Veterans Forgotten

The officers and members of Post 7294 have agreed to make a protestation of the manner in which the 52 American hostages were welcomed home after their ordeal in Iran.

Our grievances stem not so much from the fact of the hostages' receiving back pay, Presidential welcomes, ticker tape parades, free hotel accommodations and other gifts and privileges, but from the plight of the forgotten veterans.

Where were the crowds, parades and parties when the veteran came home from war? Where are the jobs that many unemployed veterans cannot secure? After both Korea and Vietnam, no one even said "thank you" to these Americans who daily risked their lives, sometimes for three or more years.

We are those veterans and these are our voices raised in angry denunciation of a system which honors a very few and ignores the many. This same system is willing to accept the sacrifices of life and limb, and then forget the ones who gave all they had.—*John O. Rineer, Jr., P.O. Box 5144, Lancaster, Pa. 17601.*

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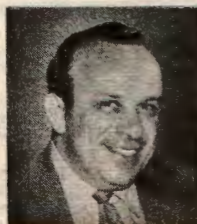
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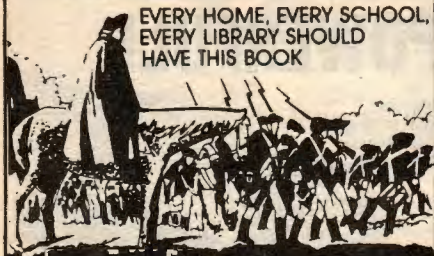
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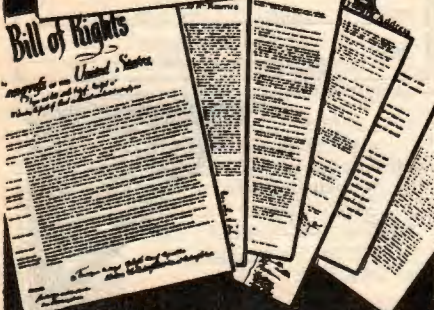


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Command Post

(Continued from page 32)

Defense and administered by the VA. Such a step might reintroduce the sideline-sitting American middle class to the armed forces that protect them. If this GI Bill won't do the trick, we can, should and must move promptly to a fair, loophole-free draft, letting the political chips fall where they may. As our fallen Chief T.C. Selman stated, "I say to all thumb-sucking, poll-watching politicians: to heck with whether or not a draft is popular. The V.F.W. will choose what is right over what is popular for as long as there is a V.F.W."

One other fact is certain. Unless the Reagan Administration fully and fairly faces up to the sad state of our Armed Forces—Sen. Sam Nunn, of Georgia, has termed today's Army an "armed WPA"—not all the bucks in the Treasury will give us the forces we need.

After our people in the services are given the needed support, modern arms must and will be provided. The Navy will grow from 452 to 600 ships. A modern penetrating bomber, the B-1 or a derivative, will be added to the inventory. A sixth nuclear aircraft carrier will be built. The Marines will get badly needed sea lift and the Army will deploy the enhanced radiation/reduced blast neutron warhead to Europe to offset the 3 to 1 Soviet tank advantage.

More, and much more, will be done. For our part, I pledge to you that we will keep the faith in the future as we have in the past. We will support to the hilt every lawful effort on the part of the military services to reintroduce discipline, morale and esprit de corps into their ranks.

And, we will never quit until our beloved America, with more to conserve, protect and advance than any other nation in recorded history, can again be the undisputed guarantor of a global peace.

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- The following appointments are hereby announced: NATIONAL AMERICAN COMMITTEE: Members: Dr. Robert H. Mitchell, Post 3579, Park Ridge, Ill., and Herman Charles Phillips, Post 5225, W. Memphis, Ark. NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Member: John Lava, Post 601, Brooklyn, N.Y. NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE: Member: Robert H. Keys, Post 2413, El Dorado, Ark. NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE: Member: William Frank, Post 2823, Burlington, Wis. NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF: William H. Davis, Post 3473, Cottage Grove, Ore.; Martin R. Kretski, Post 813, Du Bois, Pa.; Joseph Fiteko, Post 165, Ambridge, Pa.; Michael Trusz, Post 764, McMurray, Pa.; Joe Jaworsky, Post 1521, Chester, Pa.; Robert J. Hagenbaugh, Post 8993, Stony Creek Mills, Pa.; James Yant, Post 5756, Sewickley, Pa.; Charles Bissell, Post 598, Darby, Pa.; Glenn A. Porter, Post 1409, Monongahela, Pa.; Charles D. Falvey, Post 1290, Easton, Pa.; and Dale L. Haswell, Post 252, Ellwood City, Pa. ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL: Harry K. Goreham, Post 4039, Creswell, Ore.; Frederick Whitmore, Post 8227, Nescopeck, Pa.; Leon G. Baker, Sr., Post 2506, Hanover, Pa.; Charles R. Feltenberg, Post 2435, Columbia, Pa., and Dominick J. Rossi, Post 252, Ellwood City, Pa.
- Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Report of Election of Post Officers forms have been mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete and return the forms to Department and National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers. Post Officers shall be installed into their respective offices at a regular or special meeting held not less than twenty (20) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed.
- Section 222 of the National By-Laws provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to County Council at the same time the annual election of Post Officers is held. Posts are entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates for the first fifty (50) members or fraction thereof, and one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each additional fifty (50) members or fraction thereof; not to exceed eight (8) delegates and eight (8) alternates from any Post. Delegates and alternates to District Conventions shall be elected at a regular Post meeting held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District Convention at which District Officers are to be elected; one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each fifteen (15) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election or as the Department By-Laws may provide. Delegates and alternates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department Convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election or as the Department By-Laws may provide.
- Section 317 of the Manual of Procedure provides that elective County Council Officers shall be nominated, elected and installed at the first meeting after April 30, due notice of such election to be mailed to all members. Said officers will not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed.
- Pursuant to Section 405 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such Convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention. District officers shall not assume

the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed.

- The sales of V.F.W. Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Section 711 of the National Constitution and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the sale of Buddy Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the sale of Buddy Poppies shall be used for the relief of disabled and needy veterans and their dependents.
- Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees, Form P-113, Trustees Report of Audit, must be prepared in detail at the close of each Quarter, one of which ends March 31st.
- Each Post shall register, in advance, at least one delegate to the National Convention (Section 222). Advance registration for the 82nd National Convention is six dollars (\$6.00) and should be mailed, with delegate's name and address, to Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 82nd National Convention, Franklin Plaza Hotel, Two Franklin Plaza, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.
- Announcement is made of the consolidation of Shirley Magee Memorial Post No. 4889, Monticello, Miss., and Bill McNease Post No. 4806, Prentiss, Miss.; the consolidated Post to be known as Shirley Magee Memorial Post No. 4889, Monticello, Miss.
- Announcement is made of the consolidation of Wayne Memorial Post No. 1931, Wayne, N.J., and West Paterson Memorial Post No. 10389, West Paterson, N.J.; the consolidated Post to be known as Wayne Memorial Post No. 1931, Wayne, N.J.
- Announcement is made of the consolidation of Sabine County Post No. 10351, Hemphill, Texas, and San Augustine County Post No. 7210, San Augustine, Texas; the consolidated Post to be known as Sabine County Post No. 10351, Hemphill, Texas.
- Announcement is made of the consolidation of Mission Santa Clara Post No. 3982, Santa Clara, Calif., and East Valley Post No. 8514, San Jose, Calif.; the consolidated Post to be known as Mission Santa Clara Post No. 3982, Santa Clara, Calif.
- Announcement is made of the consolidation of Clarence Vinson Post No. 3238, Camden, Del., and Saint Patrick's Post No. 7594, Dover, Del.; the consolidated Post to be known as Clarence Vinson-John Chason Memorial Post No. 3238, Camden-Wyoming, Del.
- Announcement is made of the change of location of the following Posts in accordance with Section 206 of the National By-Laws: New Topsall Island Post No. 9983 from Surf City to Holly Ridge, N.C., and Pembroke Park Post No. 10526 from Pembroke Park to Pembroke Pines, Fla.
- Announcement is made of the authorization of charters for the following Posts: Post No. 1516, Lancaster, Ohio; Post No. 1575, Hurleyville, N.Y.; Post No. 2600, San Andreas, Calif.; Post No. 3773, Delcambre, La.; Post No. 4378, Pointblank, Texas; Post No. 6195, Andalusia, Ala.; Post No. 6272, Lake Lotawana, Mo.; Post No. 6306, Golden Shores, Ariz.; Post No. 6938, Whitmire, S.C.; Post No. 7468, East Rochester, N.Y.; Post No. 8037, Vincent, Ala.; Post No. 8247, Wilsonville, Okla.; Post No. 9102, Elkin, N.C.; Post No. 9130, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Post No. 9276, Mt. Pleasant, Utah; Post No. 9876, Pattaya City, Thailand; Post No. 10215, Uijongbu, Korea; Post No. 10377, Wylie, Texas; Post No. 10420, Murrells Inlet, S.C.; Post No. 10556, Boca Raton, Fla.; Post No. 10592, Bamberg, Germany; Post No. 10594, Central City, Neb.; Post No. 10596, Kansas, Okla., and Post No. 10597, Yukon, Okla.

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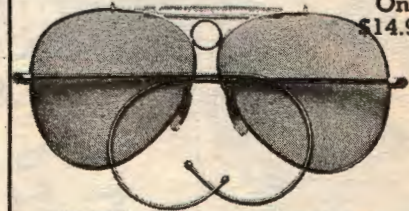
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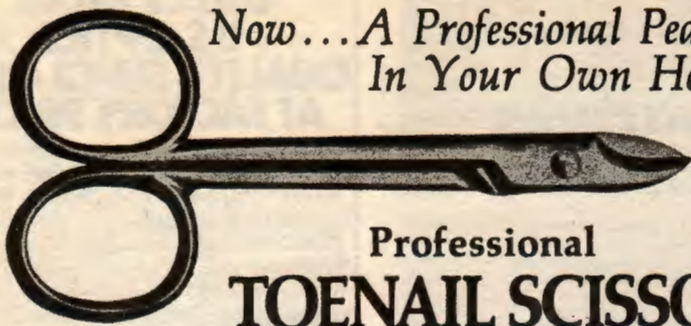
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Fellwock...

(Continued from page 31)



Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Rep. Denny
Smith (Ore.).



Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Rep. Margar-
et Heckler (Mass.).



Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock and
Chairman Strom Thurmond (S.C.), of the
Senate Judiciary Committee and a long-time
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mittee, talk about the VA budget for the
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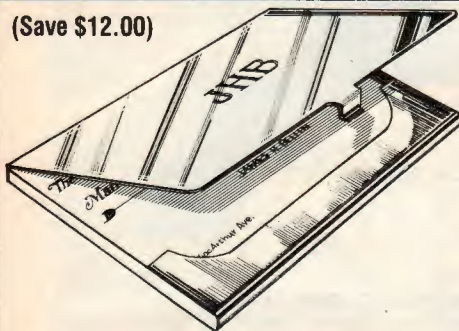
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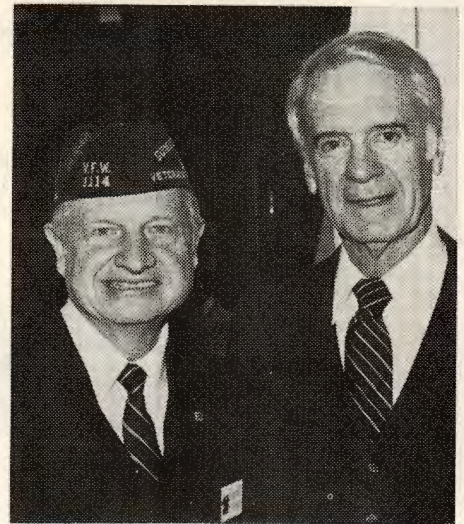


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Fellwock...

(Continued from page 36)



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Commander-in-Chief Fellwock, Rep. Jim Dunn (Mich.).

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Get your copy of the all-new Watkins catalog today! It's full of those great Watkins products you remember, plus some new favorites. There are lots of great recipes, too, including Mrs. Dowell's Italian Cream Cake!



FREE!

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A 2-ounce bottle of Watkins' world-famous vanilla.

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Offer expires **7/1/81**



No. 524 Mesh



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Adjustable Caps

WITH EMBLEMS

Choose the cap that fits your need. Send us a copy of your logo or a rough pencil sketch and we'll do the rest. Your emblem expertly made and sewn on the best caps available.

Please furnish the following information:

- Style No. _____ How Many _____
- Copy For Emblem _____
- Color _____ Royal Blue, Navy Blue, Red, Black, Orange, White, Gold, Kelly Green.

Price includes one 1-color emblem sewn on front of cap. (Minimum Order — 72)

72	144	288	432	864	1728
\$3.85 each	\$3.10 each	\$2.95 each	\$2.85 each	\$2.75 each	\$2.65 each

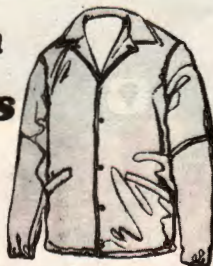
FREE Jackets

- Receive one No. 436A Unlined Jacket Free with 72 Adjustable Caps when you order 144 Adjustable Caps receive three No. 436A Jackets Free. Order 216 Caps receive four No. 436A Jackets Free. Order 288 Caps receive six Free Unlined Jackets. (Example 72 Caps, 1 Free Jacket; 144 Caps, 3 Free; 288 Caps, 6 Free. Every 144 quantity, 3 Free Jackets).
- Jacket will have same emblem as used on Adjustable Caps.
- Please state jacket size and color, (Navy, Royal, Red, White).
- Additional jackets may be purchased separately (see below).

Offer Good March 1 thru April 30, 1981

Nylon Jackets

WITH EMBLEMS



Sizes: Youth S-M-L-XL
Adult S-M-L-XL

Colors Available in same colors as Caps.
Price includes one emblem sewn on front of Jacket.

Quantity	1-35	36-99	100-399	400 & Over
STYLE NO. 436A Unlined	\$13.95 ea.	\$11.95 ea.	\$10.95 ea.	\$9.95 ea.
STYLE NO. 436B Flannel Lined	\$18.95 ea.	\$16.95 ea.	\$15.95 ea.	\$14.95 ea.
STYLE NO. 436C Heavy Pile Lined	\$22.95 ea.	\$20.95 ea.	\$19.95 ea.	\$18.95 ea.
STYLE NO. 436D Sherpa Lined	\$27.95 ea.	\$25.95 ea.	\$24.95 ea.	\$23.95 ea.

*ADD \$20.00 Set-up Charge on quantities under 36. NO Set-up Charge if we use the same emblem used on your Adjustable Caps.

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ALASKA, HAWAII AND VIRGINIA
CALL COLLECT 703/935-4545
Offer Void Where Prohibited

Operation Clean-Sweep

Chief Launches Program

April is the month when spring cleaning begins and V.F.W. Post Homes are no exception.

Operation Clean-Sweep has been launched by Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock as an arm of Community Activities.

A booklet has been published explaining Clean-Sweep's scope, listing things to be done and containing a sample invitation to Post members to join in. It also tells how Posts can make the National Honor Roll for making improvements.

Here are points made in the booklet:

As an organization, the V.F.W. is rightfully proud of its place in the community and the nation. It has a proud record of achievement in the protection of veterans entitlements and in supporting a strong and viable national defense.

Does your Post's appearance measure up to the reputation you have established in your neighborhood through Community Activities, Americanism, Youth Activities, Safety, Buddy Poppies and other programs which have been beneficial to both veterans and our fellow Americans?

Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock invites all Posts to get involved in projects which will improve the appearance of V.F.W. facilities both inside and out.

Get your improvement program started now to insure that your Post becomes eligible to be listed on the National Honor Roll.

With spring around the corner, it is time to make a Clean-Sweep.

Operation Clean-Sweep is designed to motivate Posts to make exterior and/or interior building improvements where they are needed.

Posts that remodel or redecorate the exterior or interior will be placed on the Honor Roll.

In order to be placed on the Honor Roll, report the work that was done

upon its completion. Send in a description of what was done, the amounts expended and the hours involved.

Include "before and after" pictures. They may be Polaroid or Kodak snapshots or pictures taken by a professional.

Send the reports of your improvements to V.F.W. Community Activities, Operation Clean-Sweep, V.F.W. Building, 34th & Broadway, Kansas City, Mo. 64111.

Start your improvements before spring housecleaning time.

We realize many Post facilities are not in need of repair. We congratulate you.

There are other projects you may conduct which will make a more beautiful appearance in your community. For these you will be credited as doing a community service.

Commander-in-Chief Fellwock has notified all Post Commanders of Operation Clean-Sweep in the following letter:

The V.F.W. is proud of its continuous membership growth for over 25 years. We have a "salable" item in belonging to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We are involved in communities all over America. The programs benefit individuals, families, institutions, schools, churches and communities.

In an effort to aid our membership promotion, we can offer a more attractive package by improving the Post home, inside and out.

How does your building look to a first-time viewer? If he is a prospective member, will he be proud of the looks or will he be "turned off?"

First impressions can have a lasting effect. A building can be like a person. We often judge an individual by his appearance.

An expert on such effects is John Molloy, who is called upon by business firms to assist their executives to dress for success. He also has written a book by that title, "Dress for Success."

He gives actual examples of how dress can affect our sales, getting a job, or, in the case of teachers, pupil respect, retention span and response.

Is your building an eyesore? If it is, change that appearance. Maybe all it needs is a coat of paint.

Many Post Homes are an asset to the community. However, we must admit a number need a face-lift.

Start now and coordinate your beautification efforts with the annual spring cleaning which usually begins in April.

Fellwock...

(Continued from page 38)



Commander-in-Chief Fellwock with Rep. Bob McEwen (Ohio).



Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock meets with Rep. Elwood (Bud) Hillis (Ind.), ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.



Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock meets Rep. Tennyson Guyer (Ohio), of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.



Commander-in-Chief Arthur Fellwock and Sen. Jennings Randolph (W.Va.), a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, discuss legislation to be introduced during this Congress.

Make
\$800
An Hour
and **MORE**
Sparetime or
Fulltime

Sharpen Saws

and other tools in Profitable
Business of Your Own

Be Your Own Boss!!

Turn your spare hours in the evening or weekends into extra dollars, this proven practical way—start your own money-making sharpening business—No selling or canvassing—No experience required.

You quickly learn how to sharpen these valuable tools and many others. Excellent profits! We show you how to set up a business and keep it running profitably. Part time or full time. No special skills needed.



FREE BOOK Send coupon and you'll receive, at no obligation, a booklet that describes in detail, the opportunities available to a person who owns his own saw and tool sharpening business.

There is **NO** Obligation



MANUFACTURING COMPANY
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418

Please send me the free booklet "Opportunities In A Sharpening Business Of Your Own."

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Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Send Coupon Today or
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Except Hawaii or Alaska

FREE! Gold Piece of the World with ANY PURCHASE!

U.S. COINS BY THE POUND

Rather than sort overflowing vaults, these are sold by the pound! Gold piece of the world included. All coins 25-150 years old. May include Indian, Lincoln cents; silver dollars; 2¢, 3¢ pcs. etc. 1 lb. \$18.00; 2 lbs. \$35.00; 5 lbs. \$85.00; 10 lbs. (plus 2 gold pieces) \$160.00.

Uncirculated U.S. Coin Sets!
Never again will silver be used in coinage! Most silver coins have already been remelted so these **BRAND NEW** sets increase in value all the time!
1964-\$32; 1963-\$34; 1962-\$36; 1961-\$38; All 4 sets \$139. 1960-\$40; 1959-\$42; 1958-\$44; 1957-\$46; 1956-\$48; All 5 sets \$218. 1956 thru 1964—\$355. Housed in lifetime holders.

PHONE ORDERS (213) 788-9752
CENTRE COIN COMPANY
Box 1, Dept. VF-4 • 14801 Ventura Blvd. • Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

(FILL IN BELOW OR USE SEPARATE SHEET TO ORDER)

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ lbs of coins plus \$ _____ for _____ silver coin sets.

Please add \$2.00 ins. & handling. CA residents add 6% sales tax. All major credit cards accepted...COD orders (Send \$5 deposit).

Acct. No. _____ Ex. Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State, Zip _____

ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

10 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
FREE! Gold piece of the world with any purchase.

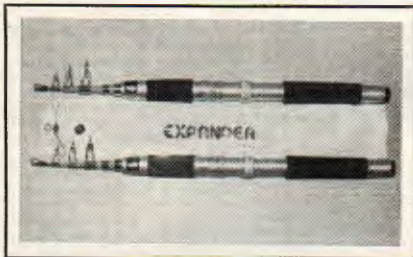


SHOP WITH "the old sarge"

SEND ORDERS, WITH CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS, DIRECT TO DEALERS LISTED. ALL ARE PLEDGED TO REFUND THE FULL PRICE IF PRODUCTS ARE UNSATISFACTORY AND RETURNED WITHIN 10 DAYS.



ECONOL-LIFT "200" Wheel Chair Lift— Custom built lift may be used as a porch stairway lift or on a 35" or more wide inside stairway. Platform may be folded for normal use. Write for complete information on chair lifts, wheel chair lifts, hill-side lifts, home elevators & dumbwaiters. Earl's Stairway Lift Corp., 2513VF Center St., Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (319) 277-4777. In Missouri: (314) 442-4814, in Texas: (713) 785-4150.



THE PERFECT GIFT— A telescoping fiberglass spinning rod. This beauty measures only 16 inches long, yet, with a flick of the wrist it extends to a full 6 feet. Ideal taper with non-foul stainless steel guides assures smooth operation and sensitivity. Get yours today, only \$13.95 each. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s. Send check or money order to: R. Lynn Enterprises, P.O. Box 8028, Columbus, GA 31904.



RED TAPE— "Dear Congressman", a book by former Congressional staff members, shows you how to untangle Washington's red tape! This 88 page guide has tips for solving your service connected problems; plus a long list of things you can get free; or low-cost gift ideas; a flag that once flew over our Capitol, etc. Packed with info you need! To order, send name, address & check for \$5.95+70¢ p&h. (Fla. residents add 4% tax) to: Stone House, Inc., P.O. Box 12334, Tallahassee, FL 32308 (M. C. & Visa accepted).



TROPHY CASE—Especially made for safe-keeping and displaying military patches, medals, ribbons, awards. Constructed of sturdy acrylic, it is available in 8" x 10" size for only \$10.00 ppd. Hang vertical or horizontal, or stand it! Ask for free catalog and prices of over 100 military awards, medals and badges. Glenwood Agency, Dept. VE 401, 32 Wilmoth Ave., Ardsley, NY 10502.

KILL LAKE WEEDS

Proven Aquacide pellets destroy unwanted underwater weeds.



Spread marble sized pellets like grass seed. Effectively kills weeds at any depth.

Registered with Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Used and tested by many State conservation departments.

10 LB. Can (Treats 4,000 sq. ft. of lake bottom) \$29.95 includes delivery. (50 lb. carton, \$109.95 includes delivery)


Or write for free information to:

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Suits, Jackets, Weapons, Helmets, 50 Mission Hats, Goggles, Manuals, Awards, Insignias, Belts, Flags, Antique Instruments, AN Hardware, Engines, Propellers

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See Advertisement Inside Front Cover

MESH SHOES
265 N. 9th Street,
HABAND CO.,
Paterson, N.J. 07530

3 Pairs for Only 1995

Please send me _____ Mesh Shoes as specified. I've enclosed \$_____ plus \$1.25 toward p&h. **GUARANTEE: If upon arrival I do not choose to wear them, I may return them within 30 days for a full refund of every penny I paid Haband.**

COLOR/STYLE	QTY.	SIZE
Brown Loafer w. Jute trim G		
Bone Loafer w. Jute trim F		
Tan Oxford H		
Lt. Blue Loafer K		
Navy Loafer J		

OR CHARGE IT: VISA Master Charge
77K-476 Exp. Date _____/_____/_____
Acct. # _____
Name _____ Apt. # _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____

See Advertisement Inside Back Cover

TO: Zoysia Farm Nurseries, Dept. 436
(Our 26th Year) General Offices and Store
110 Painters Mill Rd., Owings Mills, Md. 21117
Please send me guaranteed Amazoy as checked below:

<input type="checkbox"/> FULL SIZE PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 30 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 30 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 100 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 200 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 75 FREE
\$4.95	TOTAL \$4.45	TOTAL \$7.45	TOTAL \$8.45
<input type="checkbox"/> 200 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 75 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 300 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 100 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 500 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 150 FREE	
TOTAL \$11.45	TOTAL \$14.45	TOTAL \$21.45	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 300 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 1500 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 450 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 2000 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 600 FREE	
TOTAL \$31.45	TOTAL \$40.45	TOTAL \$49.45	

I enclose \$_____ Check Money Order
 Visa Master Charge Expires _____/_____/_____

Card # _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____ 01B-8

See Advertisement Back Cover

Haband's All-American MAN-CUT DENIM SLACKS
HABAND COMPANY
265 North 9th Street
Paterson, N.J. 07530

2 Pairs for Only 24.95

77J-057 **3 for 37.25 4 for 49.50**


Gentlemen: Please send me _____ pairs of these Denims, for which I enclose my full remittance of \$_____ plus \$1.25 towards postage & handling.

Name _____
Street _____ Apt. # _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____

COLOR	Qty.	Waist	Inseam
BLUE A			
BROWN B			
TAN C			
GREEN D			

GUARANTEE: If for any reason I do not wish to wear the slacks when they arrive, I may return them within 30 days for full refund of every penny I paid you.

LEARN MEAT CUTTING



Train quickly in 8 short weeks at Toledo for a bright future with security in the vital meat business. Big pay, full-time jobs—**HAVE A PROFITABLE MARKET OF YOUR OWN!** Time payment plan available. Diploma given. Job help. Thousands of successful graduates. **OUR 58th YEAR!** Send NOW for a big new illustrated FREE catalog. No obligation. G.I. approved. NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEAT CUTTING, No. 71-02-0197T, Dept. V-194, 33 N. Superior, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

London University "Crash-Loss" Wonder Diet...

Burns Away More Body Fat Each Day Than 15 Hours Of Non-Stop Exercise!

Shrinks Down Your Waistline As Much As A FULL SIZE SMALLER IN JUST 24 HOURS... 4 SIZES SMALLER IN JUST 14 DAYS!

In fact, of all medically sound reducing programs
ONLY TOTAL STARVATION WORKS FASTER!



YOU ACTUALLY SHRINK YOUR BODY'S FAT CELLS STARTING IN JUST HOURS!

What you see on this page is news of a fantastic crash loss program—the remarkable London University super slim-down diet—that speeds up your body's rate of fat burn-off so that, IN JUST A MATTER OF HOURS, you start to burn away clinging layers of fat . . . break down bulging pockets of flab . . . drain away excess puffy fluid, just like hot water melts down ice . . . so that, in just the first 48 hours, excess flab, fluid and fat gets melted away at such a staggering rate of speed you:

LOSE up to 1 lb. EVERY 8 to 12 HOURS
LOSE up to 1½ to 2 lbs. EACH DAY!

Yes, lose weight by the hour, carve away inches by the week and as stated above, and we feel compelled to repeat . . . shrink down as much as 4 sizes smaller IN JUST 14 DAYS!

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL LOSES 10 POUNDS IN JUST 72 HOURS—

So effectively does this London University's wonder "crash-loss" diet step up your system's rate of fat burn-off, that:

■ When tested at one of medical science's foremost research centers on scores of grossly overweight men and women . . . they lost as much as 7 lbs. of excess fat, flab and fluid IN JUST THE FIRST 72 HOURS ALONE . . . and as much as another 3-5—even 7 POUNDS MORE the next 14 days!

■ Even more amazing . . . when tested not on ordinary overweight people but on the most extreme cases of obesity . . . it EVAPORATED up to 10 POUNDS OF FAT, FLUID AND FLAB IN JUST 3 DAYS TIME!

AS MUCH AS 50% OF ALL EXCESS WEIGHT GONE IN JUST 14 DAYS!

■ But most mind boggling of all . . . when tested on average overweight people . . . who for years lugged around a "spare tire" bulge of 10, 15 or even 20 extra sagging pounds . . . IT ACTUALLY MELTED AWAY AS MUCH AS 50% OF ALL EXCESS WEIGHT IN JUST 14 DAYS!

Yes, stepped up their body's rate of fat burn-off and melted away hard set fat with OVER 20 TIMES THE SPEED OF EVEN BRUTAL EXERCISE!

URNS YOUR ENTIRE BODY INTO A SUPER FAT-BURNING FURNACE!

In fact, based upon Calorie Burn-Off Research From California's Leading Medical School, the calorie-deficit created in your system by this "crash-loss" high-burn program, (a staggering deficit of as much as 2,400 calories a day off required daily intake) works with such breathtaking speed you actually:

BURN AWAY MORE FAT EACH DAY than

- Running 100 Miles A Week
- or—over 3,000 sit-ups and push-ups a day
- or—10 Solid Hours of Weight-lift workouts
- or—even 15 hours of non-stop Marine Corps calisthenics!

WAKE UP SLIMMER THE VERY FIRST MORNING!

What is this amazing fat-destroyer wonder program that helps to burn away fat by the hour—carve away inches by the week?

Briefly stated . . . it is London University's crash-



IF YOU READ NOTHING ELSE, READ THIS

This program involves a high-speed crash-loss diet that lowers caloric intake, essential to the reduction of body weight. Such results cannot be achieved solely through the use of the capsules. The more

overweight you are, the higher caloric requirements, the more you should lose the faster you should lose it. Before starting this weight-loss program consult with physician to be sure you are in normal health, that your only problem is excess weight and simple obesity. Individuals with high blood pressure, diabetes, heart, kidney disease, thyroid problems, or pregnant or nursing women should not use except on advice of a physician. Do not exceed recommended dosage.

burn diet, a remarkably simply way to take special combinations of high-burn foods and create what doctors call a "hypocaloric effect" to take place inside their bodies . . . that turns their system into a GIANT FAT BURNING MACHINE! Yes, actually reverses your body's fat build-up process as you COMPLETELY STOP EXCESS fat-builder calories from entering your system . . . or being absorbed by your body and turned into fat like in the past! So obviously, down go the calories, up goes the rate of fat-burn-off and off come the pounds and inches at a rate that absolutely staggers the imagination!

Yes, a TOTAL FAT-DESTROYER program that literally "ignites" a fat-burning chain-reaction inside your system . . . 'revs up' your body's rate of fat burn-off . . . and ACTUALLY SHRINKS YOUR BODY'S FAT CELLS starting in just hours.

Think of it! With each tick of the clock, your body burns away a steady flow of fat-builder calories . . . melts down even the most stubborn fatty bulges . . . so you lose weight like never before . . . LOSE IT BY THE HOUR . . . all starting the very first day. In fact, of all medically sound reducing programs, ONLY TOTAL STARVATION WORKS FASTER!

Because, quite obviously . . . since this London University ALL OUT ASSAULT ON FAT lowers your system's rate of caloric intake . . . raises the level of caloric burn-off . . . "revs-up" that rate of body-fat burn-off . . . pounds and inches vanish at a rate that in plain simple talk is ABSOLUTELY MIND BLOWING!

World's Leading Medical Authority on Obesity Reports:

...as much as 50% of all excess fat gone in just 14 days!

AMAZING "FURNACE-IN-A-CAPSULE" HELPS TRIGGER THE MOST DYNAMITE FAT-BURN SPREE OF YOUR LIFE!

Now comes the most exciting news of all. Because, now from London, England comes the thrilling announcement and release to the American public of a wondrous reducing-aid formula that not only works before meals to reduce hunger, but after meals supplements this London University "crash-loss" diet and helps you keep the fat-burning chain-reaction going in your body non-stop all day long.

Called "BIO-THENE/100," these amazing time-release capsules work in your body from morning 'til night to help you lose weight with a 2-stage all-out attack.

STAGE 1: Turns off your hunger drive . . . that maddening urge to eat, just like you turn off a light switch. Makes it easier to lower caloric intake.

STAGE 2: Throughout the day, releases into your system tiny grains of a special bio-extract that safely, surely, TURNS UP the level of your fat-burning metabolism after every time food enters your body on this London University wonder diet program.

Meaning the food you take in, the calories you enjoy are burned away even more quickly by your own stepped-up metabolic system. Yes, metabolized and oxidized in as little as 2 to 3 hours after eating!

THE FOOD YOU EAT NO LONGER TURNS TO FAT!

So, obviously, since it takes far less food to satisfy you, lowering calories is a lark. And since the calories you do take in on this "crash-loss" diet program are burned right out of your body after every time you eat . . . you start to TURN SLIMMER, not only the very first day . . . BUT—after the very first meal—and every meal thereafter! as excess fat and fluid start to disappear—GET OXIDIZED BY THE HOUR!

PROVE EVERY LOST OUNCE, EVERY LOST INCH—ENTIRELY AT OUR RISK

Right now, look at your figure in the mirror and ask yourself these questions—the solution to which is right now within your grasp.

How would I look one week from today as much as 5 to 10 pounds lighter?

How would I look in 2 weeks with my waistline 2 to 4 sizes smaller?

BUT DON'T STOP THERE—if you need to lose still more inches, then continue the London University "crash-loss" diet, continue to take BIO-THENE/100 until you've reached the figure of your dreams:

- 6 INCHES CARVED OFF YOUR HIPS . . . UP TO ANOTHER
- 3 INCHES CARVED OFF YOUR THIGHS . . . ANOTHER
- 4 INCHES OFF YOUR BUTTOCKS . . . ANOTHER
- 6 INCHES OFF YOUR STOMACH . . . ANOTHER
- 6 INCHES OFF YOUR WAISTLINE!

Because NEXT TO COMPLETE STARVATION THERE IS SIMPLY NO OTHER MEDICALLY SOUND REDUCING PROGRAM THAT WORKS FASTER.

MAIL NO RISK COUPON

BIO-THENE/100, Dept. LBNM—6
Station Plaza East
Great Neck, N.Y. 11021

Yes, I want to lose more weight each day than 15 hours of non-stop exercise. Please RUSH me the BIO-THENE/100 "Crash-Loss" program as indicated below. I must lose pounds and inches as never before or my money refunded in full (less postage and handling).

CHECK OFFER DESIRED:

- (#015) 15 Day Supply only \$6.95 (plus 50¢ postage and handling)
- (#020) 20 Day Supply only \$8.95 (plus 75¢ postage and handling)
- (#030) 30 Day Supply only \$12.95 (plus \$1 postage and handling)
- (#060) 60 Day Supply only \$20 (We pay all postage and handling)
- (#090) 90 Day Supply only \$30 (We pay all postage and handling)

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (N.Y. Residents, please add sales tax.) No C.O.D.'s please.

CHARGE IT! (\$10.00 Minimum Charge)

VISA (BankAmericard) Master Charge

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

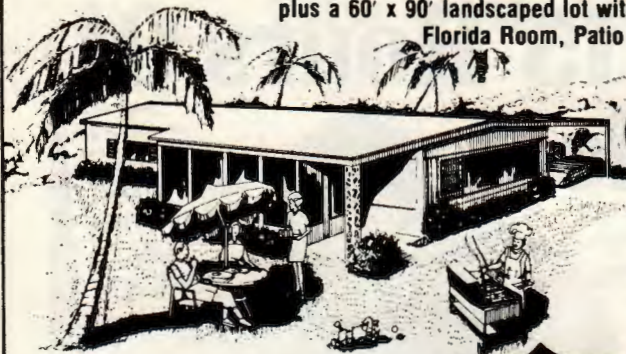
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Div. of London Diet Research, Ltd.

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A completely furnished 2 bedroom Perma-Mobile® home plus a 60' x 90' landscaped lot with Carport, Utility Room, Florida Room, Patio and Sidewalk included!



ALL FOR ONLY
\$25,995

BANK FINANCING

Ready for Occupancy

ORANGE BLOSSOM GARDENS, a friendly adult community of over 800 people, is ideally situated in the Heart of the Citrus Groves and Lake Section of Central Florida.

Only 8 miles from Lees-Bowen directly on 4 lane U.S. Highway #441-27. The "Gateway to Disney World."

Phone
(305) 523-9221

Orange Blossom Gardens received Annual Award from Sunshine State Senior Magazine for the fine quality of homes, recreational facilities, management and maintenance programs.

Prices subject to change without notice. Not offered where regulated or prohibited

Golf Course on Premises

A beautiful executive golf course, driving range and 18 hole putting green located in the development for exclusive use of owners.



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- Security Police
- Free Bus Service
- Storm Sewers
- Wide Paved Streets
- Mercury Street Lights
- Corner Street Posts
- Underground TV Antenna
- Central Sewage System
- Central Water Plant
- Garbage Collection
- Recreational Complex
- Swimming Pool
- Underground Telephone
- Underground Electricity
- Outdoor Bar-B-Que Area
- Private Lake on Property
- 10 Models On Display
- County Fire Protection

SEND NOW FOR FREE INFORMATION

ORANGE BLOSSOM GARDENS, Dept. 53-E
2304 South Miami Rd, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33316

Name _____

Address _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

GARDENING?

NEW TILLER GIVES YOU LUSH LAWNS AND FLOWERS... PUTS GREEN IN YOUR POCKET WITH BIG \$ SAVINGS ON FRUITS & VEGETABLES! WINTER DISCOUNTS NOW!



Why Shovel Or Hoe?

Gives you bumper crops of fruits, vegetables & flowers... liberal warranties, 2 wk money back trial period from AGCO.

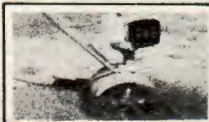
1. High speed tiger tines till toughest grasses & clays.
2. Weighs just 20 lbs. Easy to handle. Tills 6 to 8 inches deep. Weeds narrow rows 1 to 3 inches deep.



Very Gentle
Easy To Run!

Weights
20 lbs.

Use an AGCO



Tills Deep



Weeds Fast

NOT SOLD IN STORES. FREE BROCHURE. WRITE TO:
AGCO P.O. Box 25 Southampton Pa. 18966 Dept. V

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City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Call 215-947-8855 24 hrs. a day. Charge card orders accepted.



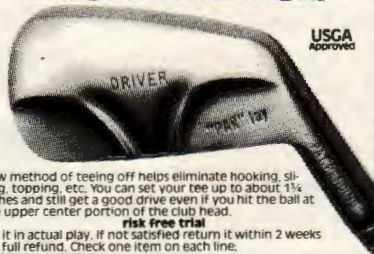
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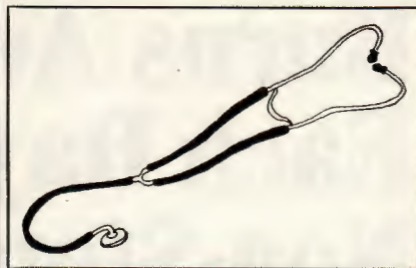
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Try it in actual play. If not satisfied return it within 2 weeks for full refund. Check one item on each line.

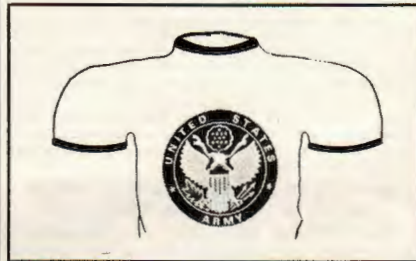
1. Men Women
2. Club length: 39" 38" 37"
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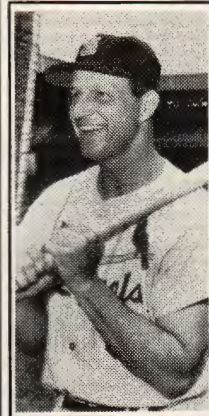
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Counterfeit

I can counterfeit most of the world's premium beers right in my own kitchen, and I defy anyone to tell the difference! What's more, it costs me just pennies a bottle, and it's all 100% legal!

by Hal Taub

(At Lovin's Spoonful, I'm Chief Cook, Bottle Washer and Now Brewmaster):

I'm practically a beer fanatic! My wife has remarked that if I were on a desert dying of thirst, I would pass up water and hold out for beer. To me, there is only one beverage in the world worth puckering up for, and that is beer.

Fortunately, my business travels have allowed me to sample the world's great beers. As a matter of fact, when I travel, I'm always on the hunt for some sudsy treasure. Some place, sometime I will discover the "perfect" beer.

LOVED THROUGH THE AGES

Records show that monasteries of medieval times were equipped with two essentials: (1) a chapel and (2) a brewery, which probably accounts for Friar Tuck's mellow mood as he romped through the forests, with Robin Hood. The records in colonial America made frequent references to beer and brewing. In 1623, the first commercial breweries in the new world were built by the Dutch West India Company. And, of course, there has always been at home brewing...

BEER LIKE GRANDPA NEVER MADE

My first introduction to home brew came by way of my grandfather. It was a horrendous, flat-tasting, over-yeasty creation. He started brewing his own during prohibition and continued long after. It may not have been gourmet quality, but it sure had a wallop!

I started thinking about Grandpa's beer when I realized that I was paying as much as \$20.00 a case for Heineken* and \$12.00 for Michelob*. The subject came up during a social evening in a discussion with a chemist friend. When I complained about the rising price, he mentioned that he had been brewing his own for several years. When he claimed it was every bit as good as the Carlsberg* we were then drinking, I may have snickered. At any rate, he challenged me to taste for myself. I was astounded. In some respects I liked it better. That was the beginning of my adventure in "Counterfeit Beer".

HOME BREW UPDATED

After some arm twisting my chemist friend and I have entered into a joint sort of hobby venture. For over a year we have experimented in my kitchen and his, duplicating the flavor, color, body and aroma of the world's great beers. It has truly been a labor of love! And I credit my chemist friend with developing an amazingly simple foolproof technique for brewing that

eliminates the drudgery, mess, fuss and odor that drove my grandmother to threaten my grandfather with divorce and worse, if he brewed one more batch.

For mere pennies, you can brew a "Heineken*" so authentic you may feel an irresistible urge to slip into a pair of wooden shoes--a "Guinness*" so true, don't be surprised if you start seeing leprechauns--a "Bud*" so like their Bud*, you may end up with your own team of Clydesdales and Ed McMahon as your drinking buddy. Whether your favorite lager is Heineken*, Coors*, Pabst*, whatever--with my Counterfeit Brewmaster Kit, you've got it made. In about 30 minutes. In one simple step. And for as little as 15¢ a bottle!

100% PURE AND NATURAL—LOW CAL—LOW CARBOHYDRATES

I give you the very best natural imported ingredients used in the world's greatest beers--the finest hops, famed Otto Hoxheim* Malt and prize-winning Yeast from Germany. Absolutely no artificial ingredients, no chemicals, no additives!

Did you know that the beer you are now buying including the very best brands, contains as many as 50 additives, some brands more! Unlike food manufacturers, breweries are not required to list any of these ingredients on their labels. My beer has no such additives. And I promise you, once you taste your brew, you will never be satisfied with store bought beer again!

33% FEWER CALORIES AND 85% FEWER CARBOHYDRATES

If you're drinking one of today's popular light beers, we'll give you a recipe to duplicate it as well. You will not only enjoy superb taste, but hold down your weight as well.

A BARREL OF FUN

Making beer with my kit is not only simple, it's fast, easy and great fun. In addition to counterfeiting any number of famous label beers, I've experienced and have developed my very own as well I call it

Beer

"HALSBERG". Imagine the conversation when serving guests and you ask them to guess the brand they are drinking. Let me tell you we've had some fabulous evenings. I now get so many requests for HALSBERG I've even had labels printed up and give away quite a few cases during the holiday season.

PAYS FOR ITSELF

At only \$29.95, my Counterfeit Brewmaster Kit pays for itself the very first time you use it. In the beginning, your "Heineken*", your "Molson*", your "Bud*", will cost you about 15¢ a bottle. Then with each subsequent brewing, the cost will drop. The kit is a lifetime investment you will enjoy indefinitely and refills are always available.

In case you have any worries, it's all 100% legal. You can't print your own money, but the government says you CAN make beer for your personal consumption. If you're 18 years of age or over, you may brew up to 100 gallons a year. If you're a two-adult household, you may make 200 gallons, 4-adults, 400 gallons, etc. There is no tax to pay, and no license is required.

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One-step brewing tank with fermentation lock, siphon, imported premium ingredients to make 48 bottles of fine natural beer, caps and capper, easy instructions, and of course my unique Counterfeit Recipe Chart with recipes, that will allow you to duplicate most of the world's premium beers including my own invention HALSBERG.

YOU TAKE NO RISK

As a measure of my enthusiasm and my confidence, I offer you my Counterfeit Brewmaster Kit entirely at my risk. When the kit arrives, brew up a batch of your favorite lager, pour it into their bottles, then invite friends in to taste. If they can tell they are not drinking Heineken*, or Beck*, Bud* or whatever brand you have "counterfeited", or if you are not personally delighted with flavor, aroma, color, head or any thing else, return the kit for a full refund of your purchase price. Use coupon below or your credit card and call our handy toll free number! Order Now!

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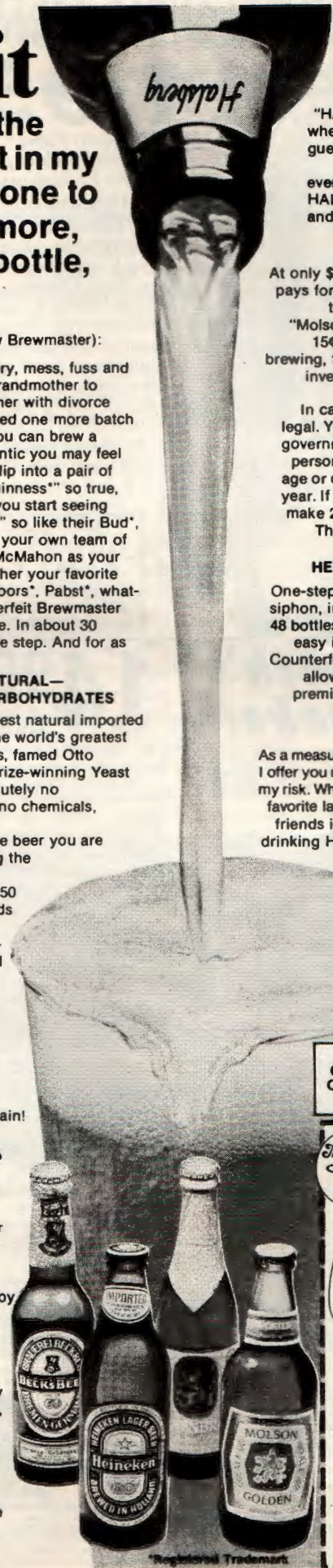
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Okay Hal, the proof is in the drinking! I'm going to take you up on your offer. Please send _____ Counterfeit Home Brew Kits at \$29.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. I understand that I'm under no obligation and if I'm not happy with the results of any brewing efforts, I may return the unused portion of my kit, within 30 days for a full refund of purchase price. (NY residents add sales tax).

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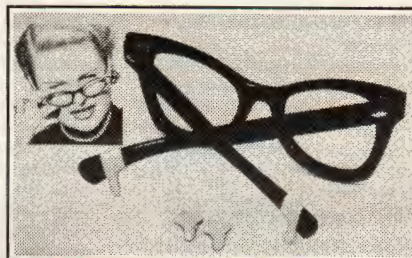
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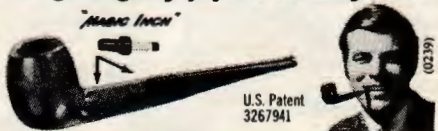
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Reunions

ARMY

April

8th Gen. Hosp. Nurses (New Caledonia, WWII)—30-May 5, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.—Judy Moreau, 84 Main St., Auburn, Maine 04210.

319th and 320th BGs (Midwest mini-reunion)—4, Minneapolis, Minn.—Gerald Ecklund, 5941 Upton Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55410.

366th Inf. Rgt.—24-26, Washington, D.C.—D. A. Harrod, 1621 Varnum St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20011.

471st Ambulance Co. (WWII)—25-26, Louisville, Ky.—Nick Hatchett, 1636 Almara Cir., Louisville, Ky. 40205.

May

Medical Svc. Corps—30, Washington, D.C.—HQDA (DASG-PTZ), Pentagon, Rm. 2E-518, Washington, D.C. 20310.

4th Armd. Div. (New York chapter)—2-3, West Point, N.Y.—Ed Rapp, 8702 188th St., Jamaica, N.Y. 11423.

4th Inf. Div. Assn. (Florida chapter)—1-2, Lakeland, Fla.—Jim Deegan, 804 Cecelia Dr., New Port Richey, Fla. 33552.

10th Armd. Div. Veterans Assn. (Western chapter)—23-25, Las Vegas, Nev.—John Groeling, 5511-2E, Paseo Del Lago W., Laguna Hills, Calif. 92653.

12th Inf. N.G.N.Y. (1812-1981) and 212th CA AAA (1923-1956)—15, New York, N.Y.—Robert F. Bennett, 530 E. 20th St., New York, N.Y. 10009.

43rd Inf. Div., 143rd Tank Bn., HQ and Svc. Co.—15-16, Bowling Green, Ky.—Harry W. Shaub, Rt. 5, Box 53, Portland, Tenn. 37148.

71st CA, Btry. B—2, Gaithersburg, Md.—Harry C. McCord 5133 Pepple Ct., Ellicott City, Md. 21043.

90th (H) BG (1942-45); Eastern and Central U.S. mini-reunion—14-16, Annapolis, Md.—Bob Ward, 6809 Old Solomons Island Rd., Friendship, Md. 20758.

134th FA Bn., HQ and B Btry.—16, Portsmouth, Ohio.—Walker Warner, 1225 22nd St., Portsmouth Ohio 45662.

298th (C) Bn. (WWII)—1-2, Southfield, Mich.—Fred Castriota, 1480 Volkamer Trail, Elk Grove Village, Ill. 60007.

436th Trp. Carr. Grp., 82nd Trp. Carr. Sqdr. (WWII)—1-2, Boston, Mass.—Robert J. Juppe, 678 Eastern Ct., Ridgewood, N.J. 07450.

487th AAA, Btry. A—1-3, Broken Bow, Okla.—William C. Barron, Rt. 1, Box 68, Simms, Texas 75574.

752nd ROB, Co. C—7-9, Fort Wayne, Ind.—R. C. Trimble, 68 S. 34th St., Newark, Ohio 43055.

967th, 228th and 176th FA Bns.—1-3, Monroeville, Pa.—Daniel F. Crowley, 631 Hestor Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15220.

OVERSEAS

September

70th Inf. Div. (ETO, WWII)—18-Oct. 4, European tour.—Floyd Freeman, 8959 California Ave., South Gate, Calif. 90280.

NAVY

May

46th NCB—29-31, Hot Springs, Ark.—W. L. Arnold, 933 S. 69th Ln., Fort Smith, Ark. 72903.

USS Cleveland (CL55), C-19 and LPD-7—15-17, Hershey, Pa.—Joseph F. Pettig, 117 St. Regis Dr., Woodbury, N.J. 08096.

USS Sanders (DE-40)—23-25, St. Louis, Mo.—J. D. Osborn, 7112 S. Douglas Pl., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73139.

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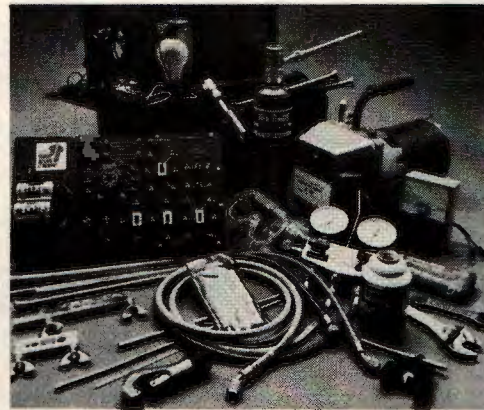
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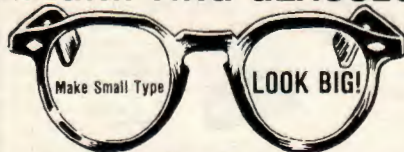
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There is one difference between a tax collector and a taxidermist—the taxidermist leaves the hide.

—Mortimer Caplin, Quote

Sock It To 'Em

A sign on a university bulletin board read, "Shoes are required to eat in the Cafeteria." Underneath, somebody had scribbled, "Socks may eat wherever they want to."

—Quote

Sounds Feasible

There is only one sure way to slow down inflation. Turn it over to the post office.

—Bob Orben, Quote



"...I'm not taking the penalty because I own the course, that's why!"

Motivation

No wonder time flies. Have you ever considered how many people are out to kill it?

—Lou Erickson, Quote



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By Jack T. Johnson, Agronomist

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until summer comes to burn the lawn into hay, or crabgrass and diseases infest it.

That's what happens to ordinary grass, but not to Amazoy Zoysia.

"MOWED IT 2 TIMES," WRITES WOMAN

For example, Mrs. M. R. Mitter writes me how her lawn ". . . is the envy of all who see it. When everybody's lawns around here are brown from drought ours just stays as green as ever. I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in . . . Last summer we had it mowed (2) times. Another thing, we never have to pull any weeds—it's just wonderful!"

And from Iowa came word that the state's largest Men's Garden Club picked a Zoysia lawn as the "top lawn—nearly perfect" in its area. Yet this lawn had been watered only once all summer up to August!

CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS

Thick, rich, luxurious, established Amazoy grows into a carpet of grass that chokes out crabgrass and weeds all summer long. It will NOT winter kill. Goes off its green color after killing frosts. Begins regaining its green color at the time when the temperature in the spring is consistently warm. This, of course, varies with climate.

For Slopes, Play Areas, Bare Spots

End erosion of slopes with Amazoy. Perfect answer for hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas.

NO NEED TO RIP OUT PRESENT GRASS PLUG AMAZOY INTO OLD LAWN, NEW GROUND OR NURSERY AREA

Just set Amazoy plugs into holes in ground like a cork in a bottle. Plant 1 foot apart, checkerboard style.

When planted in existing lawn areas plugs will spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, including weeds—from part shade to full sun. Easy planting instructions with order.

Your Own Supply of Plug Transplants

Established Amazoy gives you Zoysia plugs to plant in other areas as desired!

PATENTED STEP-ON PLUGGER IS... **FREE** WITH ORDERS OF 300 PLUGS OR MORE

Amazoy exclusive! No one else can offer you this patented 2-way plugger. Saves bending, time, work. Light, rugged, invaluable for transplanting. Cuts away competing growth as it digs plug holes.

Cuts Your Work, Saves You Money

Your deep-rooted, established Amazoy lawn saves you time and money in many ways. It never needs replacement . . . ends re-seeding forever. Fertilizing and watering (water costs money, too) are rarely if ever needed. It ends the need for crabgrass killers permanently. It cuts pushing a noisy mower in the blistering sun by 2/3.

NO SEED, NO SOD!

There's no seed that produces winter-hardy Meyer Zoysia. Sod of ordinary grass brings with it the problems of seed, like weeds, diseases, burning out, other ills.

Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass Was Perfected by U.S. Govt.: Released in Cooperation With U.S. Golf Assoc. as a superior grass.

Order guaranteed Amazoy now, get your bonus plugs FREE. Your order will be delivered at earliest correct time for planting in your area.

We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed, shipping/handling charge collect via most economical means.

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Every Plug Guaranteed to Grow In Your Area • In Your Soil

- AMAZOY WON'T WINTER KILL—has survived temperatures 30° below zero!
- AMAZOY WON'T HEAT KILL—when other grasses burn out, Amazoy remains green and lovely!

Plug Amazoy into an entire lawn or problem areas. Plug it into poor soil, "builders soil", clay or even salty, sandy beach areas. I guarantee every plug, regardless. Any plug failing to grow in 45 days replaced FREE. Since we're hardly in business for the fun of it, you know we're 100% sure of our product!

If it isn't Amazoy, you're not getting the plugs that made Zoysia famous.

To: Zoysia Farm Nurseries, Dept. 436 (Our 26th Year) General Offices and Store 110 Painters Mill Rd. Owings Mills, Md. 21117

Please send me guaranteed Amazoy as checked below:

<input type="checkbox"/> FULL SIZE PLUGGER	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 30 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 30 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 200 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 75 FREE
\$4 ⁹⁵	TOTAL 130 PLUGS \$4 ⁴⁵	TOTAL 130 PLUGS \$7 ⁴⁵	TOTAL 275 PLUGS \$8 ⁴⁵
<input type="checkbox"/> 200 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 75 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 300 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 100 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 500 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 150 FREE	
TOTAL 275 PLUGS \$11 ⁴⁵	TOTAL 400 PLUGS \$14 ⁴⁵	TOTAL 650 PLUGS \$21 ⁴⁵	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 300 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 1500 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 450 FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 2000 PLUGS & PLUGGER Plus Bonus of 600 FREE	
TOTAL 1300 PLUGS \$31 ⁴⁵	TOTAL 1950 PLUGS \$40 ⁴⁵	TOTAL 2600 PLUGS \$49 ⁴⁵	

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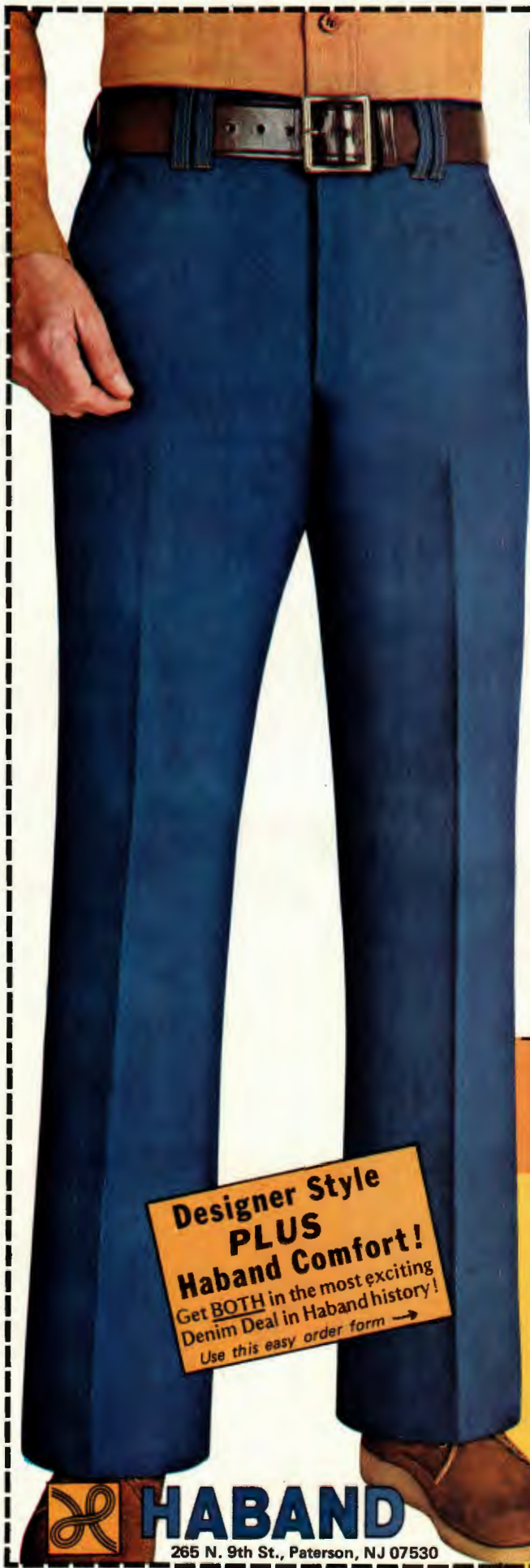
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2 pairs for only **24⁹⁵**

Nothing beats Denim, the new Brushed Finish Denim, for style, comfort, quality, and value! And nobody beats Haband, the mail order people from Paterson, N.J., at bringing you full-cut Denim Slacks, sized for the adult man! Extra room in seat, inseam, and thigh assures you of proper fit and superb comfort. Soft brushed Denim looks and feels great — and our contemporary styling features double track stitching on front and back pockets and wide belt loops (see inset). Quality tailoring too, with hook type closure, Talon® no-snag zipper, roomy crotch & rise, man-sized pockets with rugged woven lining.



The hefty cotton and "Dacron®" polyester fabric is

100% NO IRON WASH and WEAR!

Look! Everyone in America loves to relax in his Denim Jeans! Now here it is in a comfortable new Man-Cut Brushed Denim that you can enjoy everywhere for season after season of handsome appearance and welcome comfort. Better send for several pairs now while they're still here at this sensational low price!



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Gentlemen: Please send me pairs of these Denims, for which I enclose my full remittance of \$ plus \$1.25 towards postage and handling.

GUARANTEE: *If for any reason I do not wish to wear the slacks when they arrive, I may return them within 30 days for full refund of every penny I paid you.*
77J-057

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2 pairs for **24⁹⁵**
3 for 37.25 4 for 49.50

WE CARRY ALL THESE SIZES:
Waists 30-32-34-36-38-40-42-44-46*
48* -50* -52* -54*
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TO KEEP THIS COVER INTACT—USE COUPON ON PAGE 42

VFW

file

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE

April 13, 1981

TO: NATIONAL OFFICERS -- COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS -- PAST
COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF -- DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS -- DEPARTMENT
ADJUTANTS -- DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

FROM: COOPER T. HOLT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
V.F.W. WASHINGTON OFFICE

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH HONORABLE EDWIN MEESE, III

On March 31, 1981, representatives of the three major Veterans Organizations--Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans--met with Mr. Edwin Meese, III, Counselor to the President of the United States. A copy of the letter submitted jointly by these organizations follows herewith. As of this date we have not received a reply.



COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

C O P Y

C O P Y

C O P Y

Honorable Edwin Meese, III
Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Meese:

Following is a joint statement by the National Commanders of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans.

These are points the organizations would like you to consider in projecting funding for veterans programs. OMB actions contradict the following statements.

At the V.F.W. National Convention in August 1980, Candidate Reagan said: "---to me it is unconscionable that veterans in need are denied hospital and medical care because of inadequate funding which has closed hospital beds and cut health-care personnel within the VA."

The 1980 Republican Party Platform states: "In particular we feel it is of vital importance to continue and expand the health-programs provided to veterans through the Veterans Administration hospitals. Here we see the need for increased access to care especially for older veterans."

In the face of these public statements of policy by the President and his Party, these are the things that have happened since he took office.



In a document presented to the staffs of the Committees on Veterans Affairs, the OMB Director wrote: "In addition, the existence of excess medical care capacity in many areas of the United States makes questionable the need for a separate VA medical system. This Administration will conduct a complete review of alternative methods for providing readily available, quality medical care for eligible veterans."

In an appearance before the Senate Budget Committee, the OMB Director said that the Reagan Administration is preparing---proposals to effect a more efficient system of veterans health services.

The Administration proposes \$1.3 billion in reductions in VA programs for FY 1981 and 1982. The major areas of impact of these reductions will be the medical care program and the regional offices, both of which are the main points of contact between veterans and VA.

OMB defends the reductions as being less than 3.2% of the total VA budget. However that includes entitlement programs which comprise 64% of the VA Budget and are fixed costs. The reductions comprise about 10% of the adjustable funds - some 36% of the total VA Budget.

Medical care reductions will, by VA projections

 Cause reduction of 933 nurses, 297 doctors and more than 4,000 medical support personnel

 Cause closing 1,800 beds in 60 hospital wards, equivalent to four hospitals

 Result in a decrease of 1,583,000 outpatient visits and 3,628 nursing care patients

 Terminate the Readjustment Counseling Program for Vietnam veterans

 Reduce VA doctors' incentive pay (provided by Congress to alleviate a severe recruitment and retention problem)

 Decrease rehabilitative and medical research

 Reduce vocational rehabilitation counseling for service-connected disabled veterans.

Regionalization proposed for VA Regional Offices will eliminate direct service to veterans who are attempting to develop claims for benefits. Regional Offices will be reduced to information and counseling contacts.

In FY 1976 the VA Budget was 5% of the total Federal Budget. In FY 1981 the VA Budget was 3.2% of the total Federal Budget - proving that veterans programs are not expanding.

During the past ten years the size of the VA hospital system has been reduced by 20,000 beds, 15,000 of those in the last 4 years at a time when the veterans population has been increased by 9.6 million Vietnam Era veterans - and the 12.5 million WW II veteran population has reached an average age of 61 - becoming more subject to catastrophic illnesses.

Elimination of the Readjustment Counseling Program will terminate the single program established to deal with the special problems of non-readjusted Vietnam veterans.

The overwhelming majority of veterans in VA hospitals, and who use the clinics, are elderly and poor. They would be public charges in any case.

The military has indicated it is no longer able to handle any appreciable number of casualties in event of overseas hostilities. It will have help from VA. And VA facilities will inevitably deteriorate, both physically and in staff capabilities, under the Administration's planned reductions.

- # The veterans organizations are strongly in favor of the most efficient and cost-effective management of veterans programs, and will work positively with the Administration to that effect - if they are invited to do so. In point of fact comprehensive care in VA hospitals costs 10% less than comparable care in private sector hospitals.
- # The three major organizations, with their Auxiliaries, represent more than 7 million active citizens - and they speak as much as anyone can for the veteran constituency.
- # History shows that veterans will in fact fight to save their hospitals - and, if necessary, will take their case to the people - as they have done before.
- # The veterans organizations are convinced the planned funding reductions will severely hurt both medical care and delivery of service to veterans and dependents. The veterans organizations believe economies can be effected, but not in the way they are now projected by OMB.
- # The veterans organizations ask that the funding be replaced for medical care, for medical and prosthetic research, for rehabilitation counseling (including the Vietnam Veteran Outreach Centers), and for operation of the Regional Offices.
- # The veterans organizations are willing and desirous of meeting with VA and OMB officials to work out plans for economies in management and operation of veterans assistance programs.
- # If current OMB policies vis-a-vis veterans health care and regionalization of Regional Offices are pursued into future fiscal years, the VA will be unable to render effective and efficient service to the nation's 30 million veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ MICHAEL J. KOGUTEK
National Commander
The American Legion

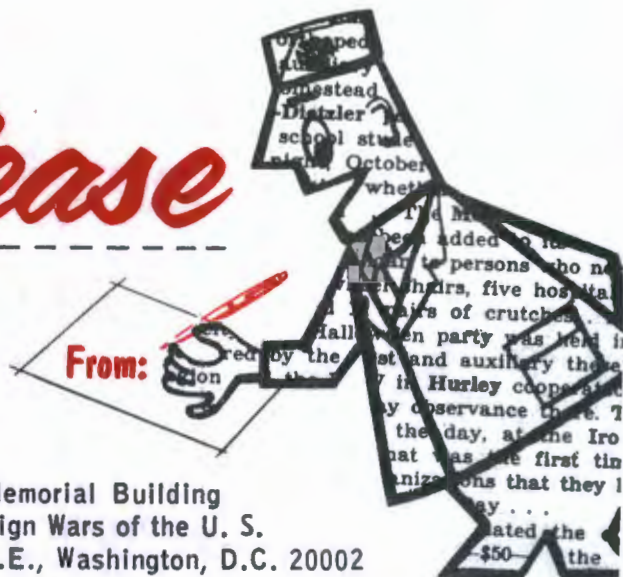
/s/ ARTHUR J. FELLWOCK
Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

/s/ STAN PEALER
National Commander
Disabled American Veterans



Telephone
543-2239

NEWS Release



From:

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(July 23, 81)

VFW WINS SEAT ON AGENT ORANGE PANEL

WASHINGTON, D. C.-- The VFW has been informed that it is one of two veterans groups selected to sit on a panel to review the objectives of the Agent Orange study to be conducted under the supervision of the VA.

It was selected because of its expert knowledge in the field of herbicide use in Vietnam. The VFW is also recognized for its success in broadening the study to include Agent Blue and Agent White which may be more harmful than Agent Orange.

The panel will meet to look over the objectives of the study which are being reviewed by the Congress' Office of Technology Assessment after UCLA School of Public Health prepares them.

At VFW insistence, both houses of the Congress have broadened the Agent Orange study mandated last session to include other agents sprayed in Vietnam to kill vegetation.



Telephone
543-2239

NEWS Release



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Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(July 23, 81)

VFW FAVORS WW I PENSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.--The VFW National Commander-in-Chief Art Fellwock has told the Congress that veterans of World War I should be granted a special service pension of \$150 per month.

"These older veterans received meager benefits, were much less educated and came home after victory to face widespread unemployment.

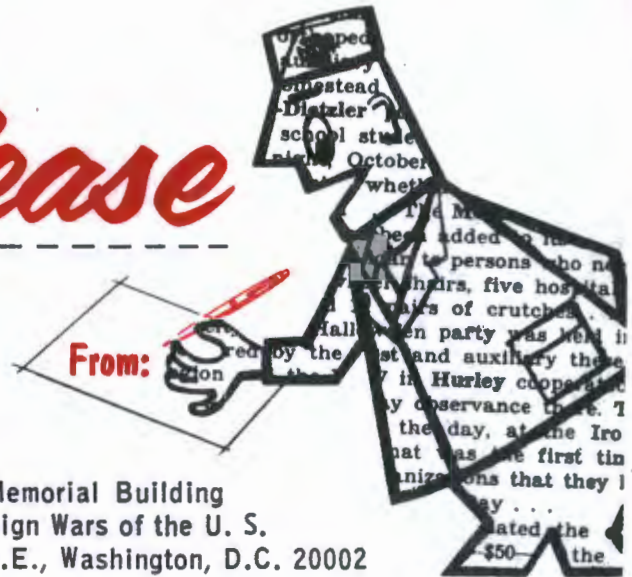
"They were the ones who fought for veterans' entitlements, a GI Bill and compensation for service connected disabilities now enjoyed by today's veterans. It is time that their country shows its gratitude to them," Fellwock said.

The VFW asks for this pension for 90 or more days of service during the period of war unless a discharge was for a service connected disability.



Telephone
543-2239

NEWS Release



FOR RELEASE:

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002

IMMEDIATELY
(July 23, 81)

VFW CONCERNED ABOUT ELDERLY VETERANS

WASHINGTON, D. C.--"The VFW has long been concerned about the Veterans Administration's planning for the growing number of elderly veterans," Art Fellwock told Congress recently.

In an oversight hearing, the VFW National Commander-in-Chief emphasized that in ten years more than half of all U. S. males over the age of 65 will be veterans.

"The rapidly expanding veteran population over the age of 60 requires increased attention to both the acute and long-term medical care. The VFW believes that the VA has not taken the time to study the needs of the elderly," Fellwock said.

"The VFW supports continued funding of the VA's assessment of the medical and social needs of the elderly and requests Congress to appropriate funds to expand the current program," said Fellwock.

UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20415

6/25/81

Morton Blackwell -

Thought you might be
interested in this.

Don

From: Donald J. Devine
Director

File
V.A.

VFW EMPLOYMENT NEWS

June 22, 1981

VOLUME I

NUMBER I

NOTE: THIS IS THE FIRST OF PERIODIC REPORTS COMPILED BY KIM GRAHAM, VFW EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST, ON SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN VETERANS EMPLOYMENT ISSUES.

One of the most encouraging signs we in the VFW have witnessed recently is the appointment of Dr. Donald J. Devine as the new director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). In testimony before the Subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Devine said, "I am strongly committed to the Veterans Preference Program because the Federal Government owes a special obligation to those who have been willing to sacrifice their lives in the service of their country...President Reagan and I are fully committed to assuring full compliance by the Executive Branch with the intent of Congress and the courts. I disagree with the previous administration's efforts to reduce veterans preference in Federal employment. My strong belief is that veterans should continue to receive preference in employment for Federal positions. This is one way we can insure a strong national defense because those who serve in war time situations will not be forgotten." His statements point to a 180° turn for the Office of Personnel Management and signal better job opportunities for veterans within the Federal government.

One seemingly insignificant change we have noticed already is the order in which OPM now places veterans when they speak of targeted groups. Use to be veterans always brought up the rear, the so-called "and veterans" technique. After complaining to OPM that the old order implied lack of interest to veterans, we were grateful to see a recent memo to Heads of Departmental and Independent Establishments from OPM Director Devine. The memo concerned recruitment and affirmative action and veterans were placed in their rightful position--first.

Make no mistake that agencies will pick up on the implication of this.

from the desk of

Memo

COOPER T. HOLT

May 20, 1981

The enclosed copies of newspaper clippings regarding the V.F.W. and President Reagan are being forwarded for your information and files.



DEC 6 1983

VFW chief foresees reform of military, VA

By LONNIE MACK
Home News staff writer

NORTH BRUNSWICK — Arthur Fellwock, the VFW's national commander-in-chief, foresees a strengthening of national defense and positive changes in the Veterans Administration under the policies of President-elect Ronald Reagan.

During an interview at his room in the Holiday Inn last night, Fellwock, a World War II veteran, said Reagan "will increase military spending and will rebuild the military, with his first priority being missile defense."

Fellwock, of Evansville, Ind., arrived in North Brunswick yesterday afternoon and paid a visit to the Sayreville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on Bordentown Avenue last night. Tonight he'll attend a dinner at the Holiday Inn honoring Robert Wallace, the first Vietnam veteran state VFW commander and, at age 32, the youngest man ever to hold that post.

The 55-year-old national commander expressed confidence that Reagan will "build up military manpower in both numbers and quality by increasing military pay and making salaries more competitive with the civilian job market."

Missile production and development, said Fellwock, is critical to the national defense. "Many of those missile projects are now on the drawing boards. All that is needed is the money and those plans will be a reality," Reagan, he said, will make that money available.

While praising Reagan, the man the VFW endorsed, Fellwock was sharply critical of the Carter Administration. "For the past four years our military power has weakened and our prestige abroad has hit a new low. We have been pushed around and blackmailed, all because of Carter's inability to be firm.

"Weakness," he said, "breeds war."

Fellwock further accused Carter of being "calloused toward the treatment of veterans" and called for sweeping

changes in the VA. Due to Carter and the ineffective leadership of Max Cleland, director of the VA, he said, some 5,000 veterans hospital beds were lost and 7,800 veterans were laid off from service staff positions.

Fellwock said he met last week with Reagan's transition team and had discussed Cleland's replacement. Cleland has already offered Reagan his resignation, Fellwock said.

The transition team, Fellwock said, asked the VFW for its recommendations as to a replacement. Though the VFW has not yet recommended a person, Fellwock said he and members of his staff would meet with Reagan aides before a replacement is named.

Fellwock is calling for a "complete house cleaning of the Veterans Administration" and said many of Cleland's top aides should be replaced.

The VFW originally recommended Cleland to Carter before his appointment four years ago because, said Fellwock, "he was a Vietnam veteran

and a triple amputee. He would be sensitive to the veterans' needs.

"We have been very disappointed," he said. "Cleland made great personal sacrifice in serving his country but, as director of the Veterans' Administration, was unable to make political sacrifices."

"Carter," the commander said, "was calloused toward veterans from the day he took office. One of the first things he did was to grant amnesty to the Vietnam War draft-dodgers, action that was an insult to those who served their country."

Fellwock, who is on leave of absence from his job as vice president of sales for Universal Corp., Philadelphia, said the VFW, for the first time in its 80-year history, put together a political action committee which endorsed and actively supported candidates.

Of the 220 U.S. Senate and congressional candidates the organization supported, 89 percent of them were elected.



ARTHUR FELLWOCK
... confidant of
Reagan

JAN 4 1981

VFW commander has high hopes for Reagan policies

By Linda Martz
The News Journal

MANSFIELD — One of Arthur J. Fellwock's big concerns as commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is what he sees as a "deterioration" in U.S. foreign policy in recent years.

Last year, a VFW political action committee broke with 80 years of tradition by endorsing a presidential candidate for the first time in the organization's history.

Fellwock is hoping that the VFW's choice, Ronald Reagan, will support the organization's goals by beefing up national defense, getting the American hostages out of Iran without submitting to Iranian "blackmail," upgrading Vet-

erans Administration Hospitals and encouraging employment of veterans, especially Vietnam-era veterans.

The commander-in-chief visited Mansfield Saturday night accompanied by Jake Brewer, state commander for the VFW, and other state officers in a membership round-up campaign. The 55-year-old Navy veteran of World War II is vice president of sales of the Universal Corp., an installer of production control equipment, and lives in Evansville, Ind.

About 125 members of the VFW and its ladies auxiliary attended his visit to Post 3494, 853 Ashland Rd., according to local organizational head Charles Paxton.

Fellwock was critical of President Carter's role in world and national affairs, especially as they pertain to veterans. "He gave amnesty to draft dodgers shortly after he was elected. It was a slap in the face of those who had served honorably. We rebuked him on it and from that time on he became very callous to veterans and their problems," Fellwock said.

One reason that Reagan looked good to the organization was his comment last August that the deterioration of Veterans Administration hospitals should be stopped. The VA hospitals have lost over 5,000 of beds during the last four years, leaving 80,000 beds at a time when veterans as a group are becoming older and

more in need of hospital services, according to Fellwock.

The VFW endorsed Reagan partly because it was concerned that not enough money was being spent on part and upkeep for military equipment and partly because of the feeling that U.S. prestige and foreign policy had been deteriorating under the Carter administration. "We were being blackmailed and pushed

around all around the world," Fellwock said.

He said that he noted a general poverty of equipment and parts in military planes during recent tours of the Near East and in fact was flown in a bomber which had to make an emergency landing due to its poor equipment.

The commander-in-chief said he is concerned about the American hostages

in Iran. "I don't guess there's any other organization that has felt more for the hostages or prayed as hard for them as we have. But I want to see them released with honor. We don't want to be blackmailed. The concessions the Iranians want us to make could be more dangerous than the situation with the hostages, because the assets we're holding are warlike in nature."

JAN 4 1981

VFW Looking Forward To Reagan Presidency

By Terry Anderson
Of The Dispatch Staff

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) expects President-elect Ronald Reagan to keep his promise to strengthen America's defense and to maintain his commitment to war veterans.

Arthur J. Fellwock, national VFW commander in chief, said Saturday his organization is anxiously awaiting the incoming Reagan administration, and an end to what he termed "the callousness of Carter."

Fellwock came to Columbus Saturday to begin a two-day, five-city membership drive. He is to be the featured speaker at a luncheon Sunday at VFW Post 9857 at 2725 Johnstown Rd.

"JIMMY CARTER turned his back on the veteran," Fellwock said, pointing out that the Carter administration reduced services to the veteran.

The endorsement of Reagan and other conservative candidates broke an 80-year-old political silence by the VFW. Fellwock said that in the future the VFW will be more outspoken about issues that it deems of national importance, and will not hesitate to actively seek the defeat of candidates it does not support.

The VFW and its auxiliary have more than 2.8 million members, and the organization is growing. He said that as a block, the VFW could be a formidable lobby.

Fellwock, a native of Evansville, Ind., said the VFW will actively support strengthening the nation's military forces. The VFW endorses the MX missile system, B-1 bomber and the neutron bomb.

THE 55-YEAR-OLD World War II veteran praised the nomination of retired Gen. Alexander Haig for secretary of state. Fellwock said he has written congressional leaders urging the approval of Haig. Fellwock said, "Haig understands war, and will deal



Arthur J. Fellwock

from strength rather than weakness."

Monday the second round of the revamped draft registration program is scheduled to begin. Fellwock said the VFW would like to take the matter one step further, and reinstitute conscription.

"This time we'd like to eliminate all the loopholes and see that the draft takes the Harvardite and Harlamite. They could learn something from each other," he said. He said the VFW continues to oppose drafting women for combat service.

He also called for a complete investigation by "an independent government agency about the effects of Agent Orange. We want all the facts brought out, whatever the results."

Agent Orange is a chemical defoliant used during the Vietnam War. Some former servicemen claim they were not warned of the chemical's dangers and their health was permanently impaired by exposure to the defoliant.

JAN 6 1981

VFW commander lauds Reagan's choice of Haig

COLUMBUS (UPI) — The commander of chief of the national Veterans of Foreign Wars said the administration of President-elect Ronald Reagan will be one of strength.

Arthur J. Fellwock, VFW commander, in Columbus during the weekend to kick off a five-city membership drive, said he expects Reagan to keep his promise to strengthen America's defense and to maintain his commitment to war veterans.

Fellwock praised the nomination of retired Gen. Alexander Haig as secretary of state, adding that he has written con-

gressional leaders urging confirmation of the nomination.

"Haig understands war and will deal from strength rather than weakness," Fellwock said.

Fellwock said veterans look forward to Reagan's administration and an end to what he called "the callousness of Carter."

"Jimmy Carter turned his back on the veteran," said Fellwock, pointing out that the Carter administration reduced services to veterans.

Last fall, the VFW endorsed Reagan's candidacy, breaking an 80-year-old political silence by the organization.

Fellwock said in the future the VFW will be more outspoken about issues that it deems of national importance and will not hesitate to actively seek the defeat of candidates it does not support.

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SHELBY, OHIO
GLOBE
—D. 4,687—

MANSFIELD METROPOLITAN AREA

JAN 5 1981

VFW feels Reagan strong

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI) — The commander of chief of the national Veterans of Foreign Wars said the administration of President-elect Ronald Reagan will be one of strength.

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JAN 5 1981

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DEC 2 1980

Reagan seen as strong

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The commander said the VFW will actively support strengthening the nation's military forces. He said the group endorses the MX missile system, B-1 bomber and the neutron bomb.

VFW Sees 'Strong' Ron

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI) — The commander of chief of the national Veterans of Foreign Wars said the administration of President-elect Ronald Reagan will be one of strength.

Arthur J. Fellwock, VFW commander, in Columbus during the weekend to kick off a five-city membership drive, said he expects Reagan to keep his promise to strengthen America's defense and to maintain his commitment to war veterans.

Fellwock praised the nomination of retired Gen. Alexander Haig as secretary of state, adding that he has written congressional leaders urging confirmation of the nomination.

"Haig understands war and will deal from strength rather than weakness," Fellwock said.

Fellwock said veterans look forward to Reagan's administration and an end to what he called "the callousness of Carter."

"Jimmy Carter turned his back on the veteran," said Fellwock, pointing out that the Carter administration reduced services to veterans.

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about people

Rita denies posing nude

Rita Jenrette, wife of Rep. John Jenrette, D-S.C., denies that she posed for any revealing or semi-nude photos for Playboy magazine. Mrs. Jenrette said she went to Chicago recently to discuss an article with the editors of Playboy and posed for "facial portraits of the type I did when I posed for Clairol in 1977 and 1978." Cable News Network in Atlanta reported during the weekend that sources said some of the shots taken by Playboy photographers had "sensual overtones." Mrs. Jenrette, whose husband has been convicted of bribery and conspiracy in the Abscam case and lost his bid for re-election last month, said she sold an article to the Washington Post and is negotiating with Playboy magazine for another story.

Ted Kennedys out socially

Sen. Ted Kennedy and his wife, Joan, are "out" socially, as far as the Social Register's new 1981 edition goes. The book of national society listings, edited by an anonymous advisory board, dropped the Kennedy listing that had appeared in the 1980 Register with their McLean, Va., address. The listing in the past even survived the Chappaquiddick scandal of 1969. Still in the Register are Ethel Kennedy, Robert Kennedy's widow, and their children; Mr. and Mrs. Sargent (Eunice Kennedy) Shriver and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy II (he's Robert and Ethel's son).

Fellwock happy with Reagan

The commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars says he thinks President-elect Ronald Reagan will get American military defense back to its "proper importance." VFW Commander Arthur Fellwock of Evansville said at a news conference in Des Plaines, Ill., he endorsed Reagan's plans to scrap the Salt II arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union. Fellwock also called for a 10 to 12 percent hike in military spending and resumption of a peacetime draft. "We just don't have the proper equipment to maintain military force if there is an emergency," he said, adding "the volunteer army does not work."

Around and about

With daughter Mia Farrow and four grandchildren looking on, Maureen O'Sullivan received the Hoey award of the Catholic Inter-racial Council of New York. Playwright Arthur Miller will be in the Waterbury, Conn., Hospital Health Center for several more days, with his right leg in a cast from hip to toes. Miller, 65, fell off a ladder on Friday at his country home in Roxbury, Conn., and broke a leg in three places. Author John Cheever, 67, was listed in good condition yesterday in Phelps Memorial Hospital in North Tarrytown, N.Y., after suffering a neurological seizure on Sunday.

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Vets group "won it" for Reagan?

COLUMBUS — A spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars said its endorsement of Ronald Reagan was the major reason President Carter was so badly defeated in his bid for re-election. "He completely ignored the Veterans Administration system during his term," charged Cooper T. Holt, executive director of the national VFW office. "And because of his attitude, we broke an 80-year non-endorsement VFW tradition to keep him from being re-elected." Holt accused the Carter administration of closing 10,000 beds and removing 7,000 employees from the Veterans Administration hospital system during the last four years.

Star photo by Jeffrey Hamilton

Art Fellwock sees new leadership

Reagan to build defense posture, VFW chief says

Somebody wearing shiny boots shouted "ten-hut," and about 35 men beneath brimless caps saluted the man in the blue pin-stripe suit.

Others at Tucson International Airport, not part of the welcoming party, looked back over their shoulders and wondered what the color guard and the khaki outfits were about.

The focus of the ceremony was Art Fellwock — national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He arrived in Tucson yesterday to rally the former troops at the state midwinter VFW convention. He had spent the first part of the week at President Reagan's inauguration, and clearly was buoyed by the changing of the guard in Washington.

"I think he (Reagan) realizes very strongly that we need somebody to lead the people," Fellwock said.

Last year, in a first for the organization, the 2 million-member VFW supported Reagan with an endorsement and monetary contributions. Fellwock said the investment in the former California governor's political fortunes will prove a wise one as Reagan commits extra billions to national defense.

He said he was certain the release of the American hostages in Iran was timed so that nation would not have to deal with Reagan.

A repeat act of terrorism at a U.S. embassy could be avoided, Fellwock said, by giving guards "instructions to shoot to kill if something starts."

Iranians in the United States should have been "exported," he said. "They're not Americans, and they'll never be Americans."

Fellwock said forces hostile to peace in 1938 — Hitler and Mussolini — are present today in the shape of Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union and Cuba's Fidel Castro, among others.

But he said that despite recent years of apathy toward our commitment to defense, there are signs of change. "I find that young people today have more patriotism than they have had in the last 20 years," he said.

Fellwock sees the incident in Iran as having galvanized allegiance to the red, white and blue. "That red blood began to flow for America," he said.

However, he warned that the United States is woefully undermanned militarily, and that a "no-loopholes" draft should be implemented immediately. Recalling his experience in the Navy during World War II, Fellwock said a draft would not only benefit the U.S. defense posture, but would be a boon to individuals as well. "After I had served, I was a heck of a lot better man," he said.

Anti-military sentiment born in the Vietnam era is on the wane, he said. "Time cures everything," he said. "It's fading away."

In addition to increased personnel, America needs an upgraded missile force to help act as a nuclear deterrent, Fellwock said.

He described the safety risks of Titan missiles as having "been overplayed," and suggested that Southern Arizonans realize it is necessary to have the weapons nearby and "live with it."

"Plus," he said, "we need some exotic weapons that would put fear in the Russians" so they will not perpetrate a sneak attack.

But he does not advocate throwing the first punch in any nuclear hostilities. "We're America," he said. "We wouldn't do that."

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National VFW chief foresees defense as Reagan's top priority

By BRUCE BAILEY

'Drastic changes' predicted in military structure



Art Fellwock
'Changes'

thing, and we knew President Carter was not the man to turn the situation around."
"We were being blackmailed, pushed around and countries throughout the world were losing respect for us," he said. "We were supposed to be the leader of a free world and we couldn't even defend our own country."
Wellwock noted there are more than 30 million veterans of military service in the United States and organizations such as the VFW are growing stronger each year.
"Veterans have a tremendous stake in this country," Fellwock said, "and I believe they will be 100 per cent behind Reagan's programs to strengthen the national defense."

Fellwock said he believes the seizing of American hostages and the sacking of the American embassy in Iran was one of the chief factors that led to the down fall of the Carter Administration.

The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars predicted President-elect Reagan will make national defense his top priority when he assumes office next month.

Art Fellwock of Evansville, Ill., said he believed "that within 100 days after Reagan becomes commander-in-chief there will be drastic changes within the military structure of the United States."

Among the changes will be construction of the B-1 bomber for the Air Force, the MX missile program and production of neutron bombs to serve as deterrents "for those nations that are hostile to us," Fellwock said.

At the same time, Fellwock said he believes Reagan and Congress could be persuaded to restructure the

Selective Service System and restore a limited form of a national draft for military service.

"This would be a draft to cope with the shortfalls in our present volunteer Army," Fellwock said. "The present structure has failed, and if the draft resumes there would be no deferments as in the past. The draft would be for all."

Fellwock, a member of the Reagan transition team at the Veterans Administration in Washington, was in New Jersey yesterday to attend a testimonial dinner for

State VFW Commander Robert Wallace of Milton.

More than 800 persons attended the dinner at the Holiday Inn in North Brunswick to honor Wallace, past commander of the Newark Firemen's Post, VFW, and Essex County Council, VFW.

The 1.9-million member VFW, which includes 600,000 Vietnam veterans, endorsed a presidential candidate for the first time last summer when the national organization gave its support to Reagan.

"This was done because we saw where the country was headed," Fellwock said. "It was time to do some-

"No one has ever heard of Soviet Union embassies being sacked and hostages taken," Fellwock said. "But they tested us, and are still testing us, because there is nothing we can do at this time."

"We have lost our ability of leadership in the free world," he added, "and other countries are well aware of that. We have to do away with 1938 thinking that hostile forces are not out there. They are out there and we have to cope with them."

Fellwock said the VFW also actively supported the defeat of President Carter at the polls because "of his policies aimed at dismantling the structure of the Veterans Administration (VA), particularly in the area of veteran benefits."

The national VFW commander pointed out the Carter Administration had reduced VA hospital beds by 5,000 and presented a budget to Congress calling for a \$1.5 billion slash in veterans' benefits.

Max Cleland, administration chief of the VA and Vietnam veteran who lost both legs and an arm in a grenade explosion, also has drawn fire from the VFW and has submitted his resignation to the Reagan transition team.

"Cleland could have had the job for life," Fellwock said, "but he refused to stand up for the veterans and went right ahead with the weakening of the VA at the direction of the Carter Administration. He didn't have the courage of his convictions."

Fellwock said veterans from the VFW and other national organizations such as the American Legion are serving as advisers to the Reagan team in Washington with respect to the VA and the selection of a new administrative head.

"Reagan has said he will accept Cleland's resignation when he takes over the presidency," Fellwock said, "and we are hoping to replace Cleland with a strong chief who will undo the harm created by the Carter Administration."

Meanwhile, Fellwock said the VFW would continue its national campaign for stronger veterans' organizations, with emphasis on helping the Vietnam veterans.

"More and more Vietnam veterans are beginning to take on leadership roles in the VFW," Fellwock said, "and that is the way it should be. In fact, we are encouraging the younger veterans to become active."

"In my travels throughout the United States in recent months," Fellwock said, "I have found all the people, veterans and nonveterans alike, are tired of being looked down at by other countries as a second-rate power. They want the United States returned to a position of power."

Fellwock also predicted "that if the United States is ever put in a position where war could become a reality — Congress will initiate any involvement and the generals will carry it out."

"There will be no more playing at war with special rules to fight it by," he added. "I believe we learned that lesson from Vietnam. If it is to be war, then the United States will let it be known that it will be war to the end."

Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office, greets Richard J. Wagner, 5, of Vancouver, Wash., 1982 March of Dimes National Poster Child. Richard was born with partially paralyzed legs, but is a fine normal young man. The VFW supports the March of Dimes each year at the local and national level.



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