

Legion Not Ready To Trade Present Defense Force for Push Button Type

(The American Legion has a lot of important business to attend to at its 40th national convention, which opened in Chicago Monday. In the following dispatch, written for United Press International, Legion Commander John S. Gleason Jr., tells what vital matters will be discussed—and what action is likely to be taken.)

By JOHN S. GLEASON JR., American Legion National Commander (Written for United Press International)

Chicago—(UPI)—Legionnaire veterans of three "conventional" wars recognize the destructive power and satellite

speed of the thermonuclear-missile age. But they aren't ready to trade in America's present defense force for a push-button model—not yet.

Legionnaires will launch repeated demands from the platform at their 40th national convention opening here Monday (Sept. 1) for extension of Selective Service, maintenance of a strong and unified armed force, strengthening of the National Guard and organized reserve and

improvement of civil defense. There will be strong convention support also for acceleration and expansion of research and development in push-button warfare, particularly in missiles and rockets.

The 3,055 delegates to the convention will consider about 700 resolutions passed on by state Legion conventions and other subordinate groups.

I am confident that those which are approved will chart a course which all Americans might well follow.

The convention certainly will take cognizance of the current crisis in the Middle East and the course we should follow in the future.



INFERNO—Smoke and flame boil skyward after gasoline tank truck and an unloaded flat bed truck collided in Schellville, Calif., killing both drivers. It took firemen three hours to extinguish the blaze.

Hay Barn Fire Now Under Control

A fire in a barn full of hay a mile south of the Klamath junction on old Highway 99 was controlled Saturday night by the state department of forestry.

Three crews were sent to the fire which was reported

at 3:30 p.m., a spokesman said. Three pumpers were working to bring the fire under control Saturday afternoon.

The only Gaelic college in the Western Hemisphere is in St. Ann's, Nova Scotia.

Objected to Cuts

During the past year, the Legion objected most vigorously to proposed cuts in the strength of the Army Reserve and the National Guard. Although we found ready support for this position from Congress, we still read that the proposed reduction in re-

serve components is still very much alive.

Only the delegates by their majority vote may set Legion policies for the coming year, but I feel safe in predicting that from the convention will come a very strong statement favoring an adequate National Guard and organized reserve.

Another major issue before the convention is veterans' rehabilitation, and recent hearings before the House Veterans Affairs Committee will undoubtedly focus the attention of Legionnaires on the Veterans Administration hospital program.

The American Legion has long maintained that the Budget Bureau has autocritically delayed construction of needed hospital facilities voted by Congress, that it has by its own regulations cut back the number of beds available, and has denied latitude in the use of these beds by sick and disabled veterans.

We can expect vigorous support from the convention for the VA hospital program, with adequate financing, and a return to VA medical personnel of the authority to make medical decisions.

At this point we are not sure how much of an issue will be developed relating to pensions for World War I veterans based upon age alone.

The American Legion has in the past opposed general pensions, although we have maintained that in the rise in the cost of living and the advancing age of World War I veterans more than justify some liberalization in the present pension program for eligible World War I veterans.

On the other hand, I think we can anticipate a renewal of our recommendation that the same benefits be extended to widows and orphans of World War II and Korean veterans as were previously extended the survivors of World War I servicemen.

Young Publisher Seeks Expansion

Cleveland—(UPI)—Publisher Allen Meyers, 12, has launched a campaign to boost the circulation of his Myers Monthly News to suburban Parma. The paper now reaches 12 families—all relatives.

Allen, a seventh-grader in the Parma Schaff Junior High School, started his publishing career after he received a small rotary printing press for Christmas two years ago.

The young publisher, who also is the paper's reporter, printer, proofreader and editor, believes that "ideas make a good newspaper."

His recent ideas on how to increase circulation include a contest to name the paper, requests for written answers to questions such as "What can we do to improve the paper?" and poetry written by the publisher.

The monthly, which sells for 25 cents a year, also includes features on literature, music, sports, radio and television. All advertisements sell for a flat rate of 10 cents.

Allen now has a newer and larger press and is flitting with the idea of a two-color paper to stimulate circulation.

Clawing Cat May Have Deficiency

Burlington, Vt.—(UPI)—Be kind to your cat when it howls at the moon from the backyard fence or claws the living room furniture. It may have vitamin E deficiency.

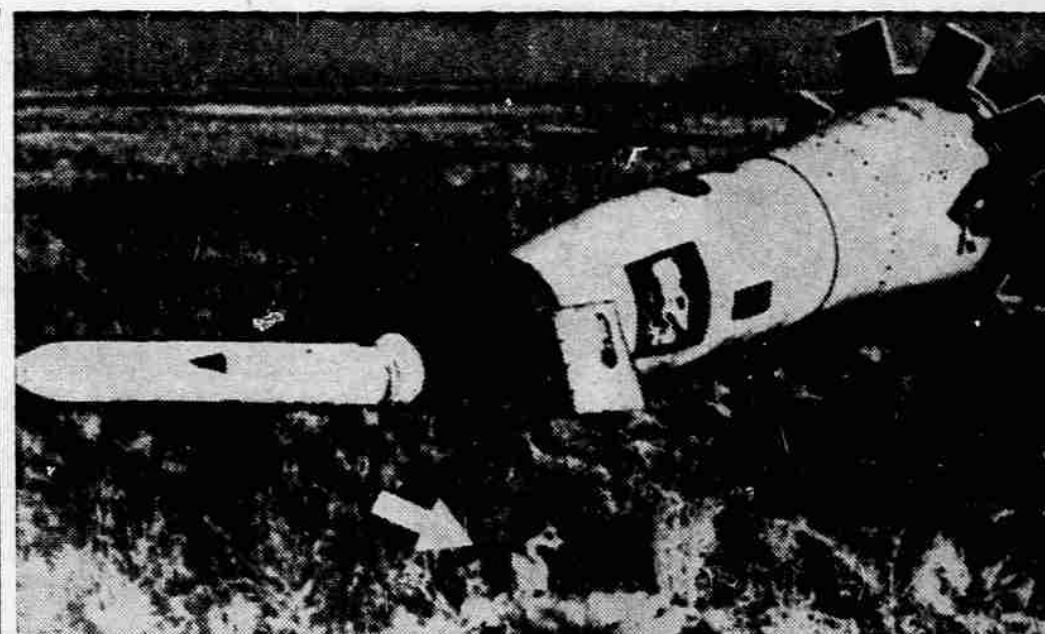
This soothing advice came from Dr. James Wadsworth, animal pathologist at the University of Vermont's extension service here.

"Most folks," he said, "don't understand cats. Cats have many health problems."

He cited vitamin E deficiency, anemia, internal parasites, skin troubles, ear mange, fleas, and fatal distemper as examples.

"The behavior of a cat and dog differs as much as night from day," he said. "Dogs are obedient and can be easily trained. On the other hand, cats will not obey orders or perform tricks to please their masters."

"A cat," he continued, "looks out only for itself. You must take advantage of the cat's selfish desires in order to train it."



DOGGING IN SPACE, the Russian radio reported rocketing two dogs 280 miles above the earth, safely bringing them back. In a previous test, "Modnitsa," (arrow) stands beside a rocket in which she took a Russian fired flight. The container took Modnitsa 212 kilometers, earlier reports from Soviets said. London received Moscow story.

Hotel Keys Get Wide Circulation

Chicago—(UPI)—Old hotel keys don't fade away. They come back from all points of the globe. Chicago's La Salle Hotel recently got back a room key along with its complex history from T. E. Almdale.

Almdale mailed the key from his hometown—Spennard, Alaska.

Almdale explained that he had been in Anchorage visiting friends whose baby was playing with a cigar box full of keys. One of them was the La Salle key.

The Anchorage friends told him, Almdale said, that a man had found the key at Point Barrow, Alaska's northernmost point. They said they had meant to return it but never got around to it.

But the La Salle—usually eager to get back keys—didn't care about this one. The lock it fitted had not been in use for 20 years.

"That's hotel life," said Manager Marion Omdark. "All keyed up."

There are 40 mountain peaks in the Great Smoky mountains more than one mile high. Sixteen peaks exceed 6,000 feet in elevation.

The giraffe, tallest of all mammals, is a native of North Africa.

Official Challenges Liberal Education

Chicago—(UPI)—The president of the Illinois Institute of Technology says a liberal arts education must include "an understanding of science and technology" to be truly liberal today.

John T. Rattaliata challenged the adequacy of liberal education under prevailing technological conditions in a report to IIT trustees.

"Modern liberal education can exclude science no longer," Rattaliata said. "In the past most of science's research efforts were of a pure or fundamental nature, primarily of interest to the laboratory or classroom, but today the situation has changed to the extent that practically all research is of the applied type, which means it has a current effect on society."

He said that the liberal arts student should understand science as the engineer must have more understanding of social problems.

"If it is important for the

engineer to understand economics, and the implications of history and the arts," he said, "certainly it is equally important that students pursuing a liberal education understand some of the problems and results of science and technology and the facts of the nation's industrial growth."

High Tribute Paid To Smoky Bear

Washington—(UPI)—Under secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse recently paid high tribute to Smoky Bear, the star performer in a federal-state forest fire prevention program.

"With his ranger's hat and shovel and dungarees," Morse said, "Smoky has become the nation's most effective fire prevention symbol."

School children from Maine to California, he said, have come to be Smoky's staunchest advocates.

The real Smoky Bear has been living in the National Zoological Park here for the last seven years. He arrived from New Mexico where a game warden found him as a cub clinging with burned paws to a charred tree.

Morse said Smoky since has become an international symbol of forest fire prevention. Canada and Mexico use Smoky in their campaigns against fires and his story has been translated into several European languages.

A total of 49 Norwegian sealing ships went on the seal hunt northeast of Greenland early in 1958.

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