

Kulturkampf By Harry T. Frost

In a hundred years of optimism, 73,000,000 people have been crowded into the cities of the United States. Up from less than 1,000,000 townspeople a century ago, this growth has been ten times as fast as the folks have taken to the soil. And cities, especially the big ones, now find that they can't make a go of it when the cash subsides. But just as they are "drawing blue-prints" to bring them back, along comes a man with a plan which he calls organic-decentralization. And he has written a book about it—*THE CITY*. Organic-decentralization is revealed to mean the building of little cities or communities on the outskirts of big cities, and beyond their corporate limits out in the country; each of these communities to be surrounded by a wide band of park-land, and to be supported by near-by factories. A large segment of the close-in dwellers of all of the big industries will be moved out to occupy these new layouts. Then the old blighted areas, now partly vacated, are to be refashioned to make them also into rings of livable park-surrounded communities close to the center of the city. The legal machinery to make this possible completes the picture. Thus large cities would be divided up into a lot of small cities—surrounding a central business district.

Eliel Saarinen, the author, is an architect who was runner-up in the competition for the Chicago Tribune building which was won by Raymond Hood. He designed the station at Helsinki in his native Finland, and outgrew the superb Scandinavian work of the early twenties—to win a recent competition for a Smithsonian Institution building in the current fashion of the Germans. Encouraged, the author modestly implies that the kind of buildings he would build will ward off the recurrence of slums, thus: "The latter part of the 19th Century was the slum-breeding period par excellence. It was so because this particular time brought to the market all those incredible architectural fallacies which now cause the growth of countless slums."

Nevertheless, he mingles his organic-decentralization with the glamour of the days When Knighthood Was in Flower. The feudal towns of medieval Europe are his passion. And a brief chapter about them is delightful reading.

The "decline of the city," he reveals, began with the passing of that age, having been brought about at the beginning of the Renaissance by "architectural form-express" which had developed into "superficial stylistic decoration." (You must get used to style-order, form-conception, form-shaping, form-unity, form-world, homo-units . . .) He complains that the "egotistic independence and corporate insincerity" of architects are making towns unhealthy. In the light of his drawings for the Smithsonian building (designed for the Mall in Washington) hear also this plaint: "In general, people . . . look at buildings, as such, with little or no consideration as to whether or not these buildings are adequately interrelated to the surroundings as a whole. That town which has many beautiful buildings, they regard as a marvel of beauty." But it is only a heterogeneous medley of disrelated buildings."

A mock-up of the Smithsonian building on the intended site no doubt would be a useful illustration of this point.

As the Plan is laboriously unfolded, we find that the story of medieval walled cities has produced an interesting historic background from which the wrong conclusions have been drawn. In the medieval cities, as in the backward countries of the present

day, transportation for the masses simply did not exist. This left the people with nowhere to go. Their town was their all, and they seldom strayed beyond its gates. In this atmosphere, keen civic interest thrived, and cities grew strong.

Nelson P. Lewis said of the writers on city planning that "Many . . . are enthusiastic over the picturesque attractiveness of the mediaeval Gothic towns of Germany . . . charming street pictures . . . due . . . to a rational use of sites for the buildings first required—castle, church, watch-tower, etc. Town halls . . . were not required . . . The people did not make their own laws . . . overlords attended to these details for them . . . these old cities . . . grew out of social conditions which are fortunately unknown today . . ." But then this was written back in 1916.

The revival of letters and art, beginning in Italy in the 14th Century and marking the transition from medieval to modern history, may have weakened olden civic pride. But this, and all else the author brushes off, and sticks to his startling conclusion that civic decline is due to "creative strength (of the architect) becoming weak" and his "appreciative attitude indolent." Nevertheless (leaping hurriedly to the machine age), he insists that the architects, and of course they heartily agree with him, will have to be the men to do the job of town-designing. For without their guidance, the results will be sterile. But they may not share his fears that architects are too capricious and will need some schooling in discipline. When each architect is willing to harmonize his work with that of next door, to develop coherence and, by repeating this process, to breathe form-unity into the architecture of the street, then he will be in full command of the city-planning situation. Selah!

How he is going to unify the architecture of streets and blocks, neighborhoods and cities in the ordinary course of his architectural practice, isn't made clear. But a key to the operation, not mentioned in the book, can be found in the municipal codes of Essen, Duesseldorf, Frankfurt-on-the-Main, and other cities of Germany with which the author is no doubt familiar.

It works like this: It is a requirement that houses be built, say, twenty feet or more apart in a given district. But the police will permit the erection of double houses or groups of houses, provided a satisfactory architectural pattern is followed. So everyone goes the limit—to cover more of his land; to get greater income. Many Prussian cities have bureaux of building advice. They indicate improvements in design without interfering with the business of the architect. Compulsion is used in varying degrees. By administrative methods, the Reich goes far to compel builders to respect and produce a harmonious street picture. The authorities in each case dictate what shall be built, and often the exact architecture. Saarinen proposes some sort of control to produce similar coherence in our cities. Regimentation! Perhaps not, although he is quick to emphasize that without strong control over building design to produce form-unity, slums will recur.

"Like a mediaeval town!" The pattern of medieval cities and their coherent architecture has fostered a belief that the same coherence in the communities of our large modern cities, once they have been divided up into units of, say, 10,000 to 30,000 people, will put an end to their disintegration. The author is enthralled with the formation of the city in accord with architectural prin-

ciples of "organic order" and "organic-decentralization." He calls this the key-word, the irresistible open-sesame. Each community of the city, we are persuaded, "becomes a small town surrounded by nature—like a mediaeval town."

The isolated communities of organic-decentralization will be brought into being by stern legislation. The scheme includes transferring dislocated folks from the close-in areas to prepared outlying communities. The proposed legislation includes:

(1) Laws for obligatory planning, such as can make organic-decentralization possible. (2) Laws to bring all needed land (in town as well as in the countryside) under civic control. (3) Laws to prevent speculation in land. (4) Laws to legalize compulsory swapping of building sites in town for those newly platted on the outskirts. (5) Laws for compulsory shifting of habitat from one neighborhood to another. (6) Regulations for municipal control over all architecture in the city.

And so this great plan sneaks up on us through the medieval charm of central Europe, and finishes in the ominous shadow of the Superman.

Over a long period, say half a century, a pattern of organic-decentralization may be completed. It is not an over-night job by any means. The question is—Will the herculean effort to produce these isolated and architecturally coherent communities, each surrounded by a protective barrier in the nature of a park strip and in the manner dictated, keep cities from disintegrating? Who can say?

Within every proposed community presumably there will be shops, garages, laundries, workshops, warehouses for the convenience of the community, a certain amount of light industry (heavy industry being grouped on the outskirts of the city). There will be employers, office workers, mechanics, laborers . . . There will be the effects of racial and national prejudices, of social instincts, and, gradually and inexorably, of obsolescence in buildings. Buildings of concrete and glass, wall-board and bright-work, with 20-year bonded roofs, will not take on the rich patina of age and there will be no sagging hand-hewn beams and mellowed tile roofs. Cantilevered slabs won't grow old gracefully.

Our slums were made when immigrants flowed through Ellis Island at the rate of 5,000 a day, to be herded into Manhattan tenements, to be meted out to Chicago, delivered to construction jobs throughout the land. The place of one batch in the tenements was taken by another that closely followed. Finally this flood was checked, leaving in its wake reeking but thinned-out slums ripened by dozens of shifting tenants, ever on the move. Wages jumped from two dollars a day to five, to eight. Nobody would take such desolate shelter—that is, none but an unfortunate few that fell by the wayside. Then came World War I, and the Negro invasion of northern cities. These war workers spilled over into the preserves of the bourgeois. World War II coaxes still more Negroes to the cities, and Mexicans. And now a tide of refugees, harried by the Prussians, surges at the flood-gate.

The history of our slums and abandoned districts is brief and modern, and it can be analyzed. The slums of Europe and Asia are old and traditional. They are nothing like ours. We have miserably run-down property, entirely disorganized—city slums, but with physical and social characteristics unlike those of London, Naples, Shanghai, Bombay. Our worst hovels, perhaps, are in the mountains and the rural districts where sunlight and fresh air are abundant.

Nevertheless, there will be the "lower third" that may taint many of these little decentralized cities within the city. Oh, the social and economic aspects, you say, are details that can be worked out! Can they? And let us not mistake them for details. They are broad and very real problems. They have played their part in the disintegration of cities, and they must be reckoned with in its metamorphosis.

We are decentralizing and have been for some time. After a decade of air traffic and joy-riding in the sky, which is on the way, a further decrease in city density may take place, and the prospect for increased interest in home life are not promising. The pattern created by the automobile will be intensified. But there will be no return to made-over cities if they are made over to appeal to middle-class people. There must be quiet and safety, greatly improved mass transportation, traffic limited to a network of freeways, consolidation of railway lines and terminals, riddance from excess sprawling railway yards, land condemnation to isolate factories and to clear the slums, open spaces in residential communities and streets planted with trees, houses and apartments so built that there will be ample light and air for every room, space for off-street parking in residential as well as business districts. But does it mean park-bound communities of fixed area and static population, delimited by open spaces ranging from a few hundred feet to a half mile wide, primarily for the purpose of stimulating neighborhood solidarity? Will park rings in the city make the yellow and brown welcome when they ooze over into the next compound? Will they increase wages, and lengthen the play-periods?

The author of *THE CITY* is pedantic. His comparisons and similes are tiresome—and scarcely relevant. His scheme is not new except as to the machinery for creating greenbelts—and that, perhaps, is too new.

Visitors of the intelligentsia seem to accept America in the manner that Dryden said of vice, but in reverse: They first embrace, then pity, then endure. He has left behind him pomp, crowding, penury and he bursts in upon riches, improvidence, waste. At first he is enchanted, then confused. And, finally, he sees the whole setup as a clinic. He becomes voluble, gets an angle, and writes a book. With disarming simplicity, he diagnoses the case and prescribes. We watch him insinuate his dogmas, to the exclusion of all else, upon gaping students, not with a "take it or leave it," but with: this is my children, is the real thing. Partake and be thankful. But he is realistic about his own country, which he knows intimately.

The architect of the laissez faire school is too cunning to be hypnotized into a state of unconcern by the chant that urban-design without the architect is futile and sterile. And he will back away from a Sir Raymond Unwin quip (quoted by the author) that the town-planner need know nothing about utilities except that water runs down hill. For the same kind of nonchalance about structures, the prima donna is now number two in a sister act. He isn't likely to ruin his billing again when he tries his hand at town planning.

What is an Economist?

Recently there appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* under "Voice of the People" a letter by G. L. I. that rings the bell. He says: "Economics is not an exact science."

"Economics deals with figures but is in no way to be confused with mathematics."

"Economics is a study of the production and distribution of wealth, and is susceptible to the widest possible range of theorizing, speculation, and false conclusions."

"An economist is one who has espoused the practice of 'economics' as a profession."

"Some economists are college graduates; others are primarily dependent on personal business experience for their theories and conclusions. Unless the former have supplemented their classroom learning with mature experience in business, their opinions are generally of questionable value."

"No economist agrees completely with other economists over the broad range of 'economics.'"

"There are probably no two economists in the world who would be in complete agreement as to the solutions for twenty specific current basic economic problems."

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Editor Monthly Bulletin

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Discussion of Illinois' Professional Engineering Act which goes into effect on August 1 of this year has continued in meetings of architects' organizations in recent months. The editorial, appearing in the April-May issue of the I.S.A. Bulletin, roused a number of engineers to write letters of protest to officers of the society against the attitude expressed in that editorial. Considerable correspondence between the Society, the two A.I.A. Chapters in Illinois, and the Southern Illinois Association of Architects followed, culminating in an agreement that the Societies would secure, jointly, legal advice on the constitutionality of the Act as the next move.

There has been delay in selecting the attorney. Much correspondence has flown back and forth between the architectural bodies and, hence, the Bulletin, at this time, has nothing to add to the discussion beyond what may be found in the reports of the Chicago Chapter and the Illinois Society meetings. It is hoped that before the October 1 issue of the Bulletin is made up something of value to the profession will have resulted in the action of the joint architects' organizations.

At the June 29 meeting of the Chicago Planning Advisory Board, the old and ever new subject of city blight was animatedly discussed with particular reference to specific locations and phases. On this board of about 178 Chicago citizens sit five architects and a larger number of real estate men.

The redevelopment law granting the right to re-subdivide within $\frac{1}{4}$ square mile creating new streets, parks, playgrounds under private control, has not yet been taken advantage of in Chicago. Leo T. Heid of Woodlawn urged that insurance companies and like financial institutions be prevailed upon to participate in the redevelopment of blighted areas. Tax exempt Federal Housing projects were charged with retarding private construction of large scale housing facilities.

One's mind naturally goes to the \$50,000,000 proposed Stuyvesant Town housing development in New York City which the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company proposes to undertake on Manhattan Island. Stuyvesant Town comprises a sixty-seven acre tract

bounded by 14th Street, First Avenue, 20th Street, East River Drive, and Avenue C. Buildings will take up about 25 per cent of the ground area, are thirteen stories high with ten-story wings on the boundary streets, and allow 416 dwellers to the net acre. There is no section in New York that has a density of 416 persons and a group of New York architects and planners sent the commission a protesting resolution. The question is still in abeyance. Henry S. Churchill, New York architect, protests that the Stuyvesant Town plan is medieval and undemocratic and financially unsound.

Acting Staff Director H. Evert Kincaid says that for the next twenty-five years, after the close of the war, a total of 242,000 dwelling units in Chicago's blighted areas will have to be torn down and some 108,000 in better districts must be thinned out. To absorb all lands suitable for residence in the city is the aim to prevent rush from city to suburb. Mr. Kincaid figures on a Chicago population by 1965 of 3,600,000. Its present-day population is 3,452,285.

Everybody writes on postwar housing. Now comes Richard E. Saunders in *Nation's Business* for July telling us how this building urge will come by waves.

First wave will come in the higher price field. People will be content with a 1939 model plus refinements the building industry has contrived in the intervening years. Volume will be something like 1,000,000 houses.

Second wave, for demobilized servicemen, will consist almost entirely of newly formed families. The second wave will not reach its crest until several years after the war. Statisticians are stumped as to number of houses required. He thinks the demand will fall short of 1,000,000 units. "The packaged house—the new product prefabricators are getting ready to put on the market—may be particularly attractive to him. He won't be in a hurry."

Third wave, home of the future. The building industry must develop a product that it can merchandise in competition with new automobiles. This means shooting toward lower costs as well as innovations in design.

Architects who have read *Pioneer to the Past* (Scribner's Sons 1943), the biography of Dr. James H. Breasted, founder and to his death in 1935 director of the Oriental Institute of Chicago, must have gained a lively interest, if they did not possess it before, in the temple, tomb, and palace excavations of the Oriental Institute under Dr. Breasted's direction. His archaeologists worked in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Iran. Inscriptions were the Doctor's special passion, but architecture, sculpture and painting received unbounded attention. The Institute's exhibits and publications furnish ample testimony of this.

The Institute's photographs and drawings reproduced in such of today's business publications as *Clay Pipe News*, where burnt clay bitumen-covered water closet seats and clay pipe drains found at Ur in Chaldea, built 4,000 or more years ago, deserve the attention of modernists; but the drawing of the exterior of the palace at Ur should cause the modern architectural designer to realize that forms he thinks he has invented were used thousands of years ago.

Illinois Society Annual Meeting

On June 22 there came to the Chicago Bar Association quarters forty-seven people to attend the 46th annual dinner and meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects. They were members of the Society except for two of three guests of honor (Prof. Edward W. Rannells of the Univ. of Kentucky, Louis La Beaume of St. Louis, and Charles Collins of the Chicago Tribune) and the members' ladies to the number of perhaps ten who came and lent more distinction and much beauty to the occasion. The dinner was good as dinners go in these rationed days and it was followed by President Ryan's opening address of welcome. Then Secretary Fuhrer read the minutes of the May meeting which were approved as read. There was no correspondence of importance to lay before the meeting so the President called for annual reports of standing committees. These were read by Secretary Fuhrer. Financial Secretary Palmer, who is chairman of the Membership committee, read his own report from which it was learned that sixteen members are in the military services of our country. Mr. Palmer, as Financial Secretary, made a separate report on fiscal conditions of the Society.

The status of the Illinois Professional Engineering Act, which becomes law on August 1, 1943, was reviewed in a short discussion from which was gleaned that the two A.I.A. Chapters (Chicago and Central Illinois), the Illinois Society, and the Society of Southern Architects, who had agreed to share jointly the cost of counsel to obtain legal opinion on the constitutionality of the Act, had not yet acted. The Attorney General was quoted on this point unofficially.

President Ryan, who attended the A.I.A. annual meeting in Cincinnati in May as delegate of the I.S.A., now gave a verbal report of the Cincinnati meeting. Following this he called upon Bertram A. Weber, representing the tellers, to report on the election of officers for the coming year. The names of the newly elected men are printed in this issue at the head of page three.

Early Kentucky Architecture

With the routine business disposed of President Ryan introduced Professor Edward Warder Rannells, dean of the Art Department, University of Kentucky, who was programmed to give an illustrated talk on central Kentucky architecture of an earlier day. Professor Rannells emphasized the work of Gideon Shryock and John McMurtry.

The pictured address began with Liberty Hall in Frankfort 1796 and ended with Lyndhurst, Lexington, by John McMurtry 1861-67. The span, therefore, begins with Georgian and Colonial, extends into Republican with the influence of Thomas Jefferson followed by the Greek Revival, and the last examples may be classed with the Victorian Gothic and ending with Tuscan.

Liberty Hall is reminiscent of houses in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. Then appeared Grate House at Lexington 1806, Cleveland House, Versailles 1820, with its Palladian window suggesting Homewood, Muldron House at Tyrone 1817, Rosehill at Lexington 1818, and Stone House at Shakertown 1820 with its massive stone work. A drawing giving a bird's-eye view of Transylvania College buildings, Lexington, 1816-1829, showed the seminary building, erected in 1792, academic building 1816, including certain homes, the entire complex known as Grate Park.

Morrison College, Transylvania University 1830, is Gideon Shryock's architecture. Shryock had studied with architect Strickland in Philadelphia and had already completed the Old Capitol at Frankfort. Shryock won the state capitol job in competition when twenty-five years of age. The building was under construction 1827-29. Its design was inspired by the Temple of Athena Polias in Priene. Local stone was used for the columns.

1834-36, time of Greek Revival, Whitehall, at Lexington, was built with Gideon Shryock architect. In 1835 Shryock's design for the state capitol of Arkansas at Little Rock was accepted. In the same year comes Shryock's Jefferson County Courthouse at Louisville and in 1837 he does the Southern National Bank at Louisville.

Unsympathetic to the "medievalism" of the forties and fifties and refusing to compromise his principles, Shryock turned to religion and died embittered. John McMurtry studied under Shryock. McMurtry early set up an independent practice but soon combined his practice with the business of builder and contractor. He collaborated with Thomas Lewinski, gentleman architect, coming from England in the 1830's. Loudoun in Castlewood Park, Lexington, 1850, Ingleside in Lexington 1852, Joseph Bryan House 1847, Charles Innes House 1854, Botherum in Lexington 1851, Maxwell Springs Amphitheater, Lexington, late 1850's, are all the work of John McMurtry both as architect and builder. The speaker held that Shryock was a more sensitive architect than McMurtry though McMurtry far exceeded Shryock as a business man. The last build-

ing discussed was Lyndhurst, a country estate at Lexington, by John McMurtry 1861-67.

Shryock, the classicist, was born 1802 and died 1880. McMurtry the eclectic, was born 1812, died 1890. One could expect their careers to parallel closely. Shryock's important work was compressed within ten years ending in 1837 when he was 35. McMurtry is remembered for work he did covering thirty years. Shryock was a pious man, McMurtry, the canny Scot, had his eye to the main chance. His work may not be pure but it is prolific and not unimportant.

Our Mutual Problems and Satisfactions

The other special speaker on the program was Louis La Beaume of St. Louis, a member of many years standing in the Illinois Society of Architects. Bulletin readers were held absorbed by his presentation of "The Decay of Architectural Morale" in the June-July '43 Bulletin, and while his paper "Our Mutual Problems and Satisfactions," read at this meeting, led him to the same conclusions, the examples and experiences cited, with brilliancy, pathos, and humor were new.

In touching on standardization and mass production in architecture, he reminded his hearers that beauty could not be eliminated as an essential in architectural production and that overemphasis on mass production, standardization, and demountability could become as disastrous qualities when applied to architecture as they would be to womankind. To quote from his address:

"A lot of people have been saying a lot of nasty things about architecture for a long time, and very few among us have had spunk enough to answer back. We have been called arrogant when as a matter of fact, we have shown ourselves pretty servile. We have been called opinionated whereas the record of our defense might indicate that we haven't had any opinions at all. We have been called impractical but have done very little to repudiate this monstrously libelous charge.

"Speaking personally, and entirely for myself, I am pretty well fed up with the apologetic attitude currently assumed by too many of my colleagues. And, again personally, I have a much higher respect for their abilities than they themselves seem to have.

"We know only too well that the charge of impracticability leveled against the architect is absurd and unjustified by the record. You know that instead of being a bunch of namby-pamby dilettants we have often been more absorbed in the practical, the technical, and the functional elements of architecture than in the equally important element of beauty. Yet, in spite of this dutiful and necessary attention to structure and mechanics of building, the architects of America have made no mean contribution to our architectural heritage.

"It is high time, more than high time, for architects to do a little boasting on their own account. If only to rebut and counteract the raucous boastings of the functionalists. Hearing them talk, the public might be misled, is, in fact, being misled, to believe that the architect has never approached his problem with any idea of the purpose or function which his building is being designed to serve. This is pure bunk and nonsense and we all know it. One of our immediate problems is to find ways and means to controvert this evil slander.

"Another matter which disturbs us at the moment is the shift away from the concept of the architect as the master builder, or, at least, the master coordinator, and his absorption into some bureaucratic entity, either political or industrial.

"There are many signs that the status of the architect as a professional man is being undermined, and that he may be doomed to become a mere cog in the industrial, or political, machine. You and I do not believe that such a consummation will be of benefit either to the architect or to society, and, least of all, to the development of a fine architecture."

He closed his address with the following verses by architect John L. Skinner, of Coral Gables, Florida, entitled:

The 57 Lamps of Architecture

When I decided to build me a house
I felt just a little afraid
That plan and design
Were not quite in my line
So I sought architectural aid.
And I said, "Give me, pray,
Something quite *récherché*
For I am tired of hanging my hat
In an early Victorian, pre-Montessorian
Old two-by-fourian flat."

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Chapter Chapter A. I. A. Annual Meeting

June 8 marked the last monthly meeting of the Chapter year as the annual meeting because one administration comes to an end and a new one is elected to office. Besides this, added importance was given to the meeting because of the formal presentation of the Chapter's collection of portraits of famous architects to the Chicago Historical Society. This collection had been in the process of building from 1913 to 1937.

The meeting was a progressive one beginning at 5:30 P.M. in the Harbor View restaurant atop Webster Hotel. This was a business meeting and an election of officers; then came an excellent dinner. After the dinner the meeting adjourned to the Chicago Historical Society's building at the southwest end of Lincoln Park where the portrait presentation ceremonies occurred.

With President Owings in the Chair at the Webster Hotel, Mr. Yost read the minutes of the May meeting and after their approval came the reports of the following committees: Postwar Planning, Program, Budget and Treasurer's report. On Robert McLaren's motion the reports were accepted and recorded.

An improvement in the Chapter's election proceedings was an innovation and a welcome one. All members had received in the mail, dated May 17, the names of candidates for office nominated by the committee appointed by President Owings. Another ticket, dated May 29, prepared by a nominating committee, chosen outside the administration, was also mailed to the membership. Forty-four members attended the meeting and there were proxies to the number eight-nine. It is encouraging to note the interest shown in the competition between the two tickets in contradistinction to the makeshift procedure during recent years where a nominating committee, representing the existing administration, formulated a slate published prior to the election and arranged to have some member get up at the meeting and propose that the election be made unanimous. The Chair usually had asked whether there were any nominations from the floor. There seldom were. Victor Matson, a Chapter member of many years standing and an F.A.I.A., criticized the old procedure and welcomed the new plan. He said: "Elections based on a single slate are a farce, and this system gives an excellent opportunity for clique control." He hoped that the new plan of election would prevail in the future, and since Vice President Paul Gerhardt, Jr., had so often, during the past Chapter year, filled the place of President with ability and dignity, he thought such service should be rewarded with at least a nomination for the Presidency.

A second point of surprise was the reluctance of the outgoing administration to read the report of the tellers beyond stating the names of successful candidates. Some good-natured squabbling followed. Finally, the details of the voting were announced, showing that the successful candidate for President had seventy-two votes, a plurality of twenty odd over the competitor. The thought occurs that a study of Robert's "Rules of Order" by the officiating chairman would redound to dispatch of business and clarity of proceedings.

The new officers are Alfred P. Shaw, President; Paul Gerhardt, Jr., First Vice President; George W. Carr, Second Vice President; William H. Furst, Secretary; Samuel A. Marx, Treasurer; Nathaniel A. Owings, Director.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2,342.64 on June 8 in the treasury. The Chapter has no Bulletin or similar publication to pay for; it has no office, hence no office rent to pay. Recently the Chapter received a request from Hobart B. Upjohn (who has accepted the labor of writing the history of the A.I.A.) for the Chapter's history. The officers wrote to Washington requesting its history. The Chapter was rewarded by a statement from the Executive Secretary that he was sending the history from 1900 to date. The early history beginning in 1869 would have to wait until the secretariat at Washington had ample time to dig it out. Is it not a humiliation that the Chapter must ask the national body about its own birth and growth? The Chapter, with ample hands at hand, could employ someone to dig into its records which, no doubt, are all at hand gathering dust. It would offer the younger element, now elected to Chapter offices, an opportunity to learn what their predecessors did in formulating building laws and build-

ing up a professional society that has, at times, been influential in the national A.I.A.

Guests of honor at the dinner were President Joseph M. Cudahy and Secretary L. Hubbard Shattuck of the Chicago Historical Society.

Proceedings in the Historical Society Museum were first in the gallery now showing pictures in color of the World's Columbian Exposition which made history just fifty years ago. In this room, on easels, stood most of the portraits presented to the Historical Society. The painting of William A. Holabird was missing. Missing, too, were the paintings of Thomas Jefferson, architect of the University of Virginia, and of Thomas U. Walter, architect of Girard College, Philadelphia, and architect for the wings of the Washington, D. C., Capitol as well as the dome now existing. In an adjoining gallery seats were placed for the assembly of architects and at the speakers' table sat President Cudahy of the Historical Society, Mr. Shaw, newly elected Chapter President, Mr. Gerhardt, newly elected Vice President. Mr. Shaw read his presentation address from a prepared paper closing with extemporaneous remarks. He quoted the inscription attributed to Abraham Lincoln now gracing a wall in the Museum of the City of New York which reads: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place may be proud of him."

President Cudahy accepted the portraits for the Society and Museum in a few graceful and fitting words. Then followed a conducted tour under the guidance of Secretary Shattuck through many galleries of the Museum. So ended the 74th annual meeting of the Chicago Chapter A.I.A. No regular meetings are held in July and August. The next regular meeting under the guidance of the new administration will be called for September 14, 1943.

Architectural Competition Legislative Palace, Quito, Ecuador

The Ministry of Public Works and Communications of Ecuador announces an architectural competition for the selection of a design for a new Legislative Palace to be erected in Quito, cost limit \$1,000,000 U.S. currency. The competition is in two parts: Part I closing October 1, 1943, requires drawings to be deposited with the Director General of Public Works in Quito. There is a five-man jury to pass on the work submitted, composed of the Public Works Director of Ecuador, the Engineer of the Quito Municipal Council, a representative of the Ecuador Society of Architects, and a member each from the Senate and Chamber of Deputies of Ecuador. The five men selected by this jury will be invited to participate in the second competition. Four months is allowed for the work of those in the second competition. This time the jury will consist of two architects from American republics other than Ecuador in addition to the five jurymen mentioned earlier.

Money prizes for all five are as follows: First prize, \$3,500 U.S.; Second prize, \$2,100 U.S.; Third prize, \$1,400 U.S.; Fourth prize, \$700 U.S.; Fifth prize, \$700 U.S.

The architect, whose design may be selected for execution in building materials, will be considered having a preferential right to undertake direction of the work. The fee will be fixed by agreement with the Government of Ecuador but shall not exceed 3 per cent of the total cost of the project.

Further and more complete details may be obtained from the Pan American Union in Washington, D. C.

At a recent meeting of the Chicago Plan Commission Alderman Lindell emphasized the seriousness of the problem of rejuvenating the value of property in Chicago, which, he said, has dropped from \$4,250,000,000 to \$1,735,000,000 as of 1942.

The President once asked for assistants with a passion for anonymity. The clear call today is for assistants with a passion for unanimity.

Glass wool will be much more widely used for insulation. It is constantly being made lighter and is now available in a form weighing only a half-pound per cubic foot. A four-inch layer of glass wool has the heat insulating value of a fourteen-foot concrete wall, it is claimed.

75th Annual Meeting of the A. I. A. At Cincinnati, Ohio

Architects arriving at the Netherlands Plaza, on the morning of May 26, found the facilities of the hotel completely overtaxed. Impatient guests, lack of rooms and service, bags piled high in the lobby all created a hubbub of excitement. Registration of the delegates and guests then proceeded in the Pavilion Caprice lounge, as bizarre a modern architectural treatment as ever confronted an annual A.I.A. meeting. The registration totaled 195 delegates, which augured well for the occasion, being considerably in excess of the number at the A.I.A. meeting held in Detroit last year. The representation of the Illinois Chapters and associations was high in number and energetic in action throughout the sessions.

Highlights at the opening session were the welcomes of Institute President Shreve, Standish Meecham, head of the Cincinnati Chapter, and James Garfield Stewart, gifted orator Mayor of Cincinnati. Mr. Meecham touched humorously on the historical background of the A.I.A., which, at the only previous Cincinnati meeting held in 1889, known as the "Consolidation Convention," joined the A.I.A. and Western Association of Architects into something of a shotgun marriage. The resulting "child" evidently needed the courage of age to come back to that scene 54 years later. At the original meeting a tallyho, with coachmen in splendid livery, brought thirty delegates and guests, while, peculiarly enough, it was again appropriate at this convention to bring out the tallyho so long forgotten.

President Shreve, in his annual message spoke on subjects that meant life or death to our profession. He stressed that government programs be limited to determination of policies and standards, beyond which point private initiative be allowed its proper development. Continuing efforts for unification, Washington representation, increasing of qualified membership, the future of Octagon House, and development of the late Albert Kahn's American Architectural Foundation were dwelt upon at some length in his message.

The day's later activities included a discussion on the general program of Army construction by Lt. Col. Leonard C. Urquhart, Civil Engineer. He predicted the profession's future hopefully but stressed the hyphenated architect-engineer as a means to an end. D. K. Este Fisher, Jr., the A.I.A. Washington representative, candidly gave his observations of official Washington's reaction to the architectural profession. Generally, architects were not wanted by the military forces since they were considered artistic but not practical designers of buildings. Proper publicity, in his opinion, was needed to change such a viewpoint.

In contrast to the somber and depressing note voiced by these speakers, came the most optimistic encouragement of years through the address of Brigadier General Henry C. Newton, fellow architect and member of the California Chapter A.I.A., who climaxed the entire convention's news. His was a fervent, virile and clear-cut message of confidence. The architect was needed, both in military as well as civilian life. Architectural vision, attained as a technique of our profession, has given the military architect the additional advantage of foresight that is lacking in most other trained professional men, good though they may be. It is something the Army has the greatest need for, and which the postwar world will most certainly have need for in preparation for that era.

To be in readiness for this anticipated work, he suggested certain qualifications must be met by our profession in the following lines of endeavor:

1. Education: The youth in our field must obtain better business training, stress public speaking for better presentation, and prepare for more of the minor responsibilities of an office upon graduation.

2. Executive Ability: This must become a requisite of the architect so that he be attuned to the patterns and methods of the business world. Also, the architect has been attempting to force art down the throats of 130,000,000 people who are not art loving. Outside of a handful of possible clients the public cannot judge the difference between a bureaucratic or contractor's design and that of an architect. It, therefore, behooves the architect to give proven ability in the efficient handling of a problem and the esthetic side will take care of itself.

3. Publicity: This is a necessity in today's pattern of life and without it our profession lacks progressive thinking. He believed the recent suggested plan of a real architectural magazine with advertising, guided, circulated, and owned by our profession to be sound. More professional men should be associated with the business and community associations in an active way. Not on art or building construction committees but in those activities where the business men of the community are met on their own ground.

4. Leadership: This endeavor should be stressed as most important. Our profession can coordinate postwar planning. Our profession has the ability; business men and politicians do not have

it. We lack one vital part of that ability—leadership. Generally architects have had too retiring a nature. This does not justify in the eyes of others. Leadership can be developed in our ranks through proper training; it ranks first in importance to regain our proper position in the postwar world.

With this parting advice ringing in the ears of his listeners and leaving an imprint on the entire proceedings of the remainder of the convention, the General was given a rising and prolonged note of acclaim.

Later at the President's reception, the delegates waxed eloquent over the day's proceedings. Included in the reception line were the President and Mrs. Shreve, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Ingham, Mr. and Mrs. Standish Meecham, Louis La Beaume, and Brig. Gen. Newton, all of whom stood before an enthusiastic parade of members and guests.

The annual conference of state associations completed the order of business that evening. Frazier Smith was appointed acting chairman in place of Capt. Matthew Del Guadia who now is in the U.S. Army. The Board of Directors' report on unification was then given. It suggested that the state associations continue their affiliations as at present; that the A.I.A. continue efforts to bring all qualified members of such associations into A.I.A. Chapters; and that in states having no A.I.A. Chapter, but where state associations exist, allow such associations to become the Chapters of that state. A resolution from the floor to the effect that state associations hold a national convention to decide definitely the advisability of becoming A.I.A. Chapters, created considerable thoughtless, voluble and unnecessary discussion. The resolution fortunately was voted down by the weary members. This session lasted to beyond 11 P.M. and proved a complete waste of time and energy.

Thursday Sessions

Thursday's sessions were devoted almost entirely to postwar planning, after the formalities of the report of the Committee on Credentials were completed. Vice President Walter R. MacCormack presided in the discussions held by representatives of government, labor, industrial, financial, and planning groups, all relating to the architect's activity in the postwar reconstruction era. During this session General Newton again gave additional observations on professional activities during that period as well as interesting sidelights on today's immense military developments.

At the luncheon meeting immediately following, President Shreve introduced Malcolm Dill, Regional Planning Commissioner, Irvin M. Krone, President of the Cincinnati Park Board, Alfredo Bettman of the Cincinnati Planning Commission, and Stanley M. Rowe of the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority. A brief discussion on urban rehabilitation was brought up in the course of this meeting by Vice President Walter R. MacCormack.

The afternoon continued with the postwar problems. Albert C. Schweiger of the National Resources Planning Board gave interesting observations regarding the urgency of plans for the postwar work. He criticized the lack of comprehensive planning by planning boards, and the need of such plans in obtaining legislative aid. He commented that planning could not be done by just talking about the subject, and that the architects could by proper research and training fit themselves for important work in this necessary field. Several members then took the floor. Arthur C. Holden spoke on the case study method as existed in mapping legislation in the State of New York. He emphasized the methods of land assembly, either by private or public ownership. Samuel E. Lundeen of California discussed "long range planning" and suggested that his terminology be used in preference to the term "postwar planning." Frazier Smith discussed postwar housing in the small house field.

A short respite was then given during which the Cincinnati Chapter and the Architectural Society of Ohio were hosts to the members and guests at an informal cocktail party immediately preceding the annual dinner in the evening.

Following the dinner President Shreve graciously conferred fellowships upon twelve distinguished architects. These men were from various parts of the country and included Leigh Hunt of our Illinois-Wisconsin district. Honorary memberships were given to Honore Ferrarri and to Richard F. Bach, Administrator of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. Honorary Corresponding Membership was presented to Carlos Contreras of Columbia University, a well-known author and specialist on civic planning. Charles T. Ingham, retiring secretary, was given a life membership to the Institute.

Since the listed principal speaker, Charles Elliott, Director of the National Resources Planning Board, was unable to attend, an interesting substitution was arranged. Then came a selection by the mixed chorus of the University of Cincinnati, rendering a stimulat-

ing composition of Negro spirituals, interspersed with melodies from Bach and Strauss that brought encore after encore.

Louis La Beaume acted as toastmaster during the evening in his usual masterly manner, commenting humorously yet disconcertingly on the events affecting our world. He thought the world was moving at a constantly increasing tempo so accelerated that we have become too stupid to know where the goal lies. Both the medical and architectural professions touched human needs closely but architecture went closer by adding to our spiritual values. However, in spite of these values, according to the modernists, the house now is called "a machine for living," but to what end? He wondered if our reason was tottering. Nevertheless, he felt reassured that most moderns were purely analytical experimenters and that after them would come real architecture.

His thoughts then swung over to the present assault on our professional attitude. The poor architect must wince under the criticism that he lacks business acumen and is abused and maligned because his is not some other profession. But, La Beaume prophesied he will play a great part in the world to come and need not be depressed in attempting to gain the attributes of other professions.

Mr. La Beaume then introduced Russell Wilson, former Mayor of Cincinnati, who spoke feelingly on this nation's need for the architect. He thought it incumbent on the architects of this country to preserve our sense of beauty, that there will still be need to gratify the eye, and through it our country will continue to build its fame. His parting words were that architecture would be our sanctuary and salvation.

Raymond T. Ashton, A.I.A.'s President to be, was here introduced. He predicted that architecture was on the threshold of its greatest opportunity. He felt that the architect should exert effort in serving his community through which he would likewise serve himself. Mr. Ashton was followed by Mr. Chandler of the Board of Directors, who conveyed the Institute's appreciation and paid tribute to the outgoing President and Secretary. Both Mr. Shreve and Mr. Ingham feelingly gave their response to this expression of appreciation for their services.

Friday Sessions

Friday morning a swift moving routine business session disposed of the various resolutions suggesting changes in architectural fees, revision of contract documents, unification of state associations. The Board's report was approved. The Treasurer's report, which showed, incidentally, a distinct increase in the Institute's funds, was complimented and approved. After the report of the tellers, all the new offices and regional directors were presented to the delegates.

The results of the election were as follows: President, Raymond J. Ashton of Salt Lake City, Utah; Vice President, Walter R. MacCormack of Boston, Mass. (re-elected); Secretary, Alexander C. Robinson of Cleveland, Ohio; Treasurer, James R. Edmunds, Jr., of Baltimore, Maryland. The Illinois-Wisconsin district elected Professor Loring H. Provine of the University of Illinois as its regional director. Other regional directors elected were Douglas F. Orr, New Haven, Connecticut (New England district) and Edgar I. Williams, New York (New York district). E. C. Kemper remains as Executive Secretary.

The session was closed ahead of schedule to allow for a trip through Cincinnati as guests of both the Cincinnati Chapter and the Ohio Society of Architects. The delegates all awaited the tallyho as promised by Mr. Meecham, but to our amazement forty gasoline driven carriages awaited. We were whisked off to tour the beautiful rolling park system. A stop was made at the new Cincinnati Park conservatory where displays of rare tropical and desert plants were viewed. Another stop on the heights overlooking and high above the municipal airport gave the visiting delegates a panorama long to be remembered. From there a trip through the slum sections culminated with a detailed view of the slum clearance projects laid out in a manner worth studying and suggesting, perhaps, the solution of our own slum problems. So ended the seventy-fifth annual meeting of the A.I.A.

In retrospect: The convention gave distinct signs of encouragement. It reflected the keen interest and active participation of the entire profession in the preliminary phases of urban rehabilitation and also indicated an understanding of the proper responsibility and leadership necessary in the building of the postwar era. Serious yet hopeful, this convention appeared as a tenacious group of architects who had visions that would in the not too distant future be fulfilled.

—Eugene Fuhrer, A.I.A.—*Delegate from the Illinois Society of Architects*

From President Shreve's Swan Song

"Membership measured by the number of corporate A.I.A. members has increased from 3,022 at the end of September, 1940, to 3,768 at the present time, and members affiliated with The Institute through the state associations bring our total strength to 6,143, a greater number than ever before in The Institute's history.

"The new Administration building has been made a source of income instead of an expense.

"In these two years every debt has been paid, including our obligation to restore the Emergency Loan Fund to its full reserve level, \$20,000; and now, free from debt, we face the future with more dollars of cash working capital in hand than two years ago we had in debt or deficit, or through all our history we have ever had at one time. These things have been made possible by your dues paid, including your voluntary payment of added dues; by subscription from the Chapters; and by special contributions from offices of Institute members, and in some cases offices of professional men not members of The Institute, including engineers, whose co-operation we greatly value."

With most figures in, the cost of Washington's grandiose Army office building, the Pentagon, was found to be double the original estimate. Its cost: \$63,454,583. The estimate: \$31,000,000. The reasons given: higher cost of critical materials, labor, and the speed pressure that accounted for its completion six months ahead of schedule.

Progress in Illumination

In an interesting discussion of electrical illumination in a recent number of the magazine *Light*, Ward Harrison, director, Nela Park Engineering Department of the General Electric Company, says, among many other things:

In 1913, five footcandles of general illumination was unusual and was looked upon as a goal. At that time a 100-watt vacuum tungsten lamp cost eighty cents and gave about 900 lumens. Today the 100-watt fluorescent lamp gives 4200 lumens or nearly five times as much. The cost of current averages less than half of what it did in 1913, so that one may easily secure ten times as much light for the same money.

To prognosticate the future thirty years hence, one might conclude that 500 footcandles of artificial illumination would be as common then as five was in 1913 or fifty in 1943. He ventures the conclusion that the cost of lighting in 1973 will be one-tenth of what it is now.

When you have something that is 80 per cent inefficient, as our best light source which today is the fluorescent lamp, there is still the chance to improve in the ratio of five to one. This presupposes that in the future a radically new light source will be discovered or invented.

Came the gas-filled lamp. The gas-filled lamp eventually became double the efficiency of the vacuum type. He looks for continued improvements in fluorescent lamps from the standpoint of the candlepower maintenance.

The two natural obstacles to adequate artificial illumination have always been glare and heat. The fluorescent lamp bids fair almost to eliminate the heat. In 1913 they very well knew that glare was a detriment and we talked about it then in those same generalities that litter up our lighting literature today.

Failure of the all-welded steel hull of the 16,500 ton tanker *Schenectady* was due to a combination of excessive welding stresses, non-uniformity of steel, and faulty methods of construction, according to the report of a special committee of investigation appointed by the American Bureau of Shipping. The tanker split in two January 16, 1943, at 11 P.M. while floating at dock in Portland, Oregon, after having successfully completed her sea trials.

The report emphasizes that careless welding procedures and a bad joint detail resulted in high residual stresses.

New Science Building Northern Illinois State Teachers College De Kalb, Illinois

The 24th Annual Commencement exercises, June 11th, at Northern Illinois Teachers College, one of the five State Normal Colleges, included the dedication of their new Science Building. These ceremonies followed a construction period of two years and one week after breaking ground, eighteen months of which followed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Normally, it would have been completed, ready for use in twelve months, but war conditions and priorities doubled the period, adding many obstacles, some of which were almost insurmountable.

Governor Dwight H. Green delivered the commencement address after the building was turned over to Frank G. Thompson, director of the Department of Registration and Education, by C. Herrick Hammond, supervising architect and accepted by the college president, Karl L. Adams.

The structure was designed to train teachers in science courses but its first use will be to prepare war industry personnel and to cooperate with the Army and Navy educational programs.

The Gothic exterior was designed to be in harmony with the other buildings of the campus. This style permitted a free use of the elements making it possible to place most of the units where the client wished them. Windows were grouped or bays added where the needs for better light arose. The final arrangement of each floor is substantially the same as submitted by the college authorities. This speaks well for the thoroughness of their study and the care and patience of the architects to make the program work.

The requirements included space for physics, chemistry, geology, biology, home economics, textile research and testing, nursery and child welfare. As the plans progressed, however, additional needs were established—laboratories for graduate physics and chemistry—a meteorological department, radio and electronics, an astronomical group and extra class rooms. Since available funds could not be increased, a space and cube conserving drive was then put into effect. The plan area and ceiling heights were reduced to the bare minimum and construction methods and materials were simplified. This study brought the desired results. A fifth floor and a tower were added. The enlarged envelope is now able to house the new departments. This extra space is unfinished but can be made usable by extending the stairs and mechanical services up through the tower in the future. The conduits are in place ready to receive the wiring for the meteorological instruments and the principal corner of the tower is designed to receive the astronomical dome. This added space and cube give a softening effect to the exterior and create a better silhouette.

The construction of the building is simple—concrete floors on load-bearing walls with a steel frame roof and tower. Floors are covered with asphalt tile. The interior walls and partitions are of hollow concrete blocks painted in soft tones of casein paint providing excellent acoustics, and insulation values. The ceilings are open joists unplastered. Service pipes for gas, water, variable voltages, distilled water, etc. are confined vertically to one pipe space with doors at each floor for easy access. They fan out under each floor, always in the open, run down the corridors, then branch out and finally turn up to the various tables and equipment. Door frames are metal. Wood was used only for the doors, lavatory closets and the 2-inch roof sheathing. There is no plastering except in the ceilings of the entrance lobby and the domestic science living room and the Keene's cement wainscots of the toilets. The plaster vaulted entrance lobby is faced with slabs and carvings of a new stone from Joliet developed by the State Division of Architecture and Engineering.

For additional information on materials, costs, plans and a photograph of the exterior, refer to the supplement accompanying this issue.

—Joseph F. Booton, Chief of Design
Division of Architecture and Engineering, State of Illinois

Balsa wood, also known as Corkwood, grows rapidly attaining a height of 65 feet in five years. The wood is pale pinkish-white in color, soft, light and porous and weighs but $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per cubic foot when oven dry. It is useful for corestock where light weight panels are desired.

Early preparation of preliminary plans for postwar construction is being urged on all municipalities within fifty miles of Chicago by the Chicago Regional Planning Association, according to Robert Kingery, general manager. Although plans have been developed already for improvements in the Chicago area estimated to cost \$290,000,000, Mr. Kingery reports that officials in several cities and villages and park districts in that area are waiting for assurance of a federal grant aid.

The Works Projects Administration turned back \$130,000,000 to the Treasury of the United States on June 30 and went out of existence. Only a small "liquidation staff" of the relief agency remained at the end, getting records and accounts into shape for a final report on its operations. The records will show, officials said, that WPA spent about \$10,500,000,000 and employed 8,500,000 persons since its inception in 1935.

The United States in its first three war years consumed 101,500,000,000 board feet of lumber, 38,000,000,000 in 1942 alone, according to a statement of the Department of Commerce. In the same year 8,000,000,000 went to the Army, which now estimates it will need 12,000,000,000 to 15,000,000,000 in 1943. Stocks and production are falling off badly; 1943 looks to everyone like a highly trying year.

A Washington Chapter of the American Society of Architectural Historians has recently been formed with the intention of bringing together architectural students throughout the region. A series of dinners with lectures will be held during the year.

All architects and architectural historians interested should communicate with Mr. Alan Burnham, 1117 East Capitol Street, Washington 3, D. C.

The U. S. Army has let a contract for a new type portable shelter completely transportable by air. Exterior surface is of impregnated cotton fabric on laminated wood frame. Cross section is a paraboloid arch $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, 16 feet wide. Erected in multiples of 8 feet, the only metal used is incidental hardware. Approach is through doors at ends. Blankets of glass fiber insulation in walls and floors are used.

(Continued from Page 4, Column 2)

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 Romanesque air.
Said he, "If your taste is not 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.

After Mr. Collins had expressed interest in the two themes treated by the special speakers, the President thanked the three speakers for their interesting contributions. Then Financial Secretary Palmer moved a vote of appreciation to the Bulletin editor which was carried.