

Legion Plans Own 'Column' to Balk Subversion

T-17 9/25/40

Boston Convention To Weigh Project At Meeting Today

By WILLIAM FULTON

BOSTON, Mass., Sept. 24 (C.T. P.S.).—An "American column" to combat subversive "Fifth-Column" activities in the country was proposed at the twenty-second annual convention of the American Legion today.

Approved unanimously by the Americanism committee, the plan will be presented to the full body of the convention delegates for approval tomorrow. It originated in the Louis E. Davis Legion Post at Bloomington, Ill., and was drawn up by Arthur P. Kane, a Bloomington businessman.

To Work With Officials

Harkening to the grave problems confronting this convention of veterans of the last war as a result of the present hostilities in Europe, the program would have the Legion form the column of all male Americans, regardless of whether they had served with military or naval forces.

It would be the purpose of the organization — in collaboration with constituted authorities—to work together to stamp out subversive activities rather than to act singly or independently of each other. The "American Column's" declaration of principles stated:

"We pledge ourselves as follows:
"1. To completely and definitely promote the cause of true Americanism and to that end, only as the regularly and legally constituted authorities shall determine and direct, assist in the overcoming of subversive and un-American thought and activity in a sane and orderly manner.

Patriotic Education

"2. To favor and promote the enactment of legislation which has as its basis the curtailment and punishment of all subversive and un-American activities.

"3. To prosper the cause of patriotic education not only in public institutions, but in private conversation as well to the end that those not fully cognizant of the blessings of American citizenship may not be led astray by the teachings and urgings of those who seek to undermine or overthrow our Government.

"4. To enlist in the youth of our nation admiration and respect for our nation's flag and the purposes for which it stands."

To Help Innocent

At the same time the "American Column" would also do its utmost to see that innocent people were not falsely accused or suffer harm arising from the hysteria of times of national stress.

Meanwhile, America's most stupendous pageant—the annual parade of the Legionnaires—was staged for 12 hours during the day and turned this staid old New England city topsy-turvy. More than 60,000 marchers took part in the 12-hour demonstration.

The graying veterans tramped past the State House and encircled Boston Common on hallowed streets where the first ragged soldiers of the country trooped during the Revolutionary War.

country.

Legion convention city for next year.