

Report of 47th Continental Congress

Mrs. O.B. Kaiser, Alternate-to-the -regent

On Easter Sunday, a memorial service was held in Memorial Continental Hall. I was not present because of arriving on Monday morning. I have attended these memorial services before, and was sorry to miss it.

Arriving on Monday morning we went to the hotel, then to register. In the afternoon, I attended the National Defense Program. This meeting was considered the largest of its kind ever given in the ball room of the Mayflower Hotel. Over 1,000 women were present. there were two men and two women as speakers. I must admit the women far excelled the men as speakers. Knowing Mrs. Demarest personally, considered her the most outstanding speaker of the four. Mrs. Demarest is the granddaughter of General Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army.

One of her outstanding remarks was that all churches must unite and stand firm for God. This will help to fight Communism and Fascism. She ~~stated~~ stated that an America association for the advancement of atheism recently published the following demands: first, to take the Bible out the schools, which they have done; second, to eliminate the inscription on the American coin: "In God We Trust;" third, to refuse to have a chaplain preside over public meetings. Mrs. Demarest wrote me just before she left for home, asking me to distribute at the Congress, some circulars: entitled, "A World for God". This I did, and I hope in doing so, I have done just a little toward uplifting of humanity. Every Christian should wear a button, with the inscription: "I Stand for God." This is strongly ~~urged~~ urged when the communists see that Christ-

to try and make good men out of bad men, and convert the nation into a Christian nation. It is not the church's business to undermine government by preaching Fascism ~~and~~ or communism, but it is their business to teach its own people to live in the spirit of Jesus. Truth, honor, loyalty and devotion to duty are the moral principles upon which happiness is founded.

The speaker who extended greeting on our National Defense program was Arthur Call, Secretary of the American Peace Society, and editor, of "The World Affairs." He stated that the way of peace lies in following the present foreign foreign policy. Under our system we need to remember the foreign policies are determined and shaped by our president, with the advice and consent of the Senate; and, if money is involved with the cooperation of our House of Representatives. "It is my view that these chosen representatives are better qualified to frame and to guide our foreign policies, including the details of our National Defense." <sup>end</sup> (~~xx of quote~~)

Our Daughters do not want war, but being daughters of the American Revolution, should and would stand by the men who has fought ~~the~~ that Revolution, for it was they, who established genuine peace system for ~~thirteen~~ thirteen free, sovereign states: a system fortunately competent now for forty-eight such political unities. (end quote)

Mr. Johnson, the other gentleman speaker, stated that our democracy would not be wholly efficient as long as our civil service is half merit, half patronage.. Justice is the end of government. It is ~~the~~ the end of Civil ~~Service~~ society. It has been and ever will be ~~xxxxxx~~ pursued, until it be obtained; or until liberty be lost in the pursuit. I would have those words from letters of the Federalist remain ~~xx~~ with you in all their simplicity, for of such I judge, is the spirit of the D.A.R. (end quote)

Dr. Ruth Alexander was our last speaker, and a very good one. Some

of the interesting things said, were as follows: that the principle of private property has been the dynamic force, underlying both character and the achievement of the American people since 1776. It has been the American way for 162 years; and is responsible for our transition from a jandful of colonials to one of the strongest and most prosperous nation of all times.. Socialism promises welfare, while capitalism assures freedom.

Socialism must be put in its place. there is no other alternative for human nature is such. that government is a necessary conclusion from its promises, as Hamilton once said: "What is government, but the greatest of all reflection of human nature. If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If an gels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls would be necessary." Socialism means minority rule, class distinction, , resting not on economic bases, such as property; but on rigid political basis, such as party membership; an and finally, violence as an avowed political institution.

The answer lies in our votes. We hear a great deal today about the facts that times have changed, but men have not changes. Capitalism is not ~~xxxxxxx~~ symptoms of an age, nor even of an age delinguished by mass production. Capitalism is ~~an~~ a confirmation of human nature and as such is eternal. It is at once the cause of freedom and the result of the impulse to be free. That is the most ancient and the most universal and durable of all impulses .

We in the U.S. stand at the cross ~~xxxxxx~~ roads. Have times changed so much after all? Is capitalism an upstart of the machine age, or is it as ancient as civilized man. What we should do is to recognized that capitalism has been the glory of our past and let's make it the indispensable condition of the future. Correct its short comings that

capitalism, both are imperfect, as man itself. But America was founded on the belief that self government is better than good government. Make self government synonymous with good government, and it shall ~~advance~~ advance in freedom, through compulsion, is the order of the day.

On Monday evening it was a beautiful sight to see the 49 Good Citizenship girls dressed in various French colors, each carrying a small bouquet. These girls were seated on either side of the stage in the tiers. After being introduced, they marched to the platform, when each state was called, to receive their medals of recognition for their eloquent work. A sorority has been formed for these girls, and any Good Citizenship girl having won recognition is eligible to membership.

The French Ambassador was present. At the close of his talk La Marseillaise was played by the marine band, and the entire assembly stood throughout the song.

Mrs. Becker gave her report and the following are some of the most outstanding things: the three D.A.R. buildings are free from debt; the urging of the 4,000 delegates to give all of their energies to making good citizens of the country's boys and girls.

Mr. Kendall, Pres. Gen., S.A.R. spoke and announced that the Bill of Rights is under attack today. The national labor relations boards threatens He continued that the Black committee invaded the privacy and the farmers are denied the right to raise what they wished. The youth does not realize how their ancestors struggled to establish freedom of speech, and our other liberties. He also added that N.L.R. B. muffles the voice of 3/5 of our population.

After he had finished his talk, Mrs Becker said: "Can be less concerned. 1,000 in our land are ignorant of the true meaning of the prin-

Let us keep out of war; and the quickest way to do so is to crush taxes, disease, distress and broken homes. Poverty and want will break the morals and ~~destroy~~ destroy the faith in government.

Another speaker, Mr. Barr, Pres. of St. John's College, Annapolis, expressed to us that youth of this generation has not had the same solid grounding, as the men of the Revolution received. Years ago they were taught discipline, which enabled men to think; and so doing made them useful. We have converted our education into something too trivial to produce any revolution, as revolution requires intellect. Our education today might produce more violence with riots inspired by passion. We need youth to think seriously and to act rightly.

Mrs. Becker said: "Let us push forward, our ground for unity to make American Citizenship a just reward for responsibilities gladly shouldered. May America Continue to hold her torch of liberty in a confused world. "

She also, added that National Defense means all that goes for the preservation of our spiritual heritage, that is becoming deared and dearer to our people. It does not mean fighting with guns, but it does mean fighting with truth, and supporting such military preparedness for our nation, as may indicate to the world that we have something worth defending, which we will defend with our lives if need be. The more our people are convinced of the value of their heritage, the less likely that guns will ever be needed to defend it.

Mrs. Becker urged that to vote intelligently. Membership gain in the last three years are 15,841 new members, almost 2000 more than the preceding three years period. She stated that this administration has had expenses which no other administration has had: \$18,000 in taxes, including \$2500 in back taxes. Each year a total of \$30,000 has been laid aside for our employees pension fund, to-

necessary in previous administrations. A reserve fund of \$40,000 each year for the past three years, making \$80,000 in all, beside giving \$1,000 to D.A.R. Schools, \$1,000 was given for flood relief.

As a member ~~the~~ of the women's Advisory Committee and the ~~Executive~~ Executive Committee of Patriotic and Historical committee for 1939 World's Fair in N.Y., your Pres. Gen. has attended many meetings and brings for your consideration of this Congress, a definite project in the nature of a pageant to be called: "The American CavalCade". A resolution was made and adopted that this pageant be given in N.Y. at the World's Fair. This pageant will depict scenes from colonial and revolutionary days up to present time. No financial liability will be increased by the Society.

Mrs. Becker said that her most thrilling experience in radio was in 1937, when she addressed a large audience in France from the American Chapel, a broadcast over a national hookup. This was a memorial program from Bonny Cemetery, honoring your Pres. Gen., the only woman taking part in these ceremonies.

Kate Duncan Smith has dedicated a home economics Building in honor of Mrs. Geo. Minor. Your Pres. Gen. took part in the dedication services.

Crossnore is the recipient of 5 new buildings. Lincoln Memorial University has added a new dairy. Besides these school your Pres. Gen. traveled this year to Blue Ridge Industrial School, Maryville College, and American Indian Institute. At all these schools, one expressed with the sturdiness of the youth and their influence and their enthusiasm and appreciation for the opportunity given them.

Another field of Helpfulness, which was opened to us some years ago, through the founding of the Caroline E. Holt Filipino Girls in nursing. Miss Margaret Carl now completing her nursing course will

return to the Phillipines for service. It is important that we take more note of opportunity offered for education through the means of moving pictures, radio and press. These are all channels of wide influence, which should not be overlooked. We should support National Defense through patriotic Education. Today ~~there~~ there are millions out of employment, facing physical and spiritual hunger. We hear of dictators abroad. We wonder if we are immune. The last security against Communism is contentment and prosperity of our people.

A silver spoon was given and presented by the Massachusetts delegation in honor of their State Regent. It is a dessert spoon made by Paul Revere.

The largest gift to the museum during the past year, came from Miss Frances Smith of Connecticut. It was a collection of 76 pieces of glassware, as well as silver jewelry and shawls. Ohio gave a glass case in honor of Mrs. John S. Heaume.

Every state in the Union was represented in this gathering of the 47th Congress: England, France, China, Hawaii and the Phillipine sent delegates to the Congress.

Mrs. Becker urged to guard our liberties well, to build, and permit them to be taken from us. Taxation without representation is tyranny. In closing she added that the most essential task is to rear a generation of strong men and women, who will be able to build wisely. We must ~~rear~~ <sup>rear</sup> Americans who will take their tasks seriously... not asking but contributing, realizing that no country can rise higher than the dreams of its citizens. Develop a generation of young men and women who can face life courageously, with a purpose, vision and faith. What will you do with your <sup>r</sup> treasures and heritage? How will you lead? Your service is not so much needed in the creation of more wealth. ~~xxxx~~

best.

You spring from men whose hearts and lives were pure. Their way was single and walk was sure. See that children's children in their ~~in~~ day may bless such father's father when they pray.

Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Candidate for Pre. Gen. gave a reception to the delegates of the 47th Congress. This was given in the Ball Room of the Mayflower hotel. I did not attend this reception, but I understood that 3500 were present. She wore a very plain white gown and carried white orchids.

The Maryland group planted a Constitution tree on the grounds of the U.S. Supreme Court grounds. It is a scarlet oak and was presented by Mrs. Wilbur Blaisdell, State Regent of Md. daughters. Senator Millard Tydings delivered the address and Mrs. Wm. Chase, Chairman of the Md. State Conservation Committee presided over these ceremonies.

The musical part of the opening night was very good. The singer was Mr. Leonard Warren, 1938 winner of the Metropolitan ~~Audition~~ Audition Award. He sang the Prologue from "Pagilacci", "Danny Boy", "Matitanato, Geen Eyed Dragon" and "Love Went A'Riding".

### Tuesday

Resolutions were read: The change of our D.A.R. Magazine to National Historical Magazine; the presentation of an insignia medal to outgoing Pres. Gen., instead of the pin. Mrs. Magna made the motion to accept the medal and said she would gladly give up her pin, if it was so adopted. It was adopted. these were the most important resolutions.

D.A.R. membership totals 141,000, pre-depression level, about 175,000. Constitution Hall earned \$39,143 in rent last year and paid only \$3,00 in taxes, under a special arrangement with the District government. Cash Balance; \$170,000, Total receipts for the year were \$283, 859. Of the \$55, 472 balance, \$40,000 went to the reserve fund,



in addition Mrs. Robert reported a cash balance of \$170, 387 , carried forward. In addition the D.A.R. has \$275, 825 invested in scholarships employees' pensions and mountain schools. Liberty Bonds to the amount of \$100,000 were borrowed, from the investment total to pay off the final indebtedness on Constitution Hall. Constitution Hall earned a net income of <sup>40</sup> \$14,000.

Mack William of the Boys' Brotherhood Republic of N.Y. was the morning speaker. He urged the delegates to give youth the cause of democracy to champion. If the dictators can teach their youth, isms, why can't we teach youth , democrcacy.

The heroes of democrcay are found only in history books, whereas, the daily 1938 heroes, the dictators, are in the news. If youth's conception of democracy is faulty, the young people will fall for the new heroes. He ~~described~~ described the Boys' Brotherhood as an patriotic organization where good citizenship and government are actually ~~practiced~~ practiced. (end quote)

Another attractice program was when the Anderson High School Choral Club of Anderson, Ind. gave us a half hour program of music. They were robed in purple and gold vestments .

The D.A.R. adopts 96 children for training; 48n boys and 48 girls, as a living ~~monument~~ monument for Mrs. Wm.A. Becker.

A tea was given by Representative <sup>and</sup> Mrs. White for the Ohio delegation. Mrs. White, Mrs. Heaume, Mrs. Messenger and Mrs. Robert ~~xxx~~ were in the receiving line.

Wednesday night was State regents night and Mrs. Heaume gave an excellent report of the state work. She also was nominated by Mrs. Backus later in the evening for the office of Recording Secretary Gen.

The Pres. of U.S. spoke for us <sup>Friday</sup> ~~Thursday~~ afternoon. A professional of D.A.R. Juniors , numbering 200 young women dressed in white,

Marched to the platform, forming a lovely background, as the Pres/ entered.

There was a brief hush before he entered. He was greeted with a cheer as the band played "Hail To The Chief". In Addressing the assembly, graciously he Remarked; (quote) D.A.R., I could not let a fifth year go by without coming to see you. I must ask you to take me in my business suit. I am particularly glad to know that today, you are making this fine appeal to the youth of America. The importance of this rising generation to sons and daughters, grandsons and Great <sup>grand</sup>~~gran~~ children, we can't overestimate the importance of what we are doing in this year, in our own generation, to keep alive the spirit of Amer. democracy; the spirit of opportunity; the kind of spirit that has led us, as a nation, not as a small group; but as a nation to meet the very great problems of the past. "

"Yes, we have a great many things to do. Among others things in this troubled world, is the need ~~for~~ of being very certain, that no matter what happens, the sovereignty of the U.S. will never be impaired.

There have been former occasions of the conventions of the D.A.R. when voices were needed to be raised for better national defense. This year you are raising those voices; and I am glad of it; but I am glad that the government of the U.S. can assure you today that it is taking definite, practical steps for the defense of the Nation. I am glad to have had an opportunity to come in this way and talk to you very simply and very sincerely. Perhaps, sometime in the next ~~month~~ two and a half years, I will be able to come here and ~~xx~~ make a prepared speech; but, this kind of a party appeals to me; I am glad to have been with you and ~~think~~ you all.

The Indian college from Oklahoma gave the Congress a half hour program on Friday evening in their native dress. This was quite picturesque and unusual.

The business session ended Saturday morning, followed by the installation of the following national officers:

Pres. Gen: Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr. of M.d  
 Reporter General to Smithsonian: Mrs. Jos. Y. Young, Cal.  
 Curator General: Mrs. Willard Steele, Tenn.  
 Registrar Gen: Mrs. Frank L. Nason, Mass.  
 Treasurer General: Miss Page Schwarzwelder, N.Y.  
 Recording Sec'y. Gen: Mrs. John S. Heaume, Ohio  
 Librarian Gen: Miss Vinton E. Sisson, Ill.  
 Organizing Sec'y. Gen.: Mrs. Geo. D. Schermerhorn, Mich.  
 Corresponding Sec'y gen.: Mrs. Herron J. Clarksdale, Miss.  
 Chaplain Gen: Mrs. Loren Rex, Kansas  
 Historian Gen. : Mrs. Leland S. Duxbury, Minn.

The White House reception to delegates followed in the afternoon.. In the evening we were on the time home. I hope I have not tired you with this long report, but I have tried to give you the highlights of the Congress. Hoping to have given you a picture of what the Daughters are doing for the uplift of the nation.