

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



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THE OCTAGON

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The Octagon Makes Way for the Journal Facing a New and Broader Field

THIS December number will be the last issue of THE OCTAGON. In its place will emerge a new publication taking again the name of "JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS." In announcing this change it is appropriate to briefly call attention to a few historical facts and voice The Board of Directors' hope for this new venture.

THE OCTAGON was established by The Board in 1928. Its purpose was defined by The Board to be that of a bulletin of The Institute to transmit official notices to members, to report activities of The Board and the committees, and in other ways to serve the purpose of a house organ. Now and then other material crept into its pages and in addition the publication of by-laws and the roster of members formed the basis of certain issues. The responsibility of preparing and publishing THE OCTAGON was shared by The Secretary and The Executive Secretary. Those who know the scope and the arduous nature of the responsibilities those offices entail voice their unqualified admiration for the splendid job that has been done. The new work can not be better done.

The old "JOURNAL" was scholarly. It reflected the countenance of a predominantly academic profession. Let there be no tears, nor jibes either for that matter. Architecture is not a new profession but the tempo of life changes with the times and so does our profession. The scope, responsibility, and character of our profession in today's world have widened. The profession itself must assume responsibility for its own destiny. The experienced must speak for the inexperienced, the leaders must point the way more clearly to the profession itself and to

the public. To provide a voice for the profession is the aim of the new "JOURNAL." It is the answer to a wide and insistent demand from many in The Institute for a mouthpiece to speak the confidence we have in ourselves and in our profession.

Lest there be too high expectations for quick results but without apology for anticipated immediate performance The Institute should be warned that the difficulties such as the paper shortage are enormous. The new JOURNAL will use the last ounce of paper available to it. The fact that The Board has decided to launch the new venture *now* is a measure of its faith as well as its belief that now, before the end of the war, is the time to act.

The aim is as follows: The JOURNAL will attempt to tell the story of American architecture of today's world by the members of the profession themselves. The profession is challenged to speak of such matters as technical and social responsibilities, town planning, education of the architect, etc. The interested public should be able to look to the JOURNAL for authentic information about the profession. House notices will be briefed to the minimum. Incidentally, The Board has provided that essential Institute reports, legally required notices, and such matters as By-laws, convention data, etc. will be issued in an official Bulletin when occasion demands. The JOURNAL will not attempt to compete with the commercial architectural publications which so thoroughly cover the field of current work with quantities of illustrations and editorial comment.

Specifically it will be a pocket size magazine. An able editor, Henry H. Saylor, A.I.A., has been

engaged. Advertising will be carried. A Board Committee of Edgar I. Williams, Chairman, James R. Edmunds, Jr., and Douglas William Orr has been appointed to act as advisor to the Editor and generally to guide the destinies of the JOURNAL. As the year's volume of THE OCTAGON ends with the December issue, the new JOURNAL will start in January 1944.

The Board realizes that not all Institute members look with favor upon any change but in their judgment the purpose and aims as set forth above are sound and the problems they imply demand firm answers from our profession. If the profession has nothing of value to say it will have to step aside for others in the world we face. In this rapidly changing world and especially in our democratic system

the obligations of individuals to the common welfare as compared to the individuals' rights and privileges are being set forth with greater clarity. Architecture from every point of view—technical, aesthetic, and as a potent force in the rebuilding of our world after the war—is at a crossroads.

The Board has faith in the profession and in The Institute. With the new JOURNAL it provides a vehicle of our own for expression. We raise our sights to cover a broader field than that covered by THE OCTAGON. It is your Institute, your profession and your responsibility to make the JOURNAL a potent factor for betterment of architecture and service to the nation.

RAYMOND J. ASHTON
President.

A Commentary

BY ABRAM GARFIELD, F.A.I.A.

WE have been told to ring out the old and ring in the new. That is all very well but the use of that quotation is so liable to look down the nose at the old. We are all looking forward to the JOURNAL and believe it will be an improvement upon any past publication, but there is something more to be said about both the old and the new.

THE OCTAGON has carried the burden of our partial oblivion for fourteen years and one is fairly reminded of a recent book. The title of that book is "The Years of Endurance" and it tells how England held on through the first ten years of the wars with France beginning in 1793. It tells how the people of England overcame their own mistakes and weaknesses as well as the failure of their Allies and attacks of their enemies. You may not read the book but it is apparent that its title "The Years of

Endurance" might properly apply to THE OCTAGON.

Give due honor to THE OCTAGON.

Now, as to the new JOURNAL. We wish it to represent the best in the profession of Architecture, but it never can do this unless we read it.

It ought not be necessary to say this but, as a profession, we do *not* read what our own people have to say. It is a fair hazard that no other profession is so uninterested in the papers of its members as are the architects. Therefore, give the new JOURNAL a chance. Do not leave the Editor to work alone and in the dark. Those of us who complain that The Institute publication is not interesting are those, for the most part, who have not read it and really know nothing about it. Let us disagree and wrangle if we wish about papers and published policies, because that seems to be one of our chief abilities but, in any case, let us take part.

Regional Directorship—Central States District

AT THE recent meeting of The Board of Directors in Memphis, Tennessee, The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Lt. Kenneth E. Wischmeyer, Regional Director of the Central States District. Lt. Wischmeyer resigned because of his entry into the active service of the U. S. Naval Reserve, Bureau of Aeronautics.

The Board elected Arthur Ward Archer, of Kansas City, Missouri, to fill the unexpired term of Lt. Wischmeyer, and it bespeaks for Mr. Archer the continuing, fine support of the chapters and members in the Central States District.

ALEXANDER C. ROBINSON, III,
Secretary.

The Washington Scene

BY D. K. ESTE FISHER, JR.
Washington Representative, A.I.A.

BILLS OF THE 78TH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION

THE following action has been taken on bills and resolutions listed in the February, March, May and July OCTAGONS (none listed in April, June, August, September, October, or November; Congress was in recess July-September).

(S. 37)—H.R. 647

George Washington Carver Memorial. Signed by the President: Public Law No. 148.

S. 1243

For construction, etc., of demonstration plants to produce synthetic liquid fuels. Reported with amendments 10/6/43; debated and printed with amendments agreed to 10/12/43; amended and passed Senate 11/9/43 (this bill contains a well-worded clause authorizing the employment of architects or engineers). (See also H.R. 3209.)

H.R. 2936

Additional appropriation for Title II of the "Lanham Act." Signed by the President: Public Law No. 150.

H.R. 2798

Federal aid for rural post-roads. Signed by the President. Public Law No. 146.

The following new bills and resolutions have been introduced (as of December 21, 1943) and action taken as noted:

In the Senate

Committee on Appropriations

S. Con. Res. 24. The governor of each state requested to report on needed public works 11/9/43.

Mr. Tydings
(Maryland)

Committee on Banking and Currency

S. 1369. To amend the National Housing Act (increases appropriation and extends to July 1, 1945) 9/21/43. See H.R. 3291, companion, which was passed.)

Mr. Radcliffe
(Maryland)

Committee on Finance

S. Con. Res. 26. The governor of each state requested to report his recommendations for the post-war period with respect to 1) fields of taxation, 2) division of authority with U.S., 3) percentages of contribution by U.S. and by State and local governments to post-war work, 4) exclusive functions of governments 11/9/43.

Mr. Tydings
(Maryland)

S. 1366. To amend section 403, P.L. 528, 77th Congress, as amended by section 801, P.L. 753, 77th Congress, by section 1, P.L. 108, 78th Congress, 1st Session and by P.L. 149, 78th Congress, 1st Session (Renegotiation of War Contracts) 9/21/43.

Mr. Hatch
(New Mexico)

Committee on Naval Affairs

S. 1550. To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to proceed with the construction of certain public works, etc. 11/29/43. (See H.R. 3741, companion).

Mr. Walsh
(Massachusetts)

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

*S. 1531. Authorizing Employment of engineers in private practice for Government projects 11/15/43. (See H.R. 3328, companion).

Mr. Ball
(Minnesota)

In the House of Representatives

Committee on Banking and Currency

H.R. 3291. To amend the National Housing Act 9/21/43; Amended and passed House 9/23/43; Referred to Senate 9/24/43; Reported without amendment 9/28/43. Passed

Mr. Steagall
(Alabama)

* See footnote on next page.

Senate 10/8/43; To the President 10/12/43. Public Law No. 159. (See S. 1369, companion)

Committee on Insular Affairs

H.R. 3777. To assist in relieving economic distress in the Virgin Islands, etc. (F.W.A. authorized to use funds appropriated for Federal and non-Federal construction projects, etc.) 12/3/43.

Mr. Fernandez
(New Mexico)

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

H.R. 3530. To authorize the construction and extension of certain marine hospitals (under the F.W.A.) 10/25/43. (The items listed are included in House Document No. 177 of the 76th Congress).

Mr. King
(California)

Committee on Naval Affairs

H.R. 3741. To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to proceed with the construction of certain public works etc. 11/26/43. Reported with amendments 12/3/43; passed House, 12/10/43; to Senate Committee on Naval Affairs 12/13/43; Reported with amendments, 12/17/43. (See also S. 1550, companion).

Mr. Vinson
(Georgia)

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

H.R. 3206. To amend the "Lanham" Act (1940, as amended); provides for facilities for care of children, etc. 9/14/43.

Mrs. Norton
(New Jersey)

***H.R. 3328.** Authorizing employment of engineers in private practice for Government projects 9/23/43. (See S. 1531, companion).

Mr. Judd
(Minnesota)

Committee on Public Lands

H.R. 2550. To create a commission to investigate the establishment of a National Park in the old part of the City of Philadelphia 4/21/43. (This bill had not been listed previously but is of particular interest to the Independence Hall Association, of which Mr. David Knickerbacker Boyd, F.A.I.A., is Executive Secretary).

Mr. Gallagher
(Pennsylvania)

Committee on Rules

H. Res. 340. Creating a select committee of five members of the House to study economic problems in the U. S. after the war and to recommend specific plans for solution of them.

Mr. Sikes
(Florida)

Committee on Ways and Means

H.R. 3197. To make inoperative Title VIII of Public Law No. 753, 77th Congress. (Renegotiation of War Contracts). 9/14/43.

Mr. Cole
(New York)

H.R. 3209. Authorizing the construction, etc., of demonstration plants to produce synthetic liquid fuels. (This bill contains a well-worded clause authorizing the employment of architects or engineers). 9/14/43. Reported with amendment 11/1/43. (See S. 1243, companion).

Mr. Randolph
(West Virginia)

H.R. 3316. Amending the provisions of law relating to the renegotiation of War contracts 9/22/43.

Mr. Vinson
(Georgia)

H.R. 3730. To provide Federal aid to the States for industrial rehabilitation in the counties thereof 11/24/43.

Mr. Jenkins
(Ohio)

H.R. 3734. To provide Federal aid to the States for industrial rehabilitation in the counties thereof 11/24/43.

Mr. Sikes
(Florida)

H.R. 3794. Creating a stock pile of post-war work by facilitating deferment of current maintenance 12/7/43.

Mr. Buffett
(Nebraska)

Congress recessed on December 21, 1943. The Second Session will convene on January 10, 1944.

Hearings—Postwar Planning

In the week beginning November 22 hearings were begun by two House committees on the general

* These companion bills are apparently sponsored by an interested individual, not by any of the engineering societies. They provide not only for employment of engineers but for alternate designs for projects. It is thought that this method of approach to the question is undesirable; see comment under S. 1243—H.R. 3209.

D.K.E.F.Jr.

subject of postwar planning. A Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. Lynch of New York, Chairman of the Subcommittee, began hearings on H.R. 2783, "The Federal Aid Planning Act of 1943," introduced by Mr. Lynch and originally reported in the July OCTAGON.

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Lanham, Chairman, began hearings on postwar construction, not on any specific Bill but in the hope of developing testimony from many interested sources which would serve as a guide for proper legislation on this subject. Transcripts of these hearings can be obtained by application to The Secretary of the committee involved.

The Washington Representative has written to Mr. Lynch on the subject of The Institute's interest,

after discussion with The Board, and it is expected that this letter will be included in the record. It is anticipated that we will appear before the Committee on Ways and Means early in January when these intermittent hearings are resumed. The officers of chapters and state associations are being informed on these subjects.

The Navy Needs Officers

Notice was given in the November OCTAGON of the Office of Naval Officer Procurement's request for attention to their Special Procurement Bulletins. The bulletin dated December 1, 1943, *omits* the classification S.P. 136-43, I.B.M. Supervision, and *adds* the classifications S.P. 127-43 Materials Handling, S.P. 129-43 Scrap Reclamation and S.P. 130-43 Ammunition Handling.

The Producers' Council's Platform for Postwar Construction

FOREWORD: In hearty cooperation with our affiliate and in amplification of the effort of the Washington Representative to put into the hands of architects the postwar programs of other organizations of the construction industry closely allied to A.I.A., we are glad to publish herein, in full, the platform of The Producers' Council, adopted at its semi-annual meeting in New York on November 11, 1943.

The Institute's postwar program "We Will Build Again" appeared in the April and May, 1943, numbers of THE OCTAGON.

The program of the American Society of Civil Engineers, "Postwar Construction," appeared in the November, 1943, number of THE OCTAGON.

Explanatory Statement: Manufacturers of building materials and equipment, and associations of such manufacturers, comprising the membership of The Producers' Council, Inc., recognize an individual and joint obligation to make all possible advance preparations to promote the national welfare in the postwar era.

They believe that it is the responsibility of all business and industry to plan now for sustained optimum employment in peacetime pursuits. They recognize that this goal can be achieved only by creation and maintenance of high levels of production, coupled with equivalent consumption of goods and services of all kinds.

As the nation's second largest industry, construction has a major share of responsibility for providing employment in the postwar era, especially during the transition period when plants are converting from war production to peacetime output. Construction also is a principal means of investment with which to revive and sustain the entire national economy during the postwar era.

Construction is the market for the building products manufactured by members of The Council; hence The Council's postwar studies have been pointed to the varied operations of the construction industry as a whole. All elements of this industry—architects and engineers, builders and contractors, manufacturers and producers, dealers and supply houses, financial institutions, labor groups and others—agree that the industry has a responsibility to prepare for immediate and expanding employment when wartime restrictions are lifted.

Each branch of the industry has pertinent problems to solve. The individual efforts of separate branches of the industry will readily achieve the over-all goal if there also is preparation on a broad, cooperative level, both in the national sphere and in local communities. To facilitate joint effort by the entire construction industry in support of the common goal, The Producers' Council in its postwar platform, makes recommendations and proposals bearing on mutual objectives. It hopes other branches of the industry will set forth their proposals.

Such problems as termination of war contracts, adequate provision of reserves, disposal of war plants, incentives for venture capital, and other problems common to all lines of manufacture have not been included in The Coun-

cil's postwar program but are left to the province of the over-all business and industry organizations.

The proposals in the platform are based on the premise that the public interest is best served under the free enterprise system and that the construction industry should be ready on its own initiative to fulfill the public's requirements for construction. Government should facilitate private construction but should not compete with it. The Council's postwar platform is therefore primarily concerned with ways and means by which private construction enterprise can be mobilized.

There are other important problems not covered in this platform which are under study by The Producers' Council.

THE Producers' Council believes that, if the construction industry is to discharge its full responsibility to the national welfare, immediate action should be taken:

... To create maximum construction employment in the transition economy when general industry is retooling and reconverting to peacetime production, and

... To sustain a high level of useful construction activity in the years which follow, thereby maintaining high national income and employment, and

... To achieve proper integration of land, environment, design, materials, construction, financing, and utilities to the end that the public will receive good design, materials of the proper quality, sound construction, low maintenance and operating costs, safe, convenient financing, and sales and service responsibility.

In order to achieve these objectives, the following proposals are advocated and are recommended to all branches of the construction industry for consideration:

To Facilitate Reconversion to Peacetime Economy

1. *Advance Planning of Private Construction*

The owners and prospective owners of commercial, industrial, residential, farm, and other types of private real estate should start immediately to prepare plans, select sites, arrange financing, make commitments for construction, and take such other steps as will make possible the prompt initiation of field construction. The Federal tax structure should allow expenditures for design to be classified as current expenses by business concerns.

2. *Work Pile Plan*

Every community should organize a work pile plan and make an inventory of all possible repair, remodeling, and new construction for initiation in the immediate postwar period. Listings of such jobs should be classified to indicate the most feasible order in which to undertake them

so as to give the greatest employment and to conform with the supply of available material.

3. *Preparation by Industry*

Each element in the construction industry should prepare immediately a detailed program for rapid conversion or expansion of facilities for high levels of production, distribution, and sales in the postwar period.

4. *Resumption of Civilian Construction*

As fast as the war requirements for critical materials and manpower decrease, restrictions on the manufacture and use of building products should be removed and inventories replenished. Civilian construction should be resumed as soon as possible before the end of the war to provide momentum for expanded operations in the immediate postwar period.

5. *Advance Planning of Public Improvements*

Each level of government should expedite advance preparation of construction drawings and specifications for useful public improvements. Where local political subdivisions require financial assistance for such planning, state or local funds should be provided. The acquisition of land for public-improvement sites and rights-of-way should be facilitated by changes in legislation and practice relating to administration, powers of eminent domain, and the condemnation process.

6. *Disposal of Government Surpluses*

Government surpluses of building materials and equipment which are not utilized for rehabilitation abroad, including both new building products and those salvaged from demolished temporary war construction and war housing, should be disposed of through established trade channels for orderly absorption into postwar construction.

To Expedite Technical Advancement

7. *Building Product Development*

Research in building products, design, methods of construction, pre-assembly of related parts, and techniques of distribution, should be encouraged. Each line of manufacturing should develop and maintain adequate research facilities within its own field. In addition, there should be effective coordination of such activities between the several lines of manufacture to bring about the greatest total advancement in each type of building structure.

8. *Dimensional Coordination*

The design of postwar construction on the modular or dimensional coordination basis should be encouraged. Each line of manufacturing should develop standard coordinated sizes of its building products suitable for adoption as American Standards under the provisions of Project A-62 of the American Standards Association.

9. *Revision of Building Codes*

Proven and tested technological developments, including those growing out of war construction practices, should be permitted in construction. Therefore, where building codes do not permit such use, they should be amended immediately. Furthermore, appropriate boards or building officials should be empowered to allow and should accept such new construction techniques and products as meet approved standards and requirements. In addition, building codes should be revised by the incorporation of standard code provisions, prepared through accepted industry processes, thereby bringing building codes to a desirable degree of regional uniformity.

To Encourage Expansion of Construction Activity

10. *Reduction of Costs*

All elements of the industry, including design, manufacture, distribution, installation, finance, and labor, should intensify efforts to eliminate uneconomic practices, to assure efficient and economical procedures in each stage of the flow of their products and services, and to reduce costs of construction to the consumer. All means to effectuate cost reduction should be explored such as new methods and materials, design, construction and distribution techniques, standardization of materials and sizes, pre-assembly of related parts, and annual wages for building craftsmen.

11. *Merchandising*

Aggressive merchandising of construction services should be undertaken during and after the war to induce the public to acquire and improve homes and other types of urban and rural buildings and to give such objectives a preferred position in family budgets and in business planning. The public should be accommodated by simple, easy, and convenient facilities for fulfilling its construction requirements. At the point of sale, the purchaser should be afforded a wide variety of products and services, complete and reliable information, suitable terms of payment, and service responsibility both before and after purchase.

12. *Responsibility for Authentic Information*

Educational activities should be undertaken by all branches of the construction industry to promote home ownership and an increased appreciation by the general public of the importance of high standards of home living, working conditions, and recreation. Proven technical developments should be brought promptly to the attention of the industry and the public but premature pronouncements, either by those in the industry or by others, should be carefully avoided. Each element in the construction industry should assume the responsibility for providing accurate and authentic information both to enable the public to utilize construction services more advantageously and to counteract the effects of prophesies of fantastic new developments and other forms of mis-information.

13. *Training of Employees*

Each element in the construction industry should sponsor and participate in a comprehensive training and educational program in managerial, technical, merchandising, and construction practices, for existing personnel, returning servicemen and war workers, and new personnel in the industry. Such activities should be coordinated and conducted in collaboration with governmental, educational, professional, industrial, and labor organizations.

To Provide Adequate Financing Facilities

14. *Financing of Private Residential Construction*

Private new construction and maintenance and improvement of residential real estate, in both urban and rural communities, should be stimulated by the provision of financing facilities adequate for postwar needs. Encouragement should be given to the establishment of privately-owned mutual insuring facilities to guarantee investments in mortgages and in notes, both for the financing of new and existing construction and the financing of maintenance and repair. Such facilities should adopt procedures designed to enhance the probability of producing good environments, sound construction, and stable investments. Governmental instrumentalities which provide financial guarantees should be continued only until equivalent services are provided by private enterprise. Financial institutions should be permitted and encouraged to invest directly in the production of houses for sale and in rental projects. The insuring of the yield on investments in rental housing should be carefully considered.

15. *Financing of Industrial and Commercial Construction*

Private construction of commercial, industrial, and other types of structures should be encouraged by the provision of financing facilities adequate for postwar requirements. Measures should be taken to improve the methods for the selection of investments and the valuation of security to the end that ample financing will be readily procurable for the erection, expansion, and remodeling of plants, office buildings, stores, hotels, utilities, and other types of real property.

16. *Financing of Public Improvements*

Federal aid or grants to state and local governments for public works should be limited to essential projects which serve a federal purpose. Local public improvements should be financed by taxation and borrowing by the level of government which will own and operate the improvements. Government spending for non-essential public works, solely for the purpose of creating employment, should be discouraged.

17. *Public Financial Assistance in Housing*

The use of public funds for the erection of housing and the public ownership of housing projects should be discouraged. Assistance for the housing of the neediest

families should be provided and frankly earmarked as relief and welfare expenditures. A subsidized family housing rental plan should be provided for by appropriate legislation.

To Promote Protective Measures for the Public

18. *Testing of Materials*

The private and public facilities for testing the technical characteristics of building materials and equipment should be coordinated. To expedite the acceptance of proven technical developments, a system should be adopted for certifying tests. Standard testing procedure should be developed and recognized and data from tests conducted in accordance with such standard procedure by competent testing laboratories should be accepted by public authorities as factual without requiring duplicate tests to determine identical information.

19. *Protection of Environment*

Provisions should be made for improving the urban and suburban environment and giving greater stability to real

estate values. Such provisions should include the bringing of unincorporated border areas under zoning control, the establishment of an occupancy permit system in cities, the prompt demolition of temporary war structures, the revision of methods of local taxation, and the passing of state laws which permit the majority of the owners in a district to have the power of eminent domain and to organize redevelopment companies.

20. *Extension of Technical Services*

The use of architectural, engineering, and technical services should be expanded in all construction operations. The public should receive adequate technical service in the planning and building of all types of shelter and in planning of cities and regional areas.

21. *Contract Method of Public Construction*

To secure better performance in shorter time and at lower cost, public construction should be carried out through competitive contracts with private construction enterprise and not through hiring day labor or by resorting to work relief methods.

Unification Program Adopted

UNIFICATION has been a problem with which The Institute has struggled since 1934. As more and more young men became architects and entered architectural practice, the problem became more serious.

Most architects in the United States desired an organization on national lines, within which all architects of good character could obtain membership.

The Unification Committee of The Institute has struggled with this problem from year to year and, while progress has been made, it has been very, very slow. Differences of opinion had to be reconciled. Older practitioners who formerly desired a limited membership, gradually began to advise the broadening of the membership basis of The Institute. Men, not members of The Institute, began to inquire about membership therein and very many acquired membership.

Several states have been working out programs of unification within their borders, with notable results. It became necessary that The Institute establish, without delay, a formula for unification of the profession in the United States.

The Unification Committee, appointed by Presi-

dent Raymond J. Ashton in 1943, consists of the following:

Ralph W. Carnahan, Ohio
 Wiley G. Clarkson, Texas
 Branson V. Gamber, Michigan
 Charles C. Hartmann, North Carolina
 John Gaw Meem, New Mexico
 Roi L. Morin, Oregon
 C. Julian Oberwarth, Kentucky
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 Searle H. Von Storch, Pennsylvania
 Rudolph Weaver, Florida
 Ralph O. Yeager, Indiana
 Leigh Hunt, *Vice-Chairman*, Wisconsin
 M. W. Del Gaudio, *Chairman*, New York

The instructions of The President required that the problem be solved in 1943. The members of the committee have been working individually and collectively since their appointment. Each member outlined his own view of what unification should be and how it should be accomplished. These views were sent to each member of the committee who, finally, elected an executive committee from its membership, to work out the formula for unification.

This executive committee consisted of the following members:

Messrs. Hunt, Weaver, Carnahan, Gamber, Yaeger, Von Stroch, Smith and Del Gaudio.

They met on November 30, 1943, at Memphis, Tennessee, and after discussion, developed a program. This program was later submitted to The Board of Directors which met on December 1, 2, 3, 1943, and was unanimously approved.

The program (subject to editing, and modification by Counsel, after this first printing), with explanation of each paragraph, follows:

1—That the A.I.A. be retained as the national professional organization, with full duties and responsibilities as presently constituted;

Explanation: The organized architects of the various states have been demanding complete unification, either under the aegis of The American Institute of Architects, or through some national organization of architects in which membership would be universal. As The American Institute of Architects was fully established, most architects were anxious to have the A.I.A. as the national organization. There had been misunderstanding as to the requirements for membership in The Institute which was cleared up by declarations of the 1942-1943 conventions. The A.I.A. is now considered as the national organization of architects in the United States of America.

2—Provisions shall be made for the formation of forty-eight autonomous state chapters, associations or societies;

Explanation: Because of peculiar problems existing in each state, and because of the necessity for architects in each state working in close cooperation, the committee decided, at the request of various of the state representatives, that the architects in each state should be organized in state groups (chapters, societies, or associations), membership in which will be automatic for each A.I.A. member. State groups will have full autonomy in state matters, but The Institute is always prepared to advise and suggest. Single chapters, within states, will be recognized as state groups, and chapters covering more than one state, will set up chapters in each state. State groups from adjoining states may work together if they desire.

3—These state organizations may be subdivided into chapters, sections, societies or divisions, as each state organization may determine;

Explanation: State groups may divide themselves into as many sub-divisions as they choose (chapters, sections, societies, etc.); always, however, with the understanding that local groups will have local autonomy, and also that, the sub-division will be subject to approval by The Institute. Membership in the local chapters or sections or societies will be strictly A.I.A. corporate membership. (Associateships, etc., for chapters, sections or societies will be the affair of the local group and no change in this type of membership is proposed.)

4—Existing Chapters of the A.I.A., which retain their charters, shall be privileged to contact the national organization on matters of national interest;

Explanation: Existing chapters will function under existing charters, and new chapters (or sections or societies) will be chartered by the A.I.A. in Washington. New sub-divisions will be set up at the request of the state group. Each chapter or local group may communicate directly with the A.I.A. on national matters.

5—On matters of state interest, the sub-divisions or sections of the state organization shall function through such state organization;

Explanation: Units within states must co-operate with each other within the states, on state matters.

6—There shall be but one class of membership—that of corporate membership in the A.I.A.—within the state organizations.

Explanation: For complete and unquestioned unification, every architect who is a member of the local group, is a member of the state group and a member of the A.I.A. with full and equal rights, privileges and obligations.

7—It is recommended that A.I.A. invite all qualified architects in every state who are not now corporate members of the A.I.A. to apply for such corporate membership;

Explanation: To effectuate complete unification, the A.I.A. invites all qualified architects to corporate membership in The Institute.

8—As recommended in Section 2, a state organization of the A.I.A. shall be formed when 80 per cent of the qualified architects within the state become corporate members of the A.I.A., or within a period of not to exceed three years from the approval of these recommendations;

State associations, as presently constituted, shall continue to function until the above provisions shall be achieved.

Explanation: To allow for the transition from present to the new system, three years' time has been decided upon. However, as soon as 80 per cent of the organized architects in the state become members of the A.I.A., The Institute will set up the state groups, and the local groups will operate them. The setting up of the state groups by the A.I.A. will begin, in any case, on January 1, 1947. (State associations as now constituted, will be recognized by the A.I.A. until January 1, 1947.)

Committees from state associations are invited to work with the Unification Committee of The Institute, to work out solutions of local and state problems.

9—The A.I.A. shall continue and expand its efforts to attract all qualified architects to become members of the national organization;

Explanation: The A.I.A., under the American principle of democracy and equality, will continue to invite all qualified architects to corporate membership. Chapters and local groups are required to accept this provision, which is considered necessary for the benefit of the profession.

10—The matter of collection of dues by a single agency within each state is left to the state's determination;

Explanation: Dues may be collected in any manner decided upon by the state group (either by the local group or chapter, which will pay the state group and the national group, or by the members paying directly to each, or by the state group collecting dues, paying local group and the national A.I.A.) Any other method acceptable to state groups, will be considered.

11—An architect is considered to be qualified for corporate membership in the A.I.A. when (a) he is of good character; (b) when he is legally qualified;

and (c) who subscribes to accepted rules of professional conduct;

Explanation: To dispel any misunderstanding as to qualifications for membership, the 1942 and 1943 conventions of The Institute announced the interpretation of the By-laws in respect to requirements for membership. It was agreed by the committee that The Institute influences the education of architects in the various schools, and practically controls the type of architect being admitted to practice in the various states through the state registration boards. In states not having licensing laws, the admission committee of the A.I.A. will set up qualifications.

12—Each state chapter, association or society shall be entitled to at least one delegate, plus representation for the state on the basis of the present formula;

Explanation: Each state will have representation at national conventions by at least one delegate. Additional delegates will be granted to states, on the basis of the numerical strength of local chapters or societies or sections, either by the method now provided for in Chapter V, Article 2, Sec. 2(b), of the By-laws, or by some method which the Unification Committee will work out.

Note: The above solution is not perfect by any means, but is considered a step forward toward complete unification of the profession. All difficulties encountered and all differences of opinion will be submitted to the Unification Committee of The Institute for solution.

The foregoing program was adopted by the Executive Committee of the Unification Committee at Memphis, Tennessee, on November 30, 1943.

It was considered and acted upon by The Board as follows:

Resolutions of The Board

The following resolutions were adopted by the unanimous vote of The Board, fourteen members present and voting:

Resolved, That the report of the Sub-committee of the Committee on Unification, dated November 30, 1943, as submitted to this Board by the Chairman, Matthew W. Del Gaudio, be and hereby is approved and adopted; and that the recommendations contained therein be put into effect; and be it further

Resolved, That the report of the Sub-committee of the Committee on Unification, dated November 30, 1943, be referred to the Committee on By-laws for the prepara-

tion of any necessary changes in the By-laws of The Institute, and Rules of The Board, with the suggestion that the Committee on By-laws invite a representative of the Committee on Unification to meet with it if it finds such meeting to be necessary.

Under this program and the above resolutions of The Board of Directors approving and adopting it the final stage in the unification program is now at hand.

Within a period of three years—that is, by the end of 1946—unification will be an accomplished fact. The Institute will have become the all-inclusive, national society of the architectural profession, and the movement to bring about that ideal will have reached a successful conclusion.

The program as published herein has been referred to the Committee on By-laws and to Counsel—for such advice as may be necessary to expedite its execution.

The Board will report fully in this matter to the annual meeting of The Institute to be held in Indianapolis on May 3, 4, and 5, 1944.

Meanwhile, the interest, support, and action of every chapter, corporate member, and state association member are earnestly sought and fully depended upon.

M. W. DEL GAUDIO,

Chairman, Committee on Unification, A.I.A.

The Private Architect Versus the Civil Service

BY CHARLES C. PLATT, CHAIRMAN,
COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION OF THE NEW YORK CHAPTER, A.I.A.

THE endeavor, here in the New York sector, of Civil Service groups to eliminate the private architect and engineer from the planning of public works goes on apace. We meet it each year in Albany in the shape of legislative bills in the State Legislature, and each year these bills are defeated.

We meet it too here in New York City. This hostile activity has recently quickened its pace and increased its volume due primarily to the large-scale appropriation the City has made for architectural and engineering services in order to have plans for postwar construction prepared and ready to meet the employment emergency. This total appropriation for professional services aggregates more than twenty-two million dollars and the postwar construction program exceeds seven hundred million dollars. This has created a contest between the professions and the Civil Service as to what share each should receive of the planning work; and the Civil Service interests have attacked the award of any of this work to the private practitioner in three different ways—two by litigation and one by attempted legislation.

First Attack—by Suit

The first attack came early in the Spring in the shape of a suit instituted in the name of one Hardecker, a Civil Service employee, and others, includ-

ing the Federation of Associations of Employees of the Board of Education vs. the Board of Education. This involved school buildings only; and the professions intervened in the capacity of "amicus curiae", or as a "friend of the court" as it is also called, in order to add their weight to the defense the City was setting up. The suit was instituted under the State Education Law, a State Law, which reads in effect that the bureaus of the City Board of Education shall design all school buildings in New York City excepting, as the law reads, in "special cases" in which upon the approval of the City Board of Estimate the work "may be otherwise performed". The case hung on the interpretation of "special cases" and Justice Klienfeld of the Supreme Court, in his opinion upon the question, stated:

"It would seem that a 'Post-War Works Program' is a special case in that it is something out of the ordinary, uncommon and extraordinary. It has for its aim an easy transition from a war to a peace economy immediately following the cessation of hostilities, and particularly the prompt employment of soldiers as they return from the far-flung and widespread battlefronts. Under such circumstances the Court may not give the words 'special case' a narrow construction which in effect might tend to defeat such laudable purposes."

This decision was appealed to the higher courts and the lower court was sustained unanimously and without further opinion.

Since the lower court in its decision accentuated the war emergency as a primary basis of its findings, no broad definition was laid down as to just what "special cases" would mean in the light of normal times. In that respect further litigation may develop should the Board of Education favor the profession with future assignments after the present emergency is over.

Second Attack—by Suit

The second suit was instituted by the Civil Service Technical Guild vs. the Mayor and other City officials and was based on the broad grounds of the alleged rights of Civil Service employees under the Constitution of the State and under the civil Practice Act to preferential employment on public work as long as the Civil Service lists have not been exhausted. Then and only then, it was contended, could the City employ the private practitioner.

This attack went further than the first case in that it embraced all Departments of the City, and sought furthermore to invalidate contracts already awarded to the private offices, and to forbid any payments under those contracts.

This case was won by the City and the professions in the court of first resort and Justice Pecora, in his opinion, quoted from the State Constitution as follows,—“Appointments . . . in the civil service of the State, and . . . cities . . . shall be made according to merit and fitness to be ascertained, so far as practicable, by examinations, which, so far as practical, shall be competitive, . . .”, and he then proceeded to state,—“The reasons for the action taken by the Board of Estimate, advanced in the answering affidavits, are pertinent only to the question of whether there has been any arbitrary or capricious exercise of a power. The contracts attacked were evidently entered into to meet technical problems for which private firms were especially equipped to master, to accelerate the completing of plans, and to assist in preserving intact many private engineering and architectural organizations that would otherwise be dispersed to the great detriment of the city. It is clear from the undisputed facts that the power of the Board of Estimate was wisely exercised, and were this court permitted to review such discretion it

would confirm the action taken. There is presented, however, the legal issue of constitutional infraction.

“In approaching the problem certain unmistakable signs along the road point to the correct solution. Since the organization of the City of New York in 1897, it has been a practice, when deemed advisable, to award contracts for private architectural and engineering services. The difficult architectural and engineering problems involved in the construction of public improvements demand the highest degree of specialized professional skill for their solution. The city for years has searched among those with experience and talent to meet the requirements of design and construction called for by the nature of the particular improvements under consideration. This long standing practice constitutes a practical construction of the constitutional provision dealing with civil service. Whenever the power to award such contracts has been challenged, courts have approved the practice.”

The court furthermore stated that, “the award of contracts for architectural and engineering work does not constitute a method for making ‘appointments’ in the ‘civil service’ of the City. The provisions of the contracts awarded do not create any employer-employee relationship but a contractual one between an independent contractor and the City. The contracts call for specific studies, plans and specifications. The City does not control the office organizations of such firms, has nothing to do with the persons they employ, does not prescribe hours of employment, and is not their sole client.”

The court concludes its opinion with the statement that, “nothing contained in the Constitution of the State of New York or in the provisions of the Civil Service Law, prohibits the City of New York from awarding contracts for architectural and engineering services to private concerns in connection with the Post-War Planning Program. This court further holds that the action of the city attacked herein is in line with sound public policy and represents a wise exercise of discretion.”

Running through this opinion, as in the school case opinion, there is also reference to the war emergency and the decision itself expressly sustains these awards “in connection with the postwar planning program”. The text of the opinion, however, is based upon more general grounds and would seem to sustain such employment in normal times to a

greater extent than does the opinion in the school case. In any event, appeals are to be expected in both litigations and the professions will continue to be represented in defense of their interests.

The New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects initiated the defense procedure by calling together a meeting of all architects and engineers with City contracts and obtaining their authorization to proceed and their pledges for the necessary financial support. All items of litigation including the selection of attorneys and the raising of funds, have been handled through the Legislative Committee of the Chapter. The law firm of Eidlitz, French and Sullivan, Esqs., was selected to represent the professions due to their experience in such litigations and their success in conducting a suit of a similar nature for the Chapter a few years ago.

The expense of these litigations has been considerable and this has been borne partly by the Chapter which underwrote the fees up to a stipulated amount, contribution being made on a pro rata basis by those in receipt of City contracts, with an appreciable contribution from two of the engineering societies.

Third Attack—by Legislation

On a third front, and as an aftermath of the two adverse decisions in the courts, the avenue of legislation has been again opened up and a perennial bill to bar the professions from the City work was polished up and brought out for public hearing before the Committee on Civil Service Employees of the City Council. The wording of the bill is the most drastic yet composed as it definitely aims to nullify the favorable provisions of the City Charter and the favorable construction the courts have put upon it

which excepting for the limitation on school work above explained now permits the employment by the City of private architects and engineers in a "consulting capacity", and that has been construed to include full services if so engaged. The new bill attempts to nullify these advantages.

For this hearing the Civil Service turned out in force and the Chapter was represented by its president, Mr. Robert B. O'Connor, and the Joint Committee of The Architects Societies of the Metropolitan Area by the Chairman of its Legislative Committee, Mr. Sidney L. Strauss, now President of the New York Society of Architects. They both spoke in opposition as did a representative of the engineers, as well as representatives of the City Administration, including Park Commissioner Moses.

The result was the bill was sent back to the Committee for probably an indefinite stay, though the professions must be constantly alert for new attacks at any time. It is certain that the Administration as well as public-minded citizens are opposed to any attempt to tie the hands of the City and deprive it of the same freedom of contract that is enjoyed by any successful organization, be it governmental or private in character, that carries the responsibility of serving its constituents to the best of its ability and with the best talent available.

Driven by these ceaseless attacks on the contract rights of the professions, the Chapter has under consideration, as a counter move to these oppressive measures, a legislative proposal of its own that aims to establish once and for all what is the true scope and limit of a governmental architectural bureau that would be fair to the Civil Service, to the professions, and to the public at large, as well as compatible with the exigencies and responsibilities of the City government.

The American Society of Architectural Historians—Correction

IN THE November number of THE OCTAGON, page 13, appeared a statement concerning the purposes and work of The American Society of Architectural Historians. It recorded Turpin C. Bannister as President of the Society.

Mr. Bannister is now Editor of the Society's "Quarterly Journal", and Rexford Newcomb is President. We make this correction at Mr. Ban-

nister's request, and take the opportunity to give the complete roster of officers as follows:

President: Rexford Newcomb, University of Illinois, Urbana.

Vice-President: John P. Collidge, U. S. Navy.

Secretary-Treasurer: Carroll L. V. Meeks, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

The College of Architecture Post-War

BY GILMORE D. CLARKE, DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

THAT the impact of this long period of conflict will result in manifold changes in certain areas of the Nation's postwar activity, due largely to stimulated technological developments, there is little doubt. These changes will be reflected in the practice of architecture, and hence, the professional schools must prepare to review their programs of instruction in order to make whatever adjustments in their curricula that seem necessary.

Experience indicates that the successful architect must encompass a broader field than the mastery of those skills which make him technically competent; he must have at his command a broad cultural training, at once a mark of distinction. Whether or not the graduates in architecture at Cornell are familiar with the latest developments in plastics, the last work in extruded metals, or the best method of designing prefabricated houses, matters little. The background gained through a sound training in the fundamentals afforded by a broad education is most likely to produce, later on in life, the impetus for sustained creative work in architecture.

Therefore, in training the architect, I believe that we should pay even greater attention than heretofore to cultural subjects. Students should be encouraged to delve deep into the great storehouse of knowledge of the philosophy, the literature, and the art of past ages. Inasmuch as the greatest architects of this and of past generations in this country were thoroughly schooled in classic disciplines, it would seem wise to adhere to the principle that, while studies related to the science and the art of building are vital, those subjects which aid the student to acquire a broad fund of knowledge in the area of humanities are of equal importance. It is for this reason that at Cornell we shall adhere to the principle that ten 16-week terms of college work constitute the minimum period for training. It may be decided, however, that these ten terms be given within a period of four years, including two summers to be devoted almost exclusively to architectural design, rather than within a period of five years, as has obtained until recently. Since last July first, and for the duration of the war, the curriculum has been shortened from ten to eight terms, with three 16-week terms each year.

While the most important activity of this College is the training of architects, there are several other areas of study open to students.

The profession of landscape architecture has been broadened in scope during the past two decades, due largely to the increase in the number of important public works projects. As a result, the landscape architect must be equipped to serve as a designer of parks, parkways, and throughways, and as site planner on housing, manufacturing, and other projects, in addition to the more normal fields of practice. This increased responsibility means, we believe, that he should be trained first in one of the two basic but closely related professions of architecture or civil engineering.

This College, long a leading school in training landscape architects, has adopted a program of instruction based upon the principle that, (a) students of landscape architecture shall be graduates of schools of architecture or civil engineering and that, (b) it is desirable that the curricula in these schools shall be so arranged that courses of study in landscape architecture may be filtered throughout the basic field of study of either architecture or engineering. It is now possible for students, wishing to study landscape architecture at Cornell, to combine this study with architecture in a manner so that they may receive the degree of Bachelor of Architecture after 10 terms in the College (8 terms at present), and the degree of Master of Landscape Architecture after two additional terms in the Graduate School.

The department of Regional and City Planning, established in 1934, offers a variety of courses of study. Instruction in this area aims to emphasize the necessity for and the importance of the rehabilitation of our municipalities and the areas about them, and to develop in students a sound knowledge of the principles of planning, that in due course they may bring an influence to bear in favor of wholesome, convenient, and beautiful surroundings in lieu of the disorder that characterizes the large majority of our communities today. We do not recognize city and regional planning as a separate profession, but rather as a field of activity in which the members of many professions participate, including those of architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, law, and

medicine. The members of the staff in city and regional planning advocate a direct approach to this subject to the end that students may be impressed with the importance of establishing in this field of endeavor a vigorous and an active policy based upon a sound economy.

The graduate School offers the degree of Master in Regional Planning to those graduates of Cornell and of other universities and colleges who have majored in any one of the many fields of endeavor directly related to the planning of cities and the regions about them.

The professions of architecture, landscape architecture, and civil engineering are the basic fields of

endeavor normally engaged in the physical planning of areas of land for human use. The members of these professions are the physical planners and designers of our cities and of the regions around and between them. Representatives of these professional groups are thus qualified to make specific contributions in the broad field of physical planning; in collaboration, they are best equipped to lead in this vital postwar endeavor. The coordination of study in these three areas with related study in the technical field of regional and city planning—as well as in other closely related areas such as government, geography, sociology, and economics—makes Cornell a leader in the study of city and regional planning problems.

Scholarships and School Medals Omitted

The Edward Langley Scholarships—The School Medals—The Henry Adams Scholarship—
The Milton B. Medary Scholarship

AT ITS recent meeting The Board of Directors received the report of The Committee on Awards and Scholarships, Loring H. Provine, chairman; Gerrit J. de Gelleke and John Noble Richards, members. That report contained the following comments and recommendations:

The Committee has the following awards under its jurisdiction, with confirmation of Committee recommendations in some cases by The Board:

1. The Henry Adams Scholarship
2. The School Medals of The Institute
3. The Delano and Aldrich Scholarship
4. The Milton B. Medary Scholarship
5. The Edward Langley Scholarships.

While the purpose of the awards is to stimulate and inspire the study of architecture or the related arts, and under favorable conditions the accomplishment of this purpose is highly desirable, yet under the present conditions the fact must be recognized that recipients of these awards will be unable to plan, travel and study to the best advantage.

The following statements are submitted for the consideration of The Board:

Certain awards are for the younger men, many of whom are in the draft, or would be able to enjoy the benefits intended only until called to service. It is true there might be an occasional applicant in a deferred classification due to physical limitations, but this might also cause a limitation in his being able to enjoy the award to the fullest extent.

For those now in offices or schools, there is a restlessness which is due to the world conditions, and such men are unable to live up to their potentialities.

Older men, active in the profession, usually have responsibilities due to war conditions which will make it impossible for them to accept, or would delay their acceptance if appointed.

Foreign travel is impossible, and travel in this country is limited. Railroad trains are crowded, busses are no better, and travel by private automobile is out of the question. The itineraries of recipients would be dictated by the availability of transportation, rather than planning a well organized expenditure of time and funds.

Accessibility of documents is lessened, due to storage on account of the war.

Places of interest are either closed or admission can be obtained only with difficulty.

The atmosphere under which the recipients would be living would not be conducive to constructive thought and investigation.

1. *The Henry Adams Scholarship*

Since the purposes of this award cannot be carried on for reasons indicated above, and for other reasons indicated under The School Medals:

This Committee therefore recommends that no awards be made in 1944 and that the income be accumulated for a future award.

2. *The School Medals of The Institute*

(and awards of copies of Mont Saint Michel and Chartres, under The Henry Adams Fund).

All schools of architecture are cooperating with the war

effort. Some schools are on the quarter basis, some are on a three-semester basis, others are on the Army or Navy calendar, all are offering accelerated programs, and the students are few in number and very uncertain as to their ability to remain in school. Those who are completing the requirements for the degree are doing so at different times of the year, instead of in June, as is customary under normal conditions. Classes are small and the usual leadership characteristics are lacking because the students must get through their academic work in the least time. Under these conditions, the purposes of awarding the Institute School Medal are not present. The Committee recommends that no School Medals (or copies of Mont Saint Michel and Chartres) be awarded for 1944.

3. *The Delano and Aldrich Scholarship*

Since this award is intended to be made to "a foreign architect, sculptor, or painter, under the auspices of The Institute . . . for travel in the United States", a letter has been sent to Leopold Arnaud, Chairman, Division of Pan-American Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations of The Institute, asking for a recommendation regarding this award. The Committee on Awards and Scholarships recommends that final disposition of this scholarship be referred to The Executive Committee of The Institute, with power after considering a recommendation from the Committee on Awards and Scholarships to be submitted later.

4. *The Milton B. Medary Scholarship*

Since this award is to be made to a student doing post-graduate study in architecture, and since there are few, if any, such students in the country, and present conditions

are not conducive to such study, the Committee recommends that no award of this Scholarship be made in 1944 and that the income be accumulated for future awards.

5. *The Edward Langley Scholarships*

• • •

The Committee feels that it will become increasingly difficult to find suitable candidates, and if found, it will be difficult for the recipients to carry out the terms of the contract, due to present conditions. It is therefore recommended that no awards be made in 1944 and that the income be accumulated for future awards.

Board Action

All of these recommendations were unanimously adopted by The Board.

This means that in 1944 no awards will be made of The Edward Langley Scholarships, The School Medals, The Henry Adams Scholarship, or The Milton B. Medary Scholarship.

The awarding of The Delano and Aldrich Scholarship remains open for future determination.

The architectural schools, members, chapters, and others concerned are asked to take notice of this announcement.

The Board hopes that all who are interested in these awards will concur in the wisdom of the decisions.

ALEXANDER C. ROBINSON, III,
Secretary.

Some Basic Redevelopment Problems

First Published Report of the Committee on Civic Design and Redevelopment, New York Chapter, A.I.A.

THIS report, identified by the above title, is now available as a planographed document.

It is the result of careful study by the Committee assisted by a number of the most competent local experts and authorities on City Planning.

The first report was undertaken because of the recent discussion in the press and amongst numerous groups interested in the city's welfare at the time the plans for Stuyvesant Town were submitted by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to the Planning Commission and other city authorities.

These plans together with those now being formulated for a number of other large housing developments forced attention to a number of basic factors and conditions demanding clarification and solution

before such specific plans could be completed with any assurance of contributing to the permanent betterment of the redevelopment of the city as a whole.

This first report only points out the most important of these questions. Subsequent reports will deal with possible answers.

In the meantime the committee hopes by this issue to stimulate public discussion and understanding of the situation that confronts us.

CAMERON CLARK	ROBERT C. WEINBERG
CHARLES DOWNING LAY	GROSVENOR ATTERBURY,
JACOB MOSCOWITZ	<i>Chairman</i>
PERRY COKE SMITH	ARTHUR C. HOLDEN,
	<i>Secretary</i>

The Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Institute

First Official Notice to Members

THE Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting of The Institute will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 3, 4, and 5, 1944. Indianapolis was selected as the city for this important war-time gathering of the profession—through the acceptance of the cordial and long standing invitation of the Indiana Chapter.

The Board of Directors at its recent meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, gave consideration to the development of a program which will be in keeping with the practical needs of the architectural profession.

This is the first official notice of the 1944 annual meeting, sent now in order that the dates may be reserved on the calendars of the chapters, state associations and corporate members; and to suggest that

it is not too soon for every chapter and state association member to plan to be represented by delegates at Indianapolis.

Subsequent notices will appear in *The Bulletin*, the first number of which will be issued early in 1944, and will give information concerning hotel headquarters; nominations of officers and directors; election of member delegates; election of state delegates; the program, and many other relevant matters.

Make plans now to assure the representation of your chapter or state association at Indianapolis on *May 3, 4, and 5, 1944.*

ALEXANDER C. ROBINSON, III,

Secretary.

Parliament Building Relic—A Gift

THE Board of Directors, at its recent meeting, received as a gift to The Institute a stone which was part of the structure of the Houses of Parliament, London, England, damaged by enemy air raids on the 10th day of May, 1941.

The stone was personally presented to The Institute at The Octagon by Hon. Alfred C. Bossom, F.R.I.B.A., Member of Parliament, and head of the British Building Mission to North America. It

was accompanied by photographs and an illustrated brochure entitled "The Houses of Parliament."

The fragment, which is of good size, is marked with a metal plate bearing a seal and the legend "This stone came from the Houses of Parliament." It has been placed in the drawing room at The Octagon.

The Board has expressed its appreciation to Mr. Bossom by means of an appropriate letter.

Newly Elected Corporate Members

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 14, 1943

Chapter	Name
ALABAMA CHAPTER	William Edwards Campbell, Jr. Wilmot C. Douglas, Paul Meredith Speake James Streeter Wiatt
BALTIMORE CHAPTER	Frederick Thomas
BOSTON	Edward Sears Read
BROOKLYN	James F. Bly, Milton B. Weissman
BUFFALO	Earl Martin
CLEVELAND	Marvin R. Hahn
CONNECTICUT	Henry Elmer Fairchild Joseph Edward Kane
DETROIT	D. Carlton Bell, John Orlando Blair James Dale Darling, Dewey Isaac Halpin Thomas W. Hornbrook, Elisabeth A. Martini Kenneth A. Michel, Lowell Mason Price Earle William Shaffer, Lloyd Henry Wright

Chapter	Name
KENTUCKY	Stanley Fleischaker, *Elliott Lea Frederick Rickards Louis, George Edward Marmor, Jr. Thomas Joseph Nolan, Jr.
MISSISSIPPI	*John T. Collins
NEW ORLEANS	Rudolph B. Roessle, Samuel Wilson, Jr.
NEW YORK	Ernest Mauritz Anderson Livingstone H. Elder, Hippolyte Kamenka Clarence Bushnell Litchfield, Paul Cornelius Reilly
OKLAHOMA	Norman Phillip Berlowitz Bruce Wilson Berry, John Bozalis
PITTSBURGH	*William Herbert Kirchenbower
SOUTH CAROLINA	Howell Reid Hearn, Jr.
SOUTH TEXAS	Louis Peter Josseland
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	Douglas Honnold

* Readmission.

The Department of Technical Services—Notes

BY THEODORE IRVING COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Institute Representatives for Collaboration with the Department of Technical Services

As announced in the June, 1942, issue of THE OCTAGON, the appointment of Institute Representatives in the several Chapters for collaboration with The Department of Technical Services provided contacts which made it possible to obtain readily a cross-section of professional opinion concerning matters of interest to the profession and to the producers of materials and equipment employed in construction, as well as nation-wide contacts of value in promoting assistance and cooperation in advancing the interests of the profession and the construction industry as a whole.

In the selection of these Institute Representatives the Presidents of Chapters recommended, for appointment by The President of The Institute, Institute members particularly interested in the technical and practical phases of architectural practice.

This method of selection provided a representative and well-qualified group of experienced architects, the usefulness and value of whose cooperation has been demonstrated by the response received when The Department of Technical Services has called upon one or more of these Collaborating Representatives for assistance.

The cooperation of these Institute Representatives is not only available for service in connection with matters of general interest to the architect and the producer of building products, but they stand ready to assist The Department of Technical Services in the consideration of specific problems related to construction submitted to The Department by individual architects.

The availability of this considerable number of experienced architects for the consideration of problems arising in the selection and use of materials and methods of construction, represents a service of exceptional practical value, especially to younger and less-experienced practitioners.

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National Fire Codes for Flammable Liquids, Gases, Chemicals and Explosives

Rapid development in the manufacture and expanding use of flammable liquids, gases, chemicals and explosives, has greatly increased the hazards to life and property resulting from the absence of adequate safety precautions which should apply where these hazards are likely to exist.

An important function of the National Fire Protection Association is the developing and making available of information on the safeguarding of life and property against loss by fire, and this has resulted in the preparation of over a hundred comprehensive standards on various phases of fire prevention and fire protection.

These codes, while in the form of suggested ordinances, standards, or recommended good practice requirements, are very generally recognized and used as the authoritative guide to good practice and for insurance purposes. They include many tables and drawings and are of practical and informative value in the planning and equipment of buildings in which the materials to which they refer are to be handled, stored, or used.

"NATIONAL FIRE CODES FOR FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS, GASES, CHEMICALS AND EXPLOSIVES," is a book of 502 pages, bound in cloth, and copies may be obtained from the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Massachusetts, at a cost of \$3.00 per copy, postpaid.

Approved American Standard for Structural Steel

To the growing list of approved American Standards, directly related to construction and building code requirements, the American Standards Association has added Structural Steel (Riveted, Bolted, or Welded Construction) (ASA A57.1-1943).

The Standard is divided into 26 sections covering such subjects as allowable stresses, effective span

lengths, connections, rivet and bolt spacing, camber, workmanship, erection, etc., and copies may be obtained from the American Standards Association, 29 West 39th Street, New York 18, N. Y., at a cost of 40c each.

The Producers' Council, Inc.

The following have recently been elected to membership in The Council:

Airtemp Division, Chrysler Corporation, 1119 Leo Street, Dayton 1, Ohio, with P. B. Zimmerman, Vice President and General Sales Manager, as Official Representative, and R. C. Cameron, Director of Postwar Planning, as his alternate.

The Institute of Boiler and Radiator Manufacturers, 60 East 42nd Street, New York City, with R. E. Ferry, General Manager, as Official Representative.

National Concrete Masonry Association, 33 West Grand Avenue, Chicago 10, Illinois, with E. W. Dienhart, Executive Secretary, as Official Representative.

Recent Appointments

President Ashton has made the following appointments:

Leonard Asheim, of the Connecticut Chapter, as Institute representative on the U. S. National Bureau of Standards' Standing Committee on Oil-Burning Floor Furnaces, CS113-44.

Walter B. Rueve, of the Kentucky Chapter, as Institute representative on the U. S. National Bureau of Standards' Standing Committee for Solid-Fuel-Burning Furnaces. TS-3536a.

Arthur R. Koch, of the Brooklyn Chapter, as Institute representative on the U. S. National Bureau of Standards' Standing Committee for Earthenware Plumbing Fixtures, Proposed Commercial Standard. TS-3545.

List of ASTM Standards

A new list of Standards and Tentative Standards, including ASTM Emergency Standards and Emergency Alternate Provisions, has been issued by the American Society for Testing Materials.

Copies may be obtained upon request to the ASTM, 260 South Broad Street, Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania.

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THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

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Escape From Inhibitions

AS ONE young and on-the-way-to-becoming-distinguished architect said, "The trouble with THE OCTAGON is that it has inhibitions."

Of course it is too late to escape such an indictment, but it makes too great the temptation to use the last pages of this last number to indicate what could have been—with the following items, the last two of which came to light at the end of a dinner meeting which the hospitable Tennessee Chapter recently gave to The Board of Directors in Memphis.

The 57 Lamps of Architecture

BY JOHN L. SKINNER, A.I.A.

When I decided to build me a house
I felt just a little afraid
That plan and design
Weren't quite in my line,
So I sought architectural aid.
And I said, "Give me, pray,
Something quite recherché,
For I am tired of hanging my hat
In an early Victorian,
pre-Montessorian,
old two-by-fourian flat."
The Architect puffed on his period pipe
As he sat in his Renaissance chair;
And he gave me a smile
In the pure Gothic Style.
Though he spoke with a Renaissance air,
Said he, "If your taste
Isn't wholly debased,
The best you are certain to find
Is the early Colonial,
nearly Baronial,
George Washingtonian kind."

I thanked him politely and paid him his fee;
But friends and acquaintances cried,
"That stuff you should shun.
It hasn't been done
Since Benjamin Harrison died!"
And they sent me direct
To a new Architect,
Who argued with logic compelling
For a Gropius-Raus
Mit'em, let's go Bauhaus
Wit'em, Hud-nuts to you and them dwelling.

My downfall had started. I groped in a maze
of traces, transitions, and trends
As I labored anew
Over prints that were blue
With the aid of my numerous friends.
But I don't knit my brow
Over building plans now,
For all my money is spent;
And my home's an Arcadian,
Second Crusadian,
G. I. first aidian tent.

By Courtesy of Architect and Engineer

Twelve Bottles

OR "SNATCHING VICTORY FROM DEFEAT"

I HAD twelve bottles of whiskey in my cellar and my wife told me to empty the contents of each and every one down the sink—or else.

I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I then withdrew the cork from the second bottle and emptied the good old Bourbon down the sink except one glass which I drank. I extracted the cork from the third bottle and did likewise with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I pulled the cork from the fourth glass and poured the sink down the bottle, which I drank.

I pulled the bottle from the cork of the next and drank

one sink out of it and poured the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the next glass and poured the cork down the bottle. I pulled the next cork out of my throat and poured the sink down the bottle and drank the glass. Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink and drank the pour.

When I had everything emptied, I steadied the house with one hand and counted the bottles and corks and glass with the other, which were twenty-nine. To be sure, I counted them again when they came by and I had seventy-four and as the house came by, I counted them again and finally I had all the houses and bottles and corks and glasses counted except one house and bottle, which I drank.

ESCAPE FROM INHIBITIONS—*Continued*

The Sixty-four Dollar Question

ONE of the Northern members, when he reflected that THE OCTAGON had been discontinued, was reminded of a story:

The occasion was a baptizing in the presence of a colored congregation with the customary stage setting and serious religious feeling.

The convert was a colored boy not previously known for ethical ways and now about to enter a new Christian life.

The preacher, standing in waist-deep water, immersed the boy below the surface and then brought him back. As he did so he said "Do you believe?"

The boy said "I believe."

On the second immersion the convert was held under the water for a longer time and when he was

brought back the preacher said "Do you believe?"

The convert said, somewhat breathless, "I believe."

On the third immersion the preacher in his zeal held the boy beneath the water until the bubbles began to come to the top. Then he brought him back to the air and said to the boy, for the benefit of the congregation, "Do you believe?"

The boy, as he gasped for air, said "Yes, Lord, I believe."

At this point Elder Jones on the bank said, "And What do you believe?"

The convert perhaps worn beyond endurance by "questionnaires" replied in a loud voice, "I believe this Old Bastard is trying to drown me!"

