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Legion Backs Program for Total Defense

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Protection Against 'Inside,' Foreign Enemies Urged

By WILLIAM FULTON

BOSTON, Sept. 25 (C.T.P.S.).

A vigorous program for defense of the United States against foes both outside and inside its borders was adopted today by delegates to the twenty-second annual convention of the American Legion.

In a harmonious session at Symphony Hall here the dough-boys of '17 and '18 unanimously adopted the recommendations of their Americanism and National Defense committees for the protection of the country. The Americanism report dealt almost entirely with ways of combatting subversive activities of "Fifth Columnists" within the Communist party and German-American Bund.

Cheer Aid for Britain

A great cheer went up when the defense committee recommended writing into Legion policy endorsement of "all practicable aid to Great Britain and those aligned with her in their fight for freedom." Such aid was set forth as a sound defense measure for this country.

Other highlights of the defense recommendations were:

1. Establishment of a permanent system of universal military training.

2. If fighting is necessary the United States should be so adequately prepared that the fighting could be carried on outside the country.

Urge Outlying Defenses

3. Strengthen defenses in Alaska, the Philippines and the Panama Canal.

4. Personal and political influences must not be allowed to interfere with work of defense agencies.

5. Acquisition of munitions, tanks and planes to implement an army of 2,200,000.

6. All existing reserve officers training corps should be continued and expanded. Federal aid should be withdrawn from land grant colleges which do not make R.O. T.C. work a requisite for a degree.

CCC Training Asked

7. Military training should be mandatory in all Civilian Conservation Corps camps.

8. The naval building program in both ships and men must be completed as speedily as possible.

9. Employment aboard American flag ships of the Merchant Marine should be restricted to native-born or naturalized citizens.

10. Officers and crew aboard all vessels receiving Federal subsidies should be required to furnish affidavits that they are not members of subversive organizations.

Radio Control Sought

11. To insure safety of ships at sea and prevent use of radio for espionage by Fifth Columnists, legislation should be adopted providing radio communications at sea be placed under the jurisdiction of the Navy.

In its report, the Americanism committee warmly endorsed the work of the Dies Congressional Committee in ferreting out un-American activities.

Members of the Communist party or bunds will be prevented from holding public office if one section of the Americanism committee's report is carried out. The committee also recommended the creation of a Federal school for counterespionage.

Delegates adopted the plan fostered by the Legionnaires of Bloomington, Ill., to form an "American Column" for the purpose of combatting the "Fifth Column."

Milwaukee was selected as the Legion convention city for next year.