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Volume 17

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, FEBRUARY 2, 1943

No. 5

Postwar Problems Discussed By Council Technical Chairman

In describing the general objectives of the postwar planning program for the construction industry, sponsored by The Producers' Council, and the detailed program for its technical committee, of which he is chairman, George J. Haas, Sales Manager of the Stran Steel Division, Great Lakes Steel Company, urged architects and engineers, material men and contractors in Cincinnati on January 19, to organize their own local committees for postwar planning and to join their efforts with local business and industry groups to insure full employment after the war.

A long-time member of the American Institute of Architects and a past president of the Michigan Society of Architects, Mr. Haas was the principal speaker at a joint meeting of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Institute and the southern branch of the Ohio Society of Architects, with the Cincinnati Chapter of The Producers' Council.

"The broad objective of The Council's postwar program," said Mr. Haas "is the development, in cooperation with other branches of the construction industry and major allied groups, of plans and policies to insure that construction will perform its proper function in support of a full postwar economy and contribute the largest possible share towards full employment and general economic and social stability.

"The Producers' Council, as a cross-sectional organization of manufacturers of all kinds of building materials and equipment, has assumed the responsibility in such postwar preparations for the manufacturing interests. It is proceeding with specific studies which will be of benefit to the other interests in the industry as well as to producers. For instance, The



Haas

Council expects to produce, in a few months, a forecast of the postwar construction market, and thereafter will make various proposals for maintaining a high volume of construction in the postwar. It will undertake to analyze governmental relations to construction in the past, and recommend what these relationships should be in the future. It will endeavor to evaluate technological developments incident to the war and with the help of the technical professions to estimate their effort upon future design and construction techniques."

A general postwar committee was organized by The Council about a year ago under general chairman Russell G. Creviston of Crane Co., former president of The Council. Its membership consists of representatives appointed by manufacturers of building materials and equipment, or associations of such manufacturers. But producers operating through The Council's program, have no thought of doing this whole construction industry planning job themselves, but rather of getting it started. They are freely inviting the other branches of the industry—architects, engineers, contractors, builders, dealers, financing interests, and others to appoint liaison representatives to the general postwar committee and to the several working committees. Further, The Council's postwar committee looks forward to the appropriate time when the various branches of the construction industry will sit down together and agree upon a postwar plan which all can support and help to establish as a part of the program for all business and industry.

Various studies are being made by working committees, of which five so far have been organized—technical (of which Mr. Haas is chairman); marketing; industry and consumers' relations; finance; and government relations to construction.

The technical committee has a broad program to assist

See HAAS—Page 4

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London Letter

Thanks very much for your very kind letter of November 6th, which reached me about the first of this month. It was very good of you to take so much interest in my being reinstated as a Member of the American Institute of Architects, and I can't tell you with what gratification I have received this news.

I am returning to you the two application forms filled in as far as I can do so from this side. If you do not mind, would you kindly get in touch with Kiehler so that Item No. 11 can be properly covered, and I feel that I will have to leave Item Nos. 15 to 19 to you.

I was terribly shocked to receive a cable from Louis Kahn saying that Albert had passed on. What a great man he was! I know of no one in the whole history of Architecture who's life and record could provide a greater inspiration than his. I am certainly proud to have worked for him, and to have been able to call him my friend. His son, Edgar, is now here in England as a Major in the Medical Corps. As you no doubt know, Dr. Kahn is a genius also in his own line, and a nicer, more modest man would be hard to find. I am hoping that he will be able to spend Christmas with Mrs. Crane and me in London. Kahn's loss to Detroit and to the profession will be great. I would appreciate it if you would send me some of the articles that must have been written paying tribute to him.

You suggested in your letter that when I feel inclined I write something for your Bulletin, which I will be glad to do. I am not very good at this sort of thing, but I will occasionally write you a "London Letter" telling you of my experiences, especially as they apply to our profession. As soon as the holiday rush is over I will sit me down and try and compose something of interest.

One sees Americans on every side here now, and jeeps go rushing through the streets of London in great predominance. Their good old Yankee twang or drawl is a welcome sound to my ears in most public places today, and Mrs. Crane and I both get great pleasure in having some of these boys, who are lonesome and homesick, to our house for a home-cooked American meal.

Life is not too bad here. Everything is quite gay. The theatres and restaurants are all going full blast and packed to the doors. There is very little of the Christmas spirit as we know it, because of the fact that there is nothing in the stores that one can buy except the bare necessities of life, and one must have coupons even for handkerchiefs. Because of the blackout one does not see gaily decorated Christmas trees or brilliantly lighted wreaths in the windows, so if you can imagine a Christmas in total darkness you can imagine what Christmas is like here.

Although this letter will probably reach you sometime after the holidays, I wish you and all of the members of the Michigan Society a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and hope that before the New Year is finished Victory will be ours.

C. Howard Crane,
54 Victoria St.,
London, S. W. 1.

Committee Reports

As the time for the Society's annual meeting draws near, reports of committee chairmen will soon be due. Why not make an exception by sending in your report without further requests. Will you please note that if you are Chairman of a Committee you are expected to submit a written report. These reports are published in advance of the annual meeting, which takes time, and your cooperation will be appreciated. Chairmen are as follows:

Kenneth C. Black, Legislation; Earl W. Pellerin, Education; Leo M. Bauer, Practice; Aloys Frank Herman, Civic Affairs; Branson V. Gamber, Public Works; Talmage C. Hughes, Public Information; Geo. F. Diehl, Relations with Building Industry; L. Robert Blakeslee, Membership; Emil Lorch, Michigan Architecture; Clair W. Ditchy, Small House; J. Robert F. Swanson, Allied Arts; Clair W. Ditchy, Editorial Policy of Weekly Bulletin; D. Allen Wright, Honorary Membership; John C. Thornton, Finance and Auditing; Geo. F. Diehl, APELSCOR.

FEBRUARY 2, 1943

High - Lights

from a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Society of Architects at Webster Hall Hotel, Detroit, January 21, 1943:

Present were: Palmer, Thornton, Caldwell, Spence, Kimball, Gay, Swanson and Pellerin.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the 1943 Annual Meeting of the M.S.A. would be held in Detroit for one day and one evening. The Board has requested President Palmer to appoint an annual meeting committee to set the date and start preparations.

A nominating committee for the coming annual election was appointed by the Board as follows: Lt. James A. Spence, chairman; Clair W. Ditchy, Arthur K. Hyde.

Mr. Swanson made an enthusiastic and comprehensive presentation of a plan for the establishing of a well-organized small house bureau by the Architects. Designs and plans would be procured from the architects through competitions sponsored by producers. The chief function of the idea would be to raise the standard of the small house "designs," to bring this field of work to the architects and at the same time give the younger men opportunities toward getting started. Mr. Swanson was encouraged to continue work on this plan.

Earl W. Pellerin, Secretary.

Are You In Good Standing?

The Michigan Society of Architects' year is drawing to a close. Soon it will be time for the Annual Meeting and publication in the Weekly Bulletin of the names and addresses of architects registered in Michigan. There is a distinct advantage in being listed there as a member of the Society in good standing. Moreover, the Society frequently receives inquiries as to whether or not one is a member. This happens when a Michigan architect fills out one of the applications that are the order of the day. Don't wait until you need the Society, but take care of that detail in advance. Send \$5 to L. E. Caldwell, Treasurer, 13606 Stoepel Avenue, Detroit.

Standings of Divisions (100% = registered architects in division area):

Ann Arbor Divisions.....	68%
Saginaw Valley Division.....	63%
Detroit Division	62%
Central Michigan Division.....	55%
Southwestern Division	49%
Out State Division.....	32%
West Michigan Division.....	30%
Upper Peninsula Division.....	25%

Lost — An Overcoat

Mr. Russell Lee of W. E. Kapp's office had the unfortunate experience of losing his overcoat at the meeting of architects and producers in Webster Hall, on the evening of January 21. This was the first time Russell had worn the coat and it is with the hope that some attendant might have taken it by mistake that this notice is issued. Any information concerning this loss will be greatly appreciated.

Reinforced Concrete Design

Mr. Harry Ellsberg, well known structural engineer will conduct a special course on this subject at the Lawrence Institute of Technology, meeting each Monday evening, starting February 8, 1943. For information call UN. 2-5566.

The Department of Registration and Education, State of Illinois has issued a Circular of Information which embodies both the Junior and Senior Syllabi together with supplementary information and content covering the change of requirements for admission to the Illinois State Architects' Examination beginning in the Spring, 1943.

Instead of the present three-day, 24-hour junior examination, there will be substituted a four-day, 36-hour examination which will meet the higher examination requirements adopted by most of the States, and will permit Illinois licensees to be registered by reciprocity in other States without further examination.

HAAS (Continued from Page 1)

development of improved building products and methods, encourages research, cooperate in the improvement of standards and codes for construction, help in the development of more efficient planning, all for the purpose of improving the operations of the construction industry, increasing its service to the public and hence enabling it more adequately to fulfill its postwar obligations. Attention at this time is being directed to the following specific topics:

New Technical Developments—The utilization in future design and specification practice of all improvements resulting from emergency construction techniques and standards that are meritorious; also from developments in prefabrication, demountable construction, etc.

Standardization of Building Codes—With consideration to the feasibility of a national code, or model code.

Consideration of Fundamental Technical Programs—Such as ASA A-62—co-ordinations of dimensions of building materials and equipment.

Expansion and Co-ordination of Research and Testing of Building Products.

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Comprehensive and Practical City and Regional Planning.

Mr. Haas explained that The Council committee did not propose to duplicate the work of the many organizations now dealing with city planning and urban problems. Rather The Council committee would expect to keep in touch with developments, its principal interest being to recommend, as a part of the postwar program, how the construction industry could be assured that planning of physical facilities would be comprehensive, continuous and sufficiently in advance so that essential public construction could be undertaken, if necessary, as a means of providing employment during the conversion period of industry at the end of the war.

He emphasized the great complexity of the city planning problem today with the various complications that war construction and war production have added to it. He indicated that Cincinnati's problems must be solved in Cincinnati—as every city's problems must be solved locally; nevertheless, much help would come to Cincinnati and other cities through the operations of various national organizations such as The Council. He mentioned the possibilities in the Conference Committee on Urban Problems organized recently by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce which had its initial meeting in December. Among its 75 members from organizations of all the various kinds are representatives of The Institute and Council. Mr. Haas referred also to the new Committee for Economic Development, the objectives of which are to assist industry and commerce to make their full contribution to maximum employment and high production in the postwar period, and which as a field organization to aid local planning efforts.

Architects, Producers Joint Meet

Thursday, January 21, was the occasion of the annual joint meeting of the Producers' Council of Michigan and the architectural organizations hereabouts—all three of them.

Following board meetings in the afternoon, things started briskly at 6:30, with refreshments at Webster Hall. A buffet dinner was served to 100 and a film, "Trees and Men, the Builders of a Nation," was shown by representatives of Weyerhaeuser Forest Products Company.

Bill Harms, Producers president, conducted and soon turned matters over to Ray Deppmann of the program committee, who did a swell job. "Horse racing" was the recreational feature and large sums in war savings stamps were seen to change hands. Lee Schowalter was back in circulation after a serious illness, for which we were all glad.

Bulletin: For some time the Weekly Bulletin of the Michigan Society of Architects has been coming to my office. You and the Michigan Society are to be congratulated for publishing such a readable and interesting paper, and for keeping it going regularly.

I was especially interested in Talbot F. Hamlin's splendid lecture on city planning and the subsequent articles on the same subject that have appeared. Minneapolis has a City Planning Commission and a capable Planning Engineer in Herman E. Olson. A committee of the Minnesota Chapter of the A.I.A., of which I am a member, is cooperating with the Planning Commission in an effort to find ways and means of preparing post-war plans for civic improvements that can be carried out at the close of the war to provide jobs for returning service men and war workers. The immediate objective is, of course, to obtain the necessary appropriations. If these can be gained we hope that a considerable amount of work can be provided for architects now deprived of their normal practice. At present we are considering making this a Chapter activity, possibly later broadening it to include members of the Minnesota Association of Architects.

We are exploring unfamiliar ground, so are looking for information and experience that groups in other cities may have available. I note in your Bulletin that the Detroit City Plan Commission is active, also the Michigan State Planning Commission. May I ask if Michigan architects are cooperating with these groups, and whether the Commissions might have information they can send us in regard to their activities, methods of acquiring appropriations for post-war planning, etc.? Also, if you know of other cities having Planning Boards active in this line, can you furnish a list, or refer me to someone who can?

I trust I am not burdening you too much in asking all these questions. Whatever information you can send will be sincerely appreciated.

Rollin C. Chapin, A.I.A.,
Wesley Temple Bldg.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Bulletin: Please accept my check as an expression of appreciation in being included on your mailing list of the Weekly Bulletin. Locally we are all envious of the Michigan Society, which by its activities indicates a most wholehearted and dynamic organization. Anyone should point with pride to his association with such a progressive group—Lloyd W. McClenahan, A.I.A. (Ware & McClenahan, Salt Lake City), vice-chairman, Committee on Public Information, A.I.A.

Alden B. Dow, Midland architect, has returned to his office at Houston, Texas, after a week spent at his home in Midland with his family. Mrs. Dow and children have gone to Freeport, where the family will establish a home for an indefinite period.

Derrick Hubert, Menominee architect, has been awarded the contract for preparing plans and specifications and supervising work in alterations to the old administration building at the Newberry State hospital for the Insane, which will convert the building into a hospital for bed-ridden tuberculosis patients who are inmates of the institution. The work will involve an expenditure of about \$100,000.

Working plans and lists of materials are now being prepared by Mr. Hubert for submission to A. N. Languis, of Lansing, director of state building, for final approval.

The Menominee architect has been doing practically all of the architectural work and supervising construction at the

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Newberry institution for the last ten years or more, during which time several new buildings have been constructed and extensive alterations and improvements made to the plant.

Mr. Hubert recently transferred his membership from the Detroit Chapter to the Grand Rapids Chapter, A.I.A.

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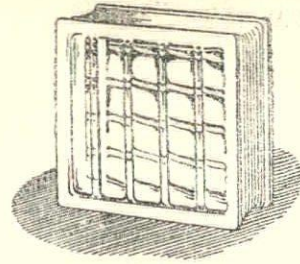
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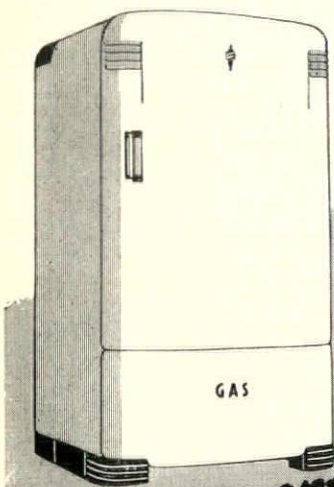
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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, FEBRUARY 9, 1943

No. 6

POST-WAR PLANNING

By Walter R. MacCormack, Dean, School of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
and Vice-President of the American Institute of Architects

Within the past few years the question of post-war reconstruction has become a problem of national interest. Many national organizations formed post-war reconstruction committees. To further post-war reconstruction constructively, it was proposed to create the nucleus for a national organization at a meeting held in Detroit, June 24, 1942. This national organization has for its chief objective, national legislation relating to the rebuilding of cities, and as a second objective, the creation of organizations in each community whose responsibility will be to secure action.

The question of full employment is regarded by an ever increasing number of thinking people as the No. 1 problem facing all nations, and they also believe it is international as well as national and local in scope. Many industrialists in the United States are making considerable progress in laying the groundwork for transforming from a war production basis to a peace time production basis within a minimum of job losses. This problem should be given local consideration before the war ends in order to prevent a return to the wide-spread unemployment of pre-war times, with the resultant building up of large government bureaus to operate various types of artificially stimulated make-work programs paid for out of taxation. Neither government nor industry nor labor believes our country can survive as a free democracy on an artificially stimulated economy.

Many economists believe that the relationship between production and credit should be more elastic, that the two should be made to synchronize, and that this should be accomplished by a closer supervision by the Congress for the purpose of lessening the severity of depression periods. Several national administrations have advocated this idea, and it has the support of several prominent bankers. A plank was included in the platform of the Republican party last year covering this national point. This is a subject which might be considered immediately by the national group. Though it is a national matter, the local organizations should collaborate.

On all sides, suggestions are made that the entire tax structure of the country should be studied with a view to creating a more scientific and equitable taxation method. For instance, in many communities the tax on real property is creating thousands of cases of tax delinquency, depriving home and farm owners of their property, and threatening our large urban centers with bankruptcy. A wholesale fore-

closure on tax delinquent property would lead to government ownership of large sections of our cities and rural communities. There is evidence that there is too close a relationship between the taxing authorities and the spending groups, and that the method of assessment and the amount of tax levied are too often based on expediency and not on sound economic principals. Some method of relieving this situation must be found. This matter should be taken out of the talk stage and action secure. It is a national as well as a local problem, and it is recommended that it be studied now.

In one mill city of New England a city administration, in order to meet its rapidly growing annual budgets, consistently raised the assessed valuation on the mills of the city with the result that a majority of them moved away. The city was declared bankrupt, and its management placed in the hands of a finance commission appointed by the State. Rigid economy was put into effect, and the city, after ten years in bankruptcy, is now solvent. The assessment against the mills was beyond a real value.

The right to raise taxes on property, even though a limitation may be fixed by the law, is often abused. The tendency is to tax as high as political expediency will allow, without due consideration of true sale or income values.

It is suggested that consideration be given to the creation of a taxing authority entirely divorced from political control, whose duty it shall be to assess on a sound economic basis. Since any wholesale reappraisal of real property on a true economic basis would often result in a materially reduced operating fund for cities, some well worthwhile economies would result, and more business-like political administrations would be developed. A study of this problem should be made at once.

See MacCORMACK—Page 4

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Report of Committee on Registration

An important forward step for registration in Michigan was the appointment by the Registration Board of Mr. Watts Shelly. Thus cases of seeming irregular practice can be carefully investigated and evidence collected when needed. The creation of such a position was originally recommended by the APELSCOR Committee, the appointment becoming possible through an increased state appropriation for Board expenses. It is hoped that a larger share of the fees paid in by registrants will be made available for the Board's activities. Because of this appointment Chapter members have not been asked to make further contributions to the defense fund much of which remains unexpended.

Mr. Shelly has done effective work as evidenced by his discussions before various groups of architects and engineers. A detailed statement regarding the Board's actions would exceed the limits of this report and should properly come from the Board itself since much that is done is of necessity confidential. It can be said however that real progress is being made.

The National Council of Registration Boards held its first Detroit meeting in June just before the meetings of the Institute. Added cooperation between the Institute and the Council in matters of policy was assured through the election of Mr. W. G. Kaelber as a director of the Council. Mr. Kaelber is Chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on Registration and has long been a member of the New York State Board of Examiners of Architects. The Institute Committee on Registration is studying the present procedure in examinations, particularly Senior NCARB examinations, those for established practitioners desiring to engage in inter-state practice; simplification is hoped for while maintaining sound standards and having the special local examining committees more fully realize their responsibilities.

It was reported at the recent NCARB meeting that the majority of states now devote four days to the regular examination. Reciprocity is difficult between some states because of unequal requirements and as a consequence those who register under a three day plan are required to pass additional or so-called "bridge-the-gap" tests before admission to practice in states having a more comprehensive examination. Michigan registrants who have passed a three day examination are among those affected. While some three day examinations may be the equal or nearly so of some longer ones, reciprocity will be facilitated when all state Boards require four days and when the content of the tests is more nearly equalized. It is pointed out that with a four day period questions bearing on professional practice and the broader aspects of planning can be given increased emphasis.

At the time of the various meetings in Louisville two years ago it was tentatively agreed to move the Council office to Washington for close association with the Institute. However various circumstances prevented the realization of the plan which however desirable will hardly be possible until after the war.

Emil Lorch, Chairman

Registration Data

Total Registrations in good standing—744

By examination (1941)—14

By examination (1942)—10

By exemption (1941)—3

By exemption (1942)—5

By reciprocity (1941)—23

By reciprocity (1942)—3

There were 2 NCARB examinations of Junior grade given and 3 of Senior grade are now awaiting personal appearance.

The Board had before it two court cases, both mandamus proceedings before the Supreme Court to compel registration (as architect). The one case has been suspended pending reconsideration by the Board. The other case will be heard this month by the court. Final denial was made by the Board only after two reconsiderations and two hearings.

FEBRUARY 9, 1943

Enforcement

One year ago the Executive Secretary, Watts Shelly, was appointed for the chief purpose of carrying out the restrictive provisions of the Registration Law. During the first six months considerable effort was made to bring about the termination of architect-builder service offered by several architects. The Attorney General ruled favorably on only a portion of this practice and therefore several alleged offenders are still at large. Ten men without license were forced to discontinue architectural practice or so advertising. Misuse of the seal was another offense which assisted many designers and contractors in carrying out an unlawful operation. These violators were asked to appear and justify their actions or stand revocatory proceedings. The War has interceded now, automatically resulting in eliminating of many offenses through discontinuance of private practice. Eventually these evils will rise again with greater predominance. A strong hand will be needed to turn them back. In the meantime, the law must be strengthened as to definitions, dual capacity, greater distinction between architecture and engineering, change in the \$2000 and \$15,000 limitation, etc. When this is done, we shall be ready to cope with any offenders and keep architecture on a legally recognized professional level.

Watts A. Shelly,

Executive Secretary, State Registration Board

Victory Book Campaign

There are many places where you can leave those books you are going to give to the 1943 Victory Book Campaign. First, there is the Public Library—the Main building, the Downtown Library, and all the branches. The public schools are also setting up collection boxes again. Then there are 273 boxes in office and apartment buildings and banks, placed by the Volunteers of America, one of the many local organizations cooperating in the Victory Book Campaign. And if you are a member of the American Legion, a union, lodge, or other organization, the chances are that your group is making special arrangements for collecting books from members. Ask your officers.

Give books which you yourself have enjoyed reading. The boys in uniform prefer mystery, western, and adventure stories; "best sellers" of the last few years; humorous stories; and pocket size editions of popular fiction—all in good condition. No volumes which the dog has chewed, please. Magazines are not being requested in the present drive.

Books contributed locally to the Victory Book Campaign are delivered to the Main building of the Detroit Public Library, where they are sorted and packed for shipping. Then they are sent on to army camps, naval units, the American Merchant Marine and USO units.

The Victory Book Campaign is sponsored by the American Library Association, the American Red Cross, and the United States Organizations.

As the time for the Society's annual meeting draws near, reports of committee chairmen will soon be due. Why not make an exception by sending in your report without further requests. These reports are published in advance of the annual meeting, which takes time, and your cooperation will be appreciated. Chairmen are as follows: Kenneth C. Black, Legislation; Earl W. Pellerin, Education; Leo M. Bauer, Practice; Aloys Frank Herman, Civic Affairs; Branson V. Gamber, Public Works; Talmage C. Hughes, Public Information; Geo. F. Diehl, Relations with Building Industry; L. Robert Blakeslee, Membership; Emil Lorch, Michigan Architecture; Clair W. Ditchy, Small House; J. Robert F. Swanson, Allied Arts; Clair W. Ditchy, Editorial Policy of Weekly Bulletin; D. Allen Wright, Honorary Membership; John C. Thornton, Finance and Auditing; Geo. F. Diehl, APELSCOR.

MAC CORNACK (Continued from Page 1)

The present assessed valuation of land is, in many cases, far beyond its use or sale value, and has been the result of speculation in times of unusual prosperity. This is a situation which the tax authorities seized upon for increased revenues.

Housing projects on land at a dollar per square foot, which is not at all unusual in our national housing experience, means building low cost housing on land costing \$43,560 per acre. This is absurd, and leads to overcrowding in order to overcome high land cost per dwelling.

In New York City, a low cost housing project is proposed on land costing \$5.00 per square foot, or \$217,800 per acre. At 20 families per acre, which should be a maximum, the land cost per dwelling unit would be \$10,890. Add to this a minimum cost of \$5,000 for a dwelling unit, and total cost is over \$15,000 per family, on government subsidy. Providing decent homes for the lowest third of our people is impossible under present land and building costs.

This situation should be faced, and the present policy of building for the middle third under various subterfuges to reduce rents should be reviewed with some care by all of the honest advocates of decent housing for the underprivileged. One fact is certain. As yet no dent has been made in the real problem of clearing the slums on any other than the physical approach of tearing down some outmoded buildings and replacing them with costly structures to be occupied by tenants who are not the ones for whom the original slum elimination program was intended.

Land costs must be deflated, and while several methods have been advanced, no opinion has been developed. This is a problem for immediate attention.

Legislation is a problem of national, state, county, and municipal significance.

- (a) **CONDEMNATION OF LAND AND BUILDINGS BY PRIVATE CORPORATIONS.** State legislation will be necessary to permit private corporations to condemn such residue of land and buildings as cannot be acquired at a fair price by negotiation.
- (b) **BUILDING CODES.** The building codes, according to a recent statement by Albert Kahn of Detroit, are a millstone around the neck of the building public, and add very materially to the cost of building. This is a problem of immediate need and is one that can be started at once.
- (c) **ZONING OR LAND USE ORDINANCES.** It is well known that cities are over-zoned for some types of buildings, and that is not a good situation for either property owners or cities. There is a large excess of property zoned for business, and since this property is generally assessed at a higher rate, the owners of such property not needed for business purposes are penalized by higher taxes. In many cities, there is abuse in the enforcement of the zoning laws. Since the zoning laws and the building codes are to a large degree dealing with the close relationship between buildings and their sites, one ordinance should cover both matters, and should be under the same enforcement authority. This enforcement agency should be composed of qualified technical people and should be protected from political influence.
- (d) **POLICE POWER TO RAZE OBSOLETE BUILDINGS AND CONTROL THE USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURES.** One of the reasons for the continued use of buildings already in existence for purposes for which they were not intended, and which are unsafe for certain types of occupancy, is the failure to enforce properly and justly the police power which exists through the power of the states to guarantee safe and sanitary conditions for the occupants of the buildings. Public opinion should insist upon the proper exercise of this power against property owners seeking to profit at the expense of the lives and the health of the people. Action should be started at once to correct this situation.

Decentralization of cities is a broad question and its answer depends somewhat on the movement and development of industry after the war. There are two types of decentralization.

- (1) **LOCAL.** This is a more even distribution of population over the metropolitan area, which would relieve the crowding in the centers of our large urban communities.
- (2) **EXTENDED.** This is a wider decentralization by the removal of sections of the population to areas some distance from the cities. This movement should be voluntary, and be brought about by creating opportunities for employment, and the relationship between places of employment and habitation should be a prime consideration.

The consensus of opinion among planners today is that the planning authority should be regional and not restricted to the city. This means crossing political boundaries. In time this may lead to the elimination of political boundaries and the establishment of regional governments, or at least as a beginning, regional control over the many common necessities of the area, such as streets, sewers, lighting, water, transportation, and other elements of common use.

The creation of strong planning boards should be encouraged, and they should be given competent technical personnel and should be removed from political interference. A case in point is the creation in New York of the Public Health Research Institute. This Institute is granted \$100,000 a year for ten years by the City of New York. Public Health authorities describe it as "one of the most significant milestones in the history of man's struggle against disease, promising to usher in a new era of cooperation between scientists and municipalities for the benefit of all mankind." The City has signed a contract which guarantees the Institute the right to operate with entire freedom, without any possibility of interference from political groups. Here is the basis for the operation of any planning or code-writing bodies having to do with broad questions of public welfare. The planning work should be permitted to proceed on the basis of securing the best results for the entire region. This is an important matter which should be given immediate attention.

Development of neighborhood units is the basic principle long advocated in rebuilding sections of cities, and was indicated on drawings submitted to the various interested groups when a report was first made in 1930 on the program under consideration. This program, when put into action, should begin with the neighborhood unit, the location and size to depend on conditions developed at the time the work starts. The study of any particular unit may be begun at the will of the group.

- (a) **THOROUGHFARES AND LOCAL STREETS.** Streets occupy approximately 15% of the area of Cleveland, approximately 20% of the 26-tract Area being studied. Streets are costly to build and maintain, as well as being hazards to life. There are, in the case of minor streets, remnants of the horse and buggy days. The next step is to determine the main thoroughfares required for general traffic purposes, and to incorporate these as a basis for a master plan of the city and region. As the city is rebuilt in neighborhood units, the secondary streets should be eliminated, so that the neighborhood units may become areas bounded by main thoroughfares. Only minor service ways would be required within the limits of the neighborhood units.

The time is not too far distant when heat, light, power, refrigeration and garbage disposal will be supplied by new methods and processes not yet released for manufacture. These will render unnecessary the delivery of coal, oil and ice and removal of ashes and garbage. The mechanical advances in this field, which are being held back by the war effort, are very considerable, and point to much lower first costs and lower maintenance and operating costs for the utilities in buildings.

- (b) **RELATION OF AIRPLANES AND AUTOMOBILES TO PLANNING.** This question has been raised by

the manufacturers, and will no doubt have some effect on the broader aspects of planning. The necessity for consideration is not immediate, since it must await the results of the development of types of planes and automobiles after the war. The necessity for in-town landing fields for planes, especially, must await until developments indicate the possibility of small planes which can be landed in small areas.

- (c) **OFF-STREET PARKING.** Surveys made in several cities indicate that the majority opinion among business interests favors the elimination of parking on street and the creation of parking areas. This is a matter of importance to business interests. A survey shows that the amount of area in our cities required to carry on normal business activities is much less than the area zoned for this purpose, or even of the area actually used. The problem is to locate adequate parking facilities. Outstanding examples of successful business building in cities are those having the foresight to acquire enough land to provide adequate parking space for the patrons of the buildings. There is no need to delay the attack on this problem. Parking areas on the edge of the business district, with bus service on a zone fare basis to the town business district, is one solution.

The recreation problem is one of major importance. The experience of New York in reducing its juvenile delinquency very materially because of its large recreational program points to the importance of an early study of the problem. Small playgrounds located frequently for the use of the smaller children would not be an expensive first cost, and the program might be begun in one or two of the worst areas and be made part of a long range recreation program. Certain properties, not fit for dwellings, might be foreclosed and used for the purpose of recreation.

This is the first and most important attack on the cost of crime, which the American Bar Association estimates costs the nation \$12,000,000,000 annually. The place to stop crime is at its beginning. Instead we wait until crime has taken its toll of youth, and then we build millions of dollars worth of jails, criminal court buildings, penitentiaries and other institutions to house the product of our short sightedness. Some action should be taken at once.

The Government housing policy for the past ten years may be criticized on the grounds of types and costs of dwellings. Why do we build multiple unit housing on expensive land in congested areas when we have so much land available in America? This type of housing built in the centers of our cities on costly land and under excessive building code requirements adding unnecessarily to the cost, has resulted in our failure to make even a start on the task of supplying decent housing to the lowest third of our population. The basic argument for our housing program was to provide housing for this lowest third.

We are housing many families in these urban housing projects who would be better off in the out lying districts on cheaper land, and in much less costly units than those required by the city codes. Land for gardens could be provided and those people would be partially self-sustaining. In working out such a plan, consideration for employment should be given. At the moment, there is no reason to house them in the hearts of the cities. The location of the home and the place of employment is an important element in housing.

Our housing policy has resulted in dwelling units costing from five to six thousand dollars, which is a higher cost than the average tax payer can afford for his own family. The cost per family unit under our present policy, and the average income per family under our pre-war economy are too far apart to bring any lasting solution to our housing problem. Something needs to be done at once; first, to reduce the cost of homes, and second, to increase the earning power of millions of our people.

In our American democracy, our people grew up to believe in the right to own a piece of land and a house. Lately we have copied the housing policies of European countries, whose economy and shortage of land seemed to lead them

toward socialized housing. We have turned away from our own conception of home. The socialized theories of Europe have proven to be a failure, and the governments of Europe, which have regimented their peoples not only in a military way but even to the extent of telling them where and how they shall live, will ultimately disappear from the earth. Perhaps we should review our housing policy in the light of the value of the home in a democracy.

Private versus government construction is a problem, the solution of which will ultimately depend upon the lowering of building costs and on an increase in family incomes. The lines of demarcation between private building and government subsidy must be determined.

Prefabrication, simplified standards, new inventions, new materials, revised distribution methods and revised codes are basic matters in the reduction of building costs, and should receive the immediate attention of the building industry. Reduction of costs is essential for a continued satisfactory volume of home building.

Unfair practices are matters which vary with localities, and are a burden to the consumer. Undue restrictions in contractor, finance, labor, manufacturer and code practices, when determined to exist, should be stopped, and the best way is by a concert public opinion in opposition to all unfair practices. Much has already been done in the matter, and the work should continue.

A question which must have consideration before any progress can be made is how to finance the project or projects. The failure of private capital to enter the reconstruction field will result in a government-financed public works program, probably without the planning study required. The costs of this program would come out of the pockets of the tax payers. This question should be examined at once, since no program can be undertaken until various problems connected with financing can be settled.

Joint Architectural Meeting, Feb. 17, 1943—

A.I.A. — M.S.A.

OUTLINE OF PROGRAM

Subject: "A Functional Pattern for Detroit's Master Plan — What Form Shall It Take?"

Introduction by Talmage C. Hughes, Executive Secretary Michigan Society of Architects, presiding.

Illustrated presentation of Model City Patterns developed by Architects and Town Planners including Thomas Adams, Paul Wolf, Ebenezer Howard, Clarence Stein, Eliel K. Hilberseimer, Frank Lloyd Wright, LeCorbusier, and Saarinen,

And "The Past and Present Functional Development of Detroit," by George F. Emery, City Planner-Secretary, Detroit City Plan Commission.

Discussion of the Patterns and their applicability to Detroit's Master Plan: William E. Kapp, President, Detroit Chapter American Institute of Architects; C. William Palmer, President Michigan Society of Architects; Wells I. Bennett, Dean, College of Architecture, University of Michigan.

Open discussion period to follow.

Soon it will be time for the Annual Meeting and publication in the Weekly Bulletin of the names and addresses of architects registered in Michigan. There is a distinct advantage in being listed there as a member of the Society in good standing. Moreover, the Society frequently receives inquiries as to whether or not one is a member. This happens when a Michigan architect fills out one of the applications that are the order of the day. Don't wait until you need the Society, but take care of that detail in advance. Send \$5 to L. E. Caldwell, Treasurer, 13606 Stoepel Avenue, Detroit.

"Plan A" For Postwar Planning

Building Industry men will be interested in checking up on Business Weeks factual report of C.E.D. (Committee for Economic Development), organized by business men on a regional basis, staffed for research by economists, to go to work on a long-range program for research by economists, to go to work on a long-range program to aid national, community, and company preparation for the problems of peace.

Chairman of the closed meeting which met in New York before Christmas was David C. Prince of General Electric Co. Vice presidents of major corporations charged with making postwar plans for their firms selected a board, which, once it gets rolling, will be available to help other U. S. business men with their post war planning.

Until quite recently the impression prevailed that any thought of postwar planning was somehow unpatriotic. With the change in the tide of war such planning has become both respectable and popular, and business executives are beginning to plan for themselves and the public.

C.E.D. has rent free space at Room 3311 U. S. Dept. of Commerce Bldg., Washington, with informal department approval but no strings are tied to its thinking and plan of organization. Thus far C.E.D. has been financed with one low-pressure solicitation letter mailed to heads of several hundred companies.

Studebaker's President, Paul G. Hoffman is C.E.D. Chairman. Others who are trustees represent outstanding manufacturers, publishers, advertising and educational agencies.

The conclusion drawn from simple statistics is that the country can prevent a paralyzing and intolerable unemployment *only by stepping up* the postwar tempo of civilian production at a rate keeping pace with disemployment of war workers and demobilization of the armed forces. C.E.D.'s concern is how to step up this production at the required rate. Because production is the basic consideration, the committee addresses itself primarily to manufacturers.

The creed of C.E.D. stated by Mr. Hoffman is "The *most* which commerce and industry can *now* do to assure returning soldiers and workers that peacetime jobs will be available is the *least* which must be done if enterprise and labor are to enjoy a free society."

FOR VICTORY



BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

SYMPTOMATIC OF CONGRESSIONAL THOUGHT ABOUT POSTWAR PROBLEMS

and first of what may be expected to be a number of proposals for postwar rebuilding, is a resolution introduced by Senator Taft of Ohio relating to the housing setup under the NHA. Specifically, what Senator Taft proposes is the appointment of a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor to: (1) Ascertain from the NHA and constituent agencies the status of the various public and private housing programs. (2) Develop a program for the disposition of emergency housing at the end of the war. (3) Develop a program for stimulating home ownership and slum clearance after the war.

Senator Taft believes that there has been too much of a tendency to launch a new housing program every time somebody has come along with a different idea. It is his contention, therefore, that the whole organization under the NHA should be thoroughly studied before Congress gives it a permanent status. Under existing authority, the NHA ends its existence six months after the war is over. Instead of concentrating so much on plans for subsidizing model apartments for slum dwellers, Senator Taft feels that more attention should be given to government aid for promoting home ownership. His resolution asks \$25,000 for the Committee's purposes.

We feel that the Taft resolution, while covering action that needs to be taken, is not broad enough to meet the postwar problem to which it is directed. Housing is only a part of that problem. To meet it we need to encourage a thoughtful replanning of our cities so that their rebuilding may be carried on in a way to meet the tremendously changed conditions that mark life today as against life in the days before automobiles and before long distance power transmission for industry.

Through the Urban Land Institute, Realtors of the country, co-operating with individuals and groups concerned with urban problems, municipal and other officials, retailers, financing agencies, transportation agencies, industrialists, architects, city planners, and the like, have for two years been working on a plan to stimulate the rebuilding of blighted districts in all our cities. The plan contemplates the need of some federal aid in land assembly but provides what we believe to be a practical machinery through which the rebuilding would be done by private enterprise.

In the whole make-ready process for cities of tomorrow, revitalizing blighted areas is the key problem, if we are not to run into municipal bankruptcy and if we are to retain and safeguard so far as possible the \$40 billions in real estate values which urban blight now threatens. If suitable machinery can be set up to solve this problem it can and will produce housing—where needed, of whatever kind needed, and under whatever safeguards of the public interest as found advisable.

At its third annual meeting, to be held at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, January 27, the Urban Land Institute, under President Paul E. Stark, will talk over the stumbling blocks in the way of large-scale urban rebuilding, seek common agreement on how they can be removed.—Headlines (NAREB).

Membership — Great Lakes Region, A.I.A.

Chapter	Members Sept. 1940	Net Mem- bership Increase	Present Member- ship	Per- centage Increase
CINCINNATI	43	2	45	5%
CLEVELAND	65	52	117	80%
COLUMBUS	18	38	56	211%
DAYTON	16	18	34	113%
DETROIT	79	109	188	138%
EASTERN OHIO....	11	9	20	82%
GRAND RAPIDS ...	20	15	35	75%
INDIANA	24	27	51	113%
KENTUCKY	24	9	33	38%
TOLEDO	19	2	21	11%
	319	281	600	88%

MEETING

Michigan Chapter, American Society of Heating
and Ventilating Engineers
12TH FLOOR — HOTEL WEBSTER HALL
CASS AND PUTNAM
Monday, February 15, 1943
Buffet Supper, 6:30 p.m.

The principal speaker of the evening will be Mr. James W. Bishop of the Ford Motor Company. Mr. Bishop will address the meeting on the subject, "Experiences Gathering Electrical Equipment for Edison Institute Museum." Musical entertainment will be provided by the "Texas Ranch Boys" by courtesy of the Ford Motor Company.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Richard P. Raseman, Feb. 8; Paul Hosman, Feb. 11; Geo. Braun, Wm. H. Stone, Feb. 12; Chas. W. Maass, Feb. 13; Harry Angell, Valentine Hunt, Feb. 14; Stephen F. Voorhees, Feb. 15; W. E. N. Hunter, Robt. West, Feb. 16; Alfred P. Allen, Feb. 18; Fred Harley, James Watt, Feb. 20; Ernest Trysell, Feb. 21.

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Volume 17

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, FEBRUARY 16, 1943

No. 7

JOINT ARCHITECTURAL MEETING

Detroit Division, Michigan Society of Architects; Detroit Chapter,
The American Institute of Architects

Engineering Society of Detroit, 100 Farnsworth Avenue

Wednesday, February 17, Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

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Mr. L. Robert Blakeslee, President, Detroit Division, M.S.A., Presiding

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Following dinner members will adjourn to the Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth Avenue, for a program on
City Planning.

This is the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the Detroit Division, M.S.A. Ballots will be passed out at the door, as members enter the dining room. Immediately after dinner a few very brief statements will be made and the report of tellers on election of officers announced.

Subject of the discussion at the Scarab Club, which will be under the auspices of the Metropolitan Art Association, will be "A Functional Pattern for Detroit's Master Plan—What Form Shall It Take?"

Introduction by Talmage C. Hughes, Executive Secretary Michigan Society of Architects, presiding.

Illustrated presentation of Model City Patterns developed by Architects and Town Planners including Thomas Adams, Paul Wolf, Ebenezer Howard, Clarence Stein, Eliel K. Hilberseimer, Frank Lloyd Wright, LeCorbusier, and Saarinen.

And "The Past and Present Functional Development of Detroit," by George F. Emery, City Planner-Secretary, Detroit City Plan Commission.

Discussion of the Patterns and their applicability to Detroit's Master Plan: William E. Kapp, President, Detroit Chapter American Institute of Architects; C. William Palmer, President Michigan Society of Architects; Wells I. Bennett, Dean, College of Architecture, University of Michigan. Open discussion period to follow.

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Lansing Elects A.I.A. Members

Three Lansing architects, Clark E. Harris, Warren S. Holmes and Clarence H. Rosa, have been elected to membership in the American Institute of Architects, it is announced by Adrian N. Langius, president of the Grand Rapids Chapter, to which they were assigned.

Mr. Harris, a graduate from the architectural college of the University of Michigan, has devoted his experience chiefly to architectural work on large public buildings. He had made his home in Lansing for the last eight years, being associated with the Warren S. Holmes company, as chief draftsman.

Mr. Holmes has specialized in the field of school construction, and the latest of his projects is the new J. W. Sexton high school on Lansing's west side, and many schools and other buildings have been designed and erected under his supervision in various parts of the country. He has maintained his office and residence in Lansing for 23 years, and at times has had branch offices in Chicago, Boston and Hartford.

Mr. Rosa is a graduate of the architectural college of the University of Michigan, has studied and traveled abroad. He has been with the United States forestry service and state conservation department as architectural engineer, and is now serving in a like capacity with the division of buildings and construction for the state administrative board.

Other Lansing architects who were previously elected to the Institute are: Kenneth C. Black, Lee Black, Orlie Munson, Adrian N. Langius, A. A. Stewart, Arthur J. Zimmerman, and Lieut. Carl J. Rudine, who is now serving with the Navy in the Pacific.

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards

Suggestions regarding Inquiries to Professional Societies Circular of Advice No. 5

The purpose of inquiries sent out by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards with reference to applicants for reciprocal transfer of registration credit from one state to another is to establish professional standing in the community where the applicant lives and practices his profession. It is intended to accomplish two main purposes: first, to make up a good record in a way that it may be tangibly presented, and second, to prevent those practitioners who have dissipated their standing in their home communities from going to other communities and imposing on them.

Architectural societies and individuals should recognize that it is of the utmost importance to the interests of the profession that real competency shall be promoted and incompetency and dishonesty discouraged.

Standing in a profession is rated by the way in which a man is regarded by his professional compeers. High regard may be evidenced by direct testimony, by election to important posts, by honors conferred, or by election to membership in professional societies. Unfavorable regard may be evidenced by expulsion from societies, refusal to elect to societies, honors denied, or by direct testimony.

Professional contacts are necessary to well-rounded professional equipment. The man who neglects or refuses to identify himself with the established societies of his profession is open to the imputation of being afraid to meet his equals on common ground. Such men are very likely to be behind the times in the knowledge of current practice. The same imputation applies if they do not follow with care the material presented by the professional press.

In answering inquiries, the secretary of a society can help the registration boards to estimate an architect's standing by statements enumerated as follows:

- (1) a statement that the person referred to is or is not a member of the society in good standing;
- (2) an enumeration of any offices which he may have held in that society;
- (3) a statement as to his efficiency and faithfulness in committee work;
- (4) reference to any contributions to the professional press, and
- (5) a statement of any professional honors won.

Modern Building Regulations

Bert J. Westover, a national authority on the subject of building codes and their development outlined some of the long history of such codes and the reason for their existence, before a recent meeting of Indiana architects and structural engineers.

"There are village, township, county and state regulations, some good, some very poor, and some nothing but an excuse to collect fees without giving anything in return."

"We have had the transition in building from the tall wall bearing to skeleton construction and in codes from purely local regulations to Uniform Codes. The National Board of Fire Underwriters was the first to promulgate a general code which covered the essentials of construction. The Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference started to study the fundamentals of code forms and requirements back in 1922 and in 1927 had their Preliminary Uniform Code ready for study. It was sufficiently complete for those cities wanting a code which would be a better working tool for the inspector and the architect."

"The Pacific Coast Uniform Code is workable, enforceable, and comprehensive. It covers all the phases of the construction of a building. Furthermore it is fair to all materials and crafts. Boiler and heating installation, electrical and elevator regulations are not a part of this code. These special regulations like those pertaining to plumbing and zoning, are features which change and are therefore left to be included in the form of an appendix."

"Suggestions for changes in the Pacific Coast Uniform Code are studied by a Code Changes Committee. If the changes are for clarification the Committee can make such changes without submitting the proposals to the convention of Building Inspectors. This Code and all of its promulgation and revisions is the result of studies made by building inspectors, trade associations and trade unions, and anyone interested in building regulations, may sit in with the Code Committees on invitation, and they may express their opinions. The final decision lies wholly in the hands of the building officials. The action at the Conference does not necessarily have to be followed by any one city adopting the code if, in that city's official opinion, they would be benefited most by some other regulation. The Uniform Code gives a city the latest and best that is now available, but if some local condition is not covered, the local governing body can deviate so as to fit conditions." "The fundamental objectives of building codes are, control of structural safety, control of fire hazards, and reasonable economy in building costs."

"Since the economic life of the country is organized on a competitive basis, it is expected that buildings will be built at minimum costs. No builder will be altruistic enough to provide non-revenue-producing safety elements unless his competitors are compelled to do likewise. For this reason it has been necessary to enact building codes and state housing acts, as measures giving legal control by duly constituted authority over the character of construction permitted."

Bulletin:

The article "Are You in Good Standing?" in this week's Bulletin interested me a great deal.

Although only a brand new member, I regret that the standing of certain divisions is so low compared with others. Now, I wonder if some of this is not due to the approach of the Society to the architects newly registered.

When I became registered early last year, my first contact with the society—except for receiving the Bulletin—was a bill, \$5.00 for membership dues—nothing else. Through inquiry at local sources I discovered how to become a member.

It seems to me that when anyone becomes registered, and is wanted as a member in good standing, the Society should send him a letter of welcome and the rules and regulations concerning membership. Perhaps a form letter would be enough.

And even though I am now engaged in war production work in an allied field, I still enjoy reading the Bulletin, and hope to see the society grow and prosper.

—Peter Vander Laan, Kalamazoo.

Unification in Ohio

The following suggestions for the complete unification of the six sections of the Architects Society of Ohio with their respective local Chapters of the Institute has been presented by Ralph W. Carnahan, president of the Architects Society of Ohio, for the immediate consideration of every registered architect in Ohio regardless of his affiliation.

"It is felt that this procedure is consistent with the action taken by the Institute Board of Directors at the Pittsburgh meeting in November; Resoluiton No. 1 of the 1942 Convention of the Architects Society of Ohio and the action taken by the conferece of State Associations at Detroit," Mr. Carnahan states, in pointing out that immedate consideration of this proposal by each Chapter and each section will permit complete unification and reorganization of the Architects Society of Ohio before the next Institute convention. It is proposed that:

1. Each Chapter shall immediately encourage and work toward the election of every qualified registered architect of good repute as a corporate member in the Institute.

2. Each Chapter shall extend the privilege of being an "affiliate" to every registered architect in its territory who is not a member of the Institute.

3. The membership of the Architects Society of Ohio shall include all members of the American Institute of Architects of the American Institute of Architects assigned to the six Ohio Chapters and all affiliates of these Chapters.

4. To provide for the few instances where it may be required, two classes of votes shall be provided. An Institute vote for members of the A.I.A. only; and an Architects Society vote by all members thereof.

5. Any officer or any member shall be privileged to call for an "Institute" or "Architects Society" vote on any question.

6. In the election of Chapter officers each member of the Institute shall vote two ballots for each office, an Institute ballot and an Architects Society ballot. Affiliates shall vote only on Architects Society Ballot.

7. The "Institute" ballots shall be collected separately and the results determined. The "Architects Society" ballots shall also be collected separately and the results determined.

If the same officers are elected by each group then the voting is closed and the results announced. If not, then the Society members shall determine whether the officers elected shall conduct their affairs at Chapter meetings or if further ballots shall be taken to bring them to agreement.

8. Election of one Director and one Alternate Director of the Architects Society of Ohio, for a term of one year, shall be held concurrently with the election of Chapter officers and shall be by "Architects Society" ballot.

9. Both the Director and the Alternate Director may attend each State Association meeting; however, each Chapter shall have only one vote at such meetings.

10. All members of the Architects Society of Ohio, other than Chapter officers, shall be eligible for election as Director or Alternate Director.

11. The President of the Architects Society of Ohio shall be elected at the Annual State Convention for a term of one year. There shall be not less than two candidates for the office, to which all members of the Society shall be ligible.

12. The President of the Architects Society and the six Directors from the six Chapters shall constitute the Executive Board.

13. The Executive Board shall elect its own Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer fo rits tenure of office.

14. The Executive Board shall have all the powers vested in it by the by-laws of the Architects Society of Ohio and the

American Institute of Architects but shall not exercise any authority over the various Chapters.

15. Each Chapter shall assess each member of the Architects Society of Ohio, for annual dues as a member thereof, an amount to be determined by the Annual Convention of the Society. All such collected dues shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Architects Society of Ohio.

16. The Treasurer of the Architects Society of Ohio shall remit to the Treasurer of the American Institute of Architects one dollar annual dues for each non-corporate member or affiliate of each Chapter.

17. Each Chapter shall determine for itself, by "Architects Society" ballot, the amount of dues to be paid for its local operation and activities.

"This proposal for Unification is considered a right step and it is hoped that criticism will be forthcoming so that a cross section of many minds will show the desired form which it should follow," Mr. Carnahan concludes.

A.I.A. Annual Meeting Cincinnati, May 28-30, 1943

The Seventy-Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Architects has been scheduled for Cincinnati, Ohio, May 28 to 30, 1943.

Standish Meacham, president of the Cincinnati Chapter, A.I.A., has announced that a local committee is already making plans for the chapters participation. Of principal interest will be the theme of "Urban Rehabilitation," according to present plans.

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Judge Ned H. Smith was elected to the office of Judge of the Common Pleas Court in 1935, re-elected in the spring of 1937, and is now seeking re-election to that office. Judge "Ned," as his intimates know him, who is one of the few blind jurists in the United States, is a graduate of North-

ern High School in Detroit, and received his law degree in 1926 at the University of Michigan, the first blind student to be graduated from the Law College.

Judge "Ned" served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County for eight years under the Hon. Robert M. Toms, J. E. Chenot and H. S. Toy.

Actively interested in sports, particularly bowling and baseball, Judge "Ned" Smith bowls a fair game with a high score of 170. He is married and lives at 4410 Burns Ave., and his daughter, Barbara Ann, is a student at Barbour Intermediate School. A constant booster of the American Red Cross blood bank, Judge Smith recently was honored with the gold pin for being a "5th Donor" since Pearl Harbor.

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Best regards to you and the gang — Henry H. Saylor.

* * *

Bulletin:

The Oregon Chapter appreciates the receipt of your Weekly Bulletin and we read over its interesting contents. We trust you will continue to send it.

This letter is to advise you that as of January 19th, 1943, I am no longer president of this Chapter, and neither Mr. Leggè nor Mr. Wick is secretary.

Our new President is: Mr. Pietro Belluschi, A.I.A., 2040 S. W. Jefferson Street, Portland, Oregon.

I suggest you send him the copies and discontinue all other individuals.—R. L. Morin, A.I.A.

* * *

Holabird & Root of Chicago, said to be the only architectural concern in the United States to be awarded the Army-Navy "E" flag, received the pennant in ceremonies January 25 at the Scioto ordnance plant, Marion, Ohio. The same award was made to the Hunkin-Conkey Construction company of Cleveland, builder of the plant. Brig. Gen. Leslie R. Groves of the Army engineers, Lieut. Gov. Paul M. Herbert of Ohio, and the mayor of Marion were present.

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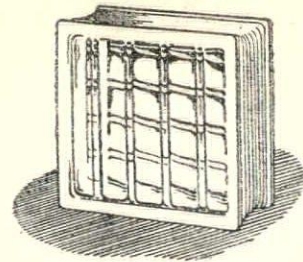
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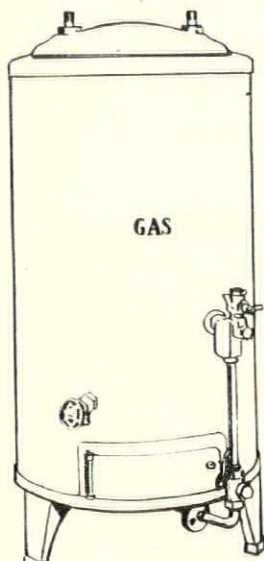
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No. 8

SCHOOL BUILDINGS AFTER THE WAR

By WARREN S. HOLMES† and ARTHUR R. SHIGLEY‡

"What will school buildings built after the war be like, and what can school boards and superintendents do at this time in getting ready to meet the problem?" inquires the editor of this magazine.

"Automobile designers tell us," he says, "that all of the present standards in automobile design are likely to be scrapped after the war, and we shall have radically different cars. Apparently similar changes will take place in other fields. Will such changes also take place in school planning, and particularly in schoolhouse construction? Will new devices and new materials be introduced?"

Yes, there will be changes in both design and construction — and plenty of them. Some of these changes — let us hope many of them — will make for progress and betterment. Others will be introduced only for the sake of being different.

Building Exteriors

Perhaps the most noticeable change from the layman's point of view will be in exterior design. Undoubtedly, there will be a strong tendency toward what we have come to understand as modern architecture. Not necessarily modernistic design — there is a marked difference — the former a simplified and dignified design, the latter a forced style as unnatural and as illogical for modern school buildings as the gothic or classic styles. We have seen this tendency toward modern architecture in many school buildings designed just before the war, but only occasionally does one observe a truly successful effort. The greatest contribution that modern architecture has made to school design is to show that maximum beauty in architecture can be gained through simplicity of line, plain surfaces and attractive colors, rather than expensive architectural ornamentation. The complicated cornices, moldings, and columns that characterize the traditional styles of architecture constitute unnecessary expense, to be avoided wherever possible both in the original cost, as well as the cost in maintenance.

Predictions made as generalizations of the changes to be expected cannot possibly fit all parts of a country with as varied a climate as the United States. School buildings designed in California, Arizona, and Florida, for example, will of necessity be vastly different from those in the Great Lakes region or in New England.

Illustrations

The photographs and plans accompanying this article have been selected to give concrete illustrations to the ideas presented. The small elementary school at St. Clair, Mich.,

is conventional in its plan arrangements. Of special interest are the provisions made for community use of the gymnasium-auditorium, the special built-in features of the classrooms to facilitate work-experience procedures, and the emphasis placed on the aesthetic phases of design.

The shop and music building for Holland, Mich., is a new type of school building developed in part from the needs of the war training program. Plans and specifications are in progress for the construction of this building at the close of the war. When the school's shops became entirely inadequate for the duplicate use of the pupils and the workers training for the city's war industries, the girls' gymnasium was hastily converted into two additional shops. Many months of study have been devoted to developing efficient layouts for shop-work, music, and agriculture. The facilities provided in the existing school buildings are meager, indeed, compared to the new needs as developed for this building.

School Sites

Community requirements for summer playgrounds and adult recreation, as well as the schools' requirements for programs in physical education, are rapidly teaching the public the need for larger school sites. A case in point is the city of Lansing, Mich., where the school authorities were formerly satisfied with a city block, or even a part of a city block in some cases, for a school site. Not so now. In the city's last two school-building operations a site consisting of 27 acres was set apart for a junior high school, and for a senior high school, just being completed, a site of 31 acres. Moreover, the architect, working in close conjunction with the landscape gardener, school officials, and the city's recreational department, found that if a well-rounded educational program was to be carried out, not a foot of land could be spared from what seemed like excess acreage.

Adequate architectural settings for each of these beautiful buildings received first consideration. Adequate lawn space, areas for parking cars, a stadium, a football field, a practice

See HOLMES — Page Four

†Architect, Lansing, Michigan.

‡Educator, member of the firm of Warren S. Holmes Company, Lansing, Michigan.

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A companion picture will be announced later.

Whitney Warren

Whitney Warren, world famous architect, died recently in New York at the age of 78. He won universal acclaim for his work in restoring the Louvain Library in Belgium. The Grand-Central terminal in New York was one of his best known buildings. Mr. Warren's summer home in Newport was at the corner of Parker ave. and Clay st.

He was proudest of his Louvain Library restoration. He wanted inscribed on the balustrade, the words, "Furore Teutonica Diruta, Dono Americano Restituta," which translates "Destroyed by German Fury; Restored by American Generosity." He said he got the inscription from Cardinal Mercier, primate of Belgium, who died before the dedication.

There followed a bitter controversy when Monsignor Ladeuze, the rector, refused to allow the inscription. Rioting Belgians destroyed the balustrade before the dedication, and two more balustrades thereafter. Mr. Warren sued the university, but accepted defeat in 1932 when highest Belgian court ruled against him. He lived to see his views upheld when the Germans, in 1940, again bombarded the quiet city.

In New York, he designed the Ambassador, Ritz, Commodore, Vanderbilt, Biltmore and Belmont hotels, Aeolian Hall and the Chelsea Piers. He did other fine hotels in Atlantic City, Philadelphia and Montreal. He formed a partnership with Charles D. Wetmore, which firm did work for the N. Y. Central rail road, including Grand Central Station in New York and Michigan Central Station in Detroit. Mr. Warren retired from the firm in 1931.

He founded the Society of Beaux Arts Architects in New York and originated the famous Beaux Arts Ball over which he presided for 17 years until it was discontinued in 1937. He introduced the Atelier system of studying architecture in this country and was chairman of the Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts.

An architect who becomes a purveyor of beauty is a type of public benefactor. Such was the happy role of Whitney Warren. He left many imposing structures as mementos of a brilliant career.

Mr. Warren had been a member of the Michigan Society of Architects.

Bulletin:

"The Secret Sorrow of Architecture" is our public information. We, as probably you, are finding no outlet for the pulicizing of the wonderful efforts and results created by our contemporaries, since any exploiting is "detrimental to the war effort." As a result I sit back and let old man lethargy lie down with my pet arthritis. But, it will not be forever thus! Our turn is coming and again Mr. Architect will be in the driver's seat, where he can blow the horn, to the tune of "where do we go from here."

As you have probably heard, by now, Ray Ashton has been persuaded to accept the nomination for the presidency of the Institute. We of the Utah Chapter have formally nominated him and have had the petition signed by our entire membership. Now we are corresponding with all chapters soliciting support of our candidate, and are finding enthusiasm in some of the least expected sections. Of course we all know Ray to be one of the most diligent workers in the Institute and his keen, aggressive mind makes him a "natural." I have had the honor in being appointed, his Farley by the chapter. I refused to be Flynn as my back yard needs no paving and only our competitors want me in Australia.

I read in the Bulletin where one of your members lost an overcoat at one of your meetings. First of all, how come that an architect even owns a big benny in these times? Where did he get it? Out here in the land of Dead-Eye we never lose an overcoat we never own, but I never yet have attended a meeting of fellow architects that I didn't lose my shirt!

LLOYD W. "Mack" McCLENAHAN,
Vice-Chairman, Committee on
Public Information, A.I.A.

P.S.—Saving pennies from selling pencils on the street corners, with ideas aimed at Cincinnati, May 24.

FEBRUARY 23, 1943

Producers Meet

Producers Council of Michigan held its regular luncheon meeting at the Rackham Building on February 8, Bill Harms presiding as usual.

George F. Diehl was welcomed as the new Liaison officer from the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. Mr. Harold Pilska of Tremco Mfg. Co., vice-president of the Cleveland Producers' Chapter, was the guest of Treasurer Harry Black. Mr. W. L. Converse of the local Crane Co. office, attended for the first time, being their new representative in the local Producers' Chapter.

It was announced that Dick Jones, of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., had been transferred to Oklahoma City and R. B. Richardson, of Spencer Turbine Co., was named to succeed him as secretary. Best wishes of Dick's many friends go with him.

Louis T. Ollesheimer was confined in Henry Ford Hospital with broken bones caused by a fall on icy pavement. All wished him a speedy recovery.

Discussion was had on P. C. participation in the M.S.A. one-day annual meeting in Detroit next month.

Architecture Medal To University of Illinois

The University Medal of the American Groupe of the Society des Architects Diplomes par le Gouvernement (Francais), for the scholastic year 1941-42 has been awarded the UI architecture department.

Jack S. Baker, 406 South Elm street, UI senior, and William Eng, Chicago, graduated last June, have been awarded student medals by the same organization, for recognition as outstanding students.

This society is an organization of practicing architects who have studied in Paris and upon their return to this country wanted to do something to recognize outstanding work in architectural education. This group is authorized by the Parent Society in France to award annually a medal, known as the University medal, to that School of Architecture in this country having the best record of accomplishment in the teaching of architecture, on the basis of judgments made on work which has been submitted in the various competitions held by the Beaux Arts Institute of Design.

This is the second time the award has been made to the UI architecture department. The first award was in 1929.

Karl Norris

Karl D. Norris, East Chicago architect, who planned many structures in the Calumet region of Chicago during his 30 years of practice there, died on January 5, after a year's illness.

Norris designed the Roosevelt high school auditorium, the Parramore Hospital at Crown Point and the East Chicago Elks building as well as other structures.

Mr. Norris was registered as architect in Michigan.

On February 23 at 8:30 p.m. the members of the Metropolitan Art Association are invited by The Detroit Institute of Arts to attend a lecture by Mr. Martin Baldwin, Curator, Art Gallery of Toronto. Mr. Baldwin will speak on *The Basis of Contemporary Painting in Canada*, in connection with the exhibition of contemporary Canadian painting which opens that day. The talk, illustrated with colored slides, will cover briefly the phases leading up to the present and will attempt to set the present day art of Canada in its cultural background.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Harold C. Beckett, Forrest Gilder-sleeve, Feb. 24; Lyle S. Cole, Feb. 28; Leroy Kiefer, Julian Oberwarth, March 1; Walter MacCornack, March 2.

Earl W. Pellerin, secretary of the Michigan Society of Architects, announces that, as of January 1, 1943, 368 members had paid dues in the Society. Of these 179 also paid dues in the A.I.A., leaving 189 members of the State Society who are not Institute members.

HOLMES (Continued from Page 1)

field, a baseball diamond, softball diamonds, soccer and tennis courts, an outside running track, and a few unassigned free play areas worked in here and there where trees can be planted, all adds up to wishing there were a little more space rather than less.

Such well-developed sites are important to a city's health, an important element in municipal planning, and an unrivaled opportunity for teaching democratic living. It is as valuable, every foot of it, as the enclosed floor space of the building itself.

New Materials

Steel sash and window frames have even no wall but replaced wood for exterior windows. Extruded aluminum or stainless steel moldings, spandrels, and canopies and doors are commonplace features in modern design, the use of which should be greatly expanded by the increased facilities constructed for war production. Some of these items will likely be replaced with weather-resisting, colorful plastics. School buildings constructed in architectural concrete will continue to replace designs in brick and stone because of the sales pressure of cement companies, although in cold climates brick and stone resist the action of frost with resulting expansion and contraction much better, and often cost less.

An entire article could easily be devoted to the influences to be realized in school construction, equipment, and furnishings by the use of relatively new and vital materials—plastics. One cannot yet see them shaping the external appearance of school buildings to the extent we are told they are to function in automobile bodies and airplane fuselages, but they seem certain to find varied uses within the building itself. The ideal door for schools of the future, with its accompanying trim, can be made from plastics. This material is satisfactory for desk tops, and best for table tops. It functions well for certain kinds of hardware. If, as has been proven, it can be made a satisfactory substitute for silk hose, what then are its limits? Conceivably, it can be made a satisfactory substitute not only for wood, but also for ceramic tile, marble, terrazzo, and steel sheets for inside use—and as such, it is sure to be used for wainscotings, toilet partitions, counters, floors, furniture, and even shades and draperies, with probably better wearing qualities than the materials displaced.

No discussion of building materials would be complete without mention of glass. Even it seems destined to have a counterpart in plastics for lighting fixtures, etc. Competition, together with scientific research, should give us a glass, admitting a high percentage of ultraviolet rays, within a price range suitable to the limited financial restrictions of school districts. Glass block seems to be a very useful material for the future, if its use will be sensibly limited to stair wells and to inside walls where borrowed light is necessary to improve illumination of otherwise dark corridors.

Relation of Building to Educational Program

The foregoing paragraphs record some of the most obvious trends in school-building planning for postwar living. Any institution, however, as conventional as our public school system is certain to adhere to group instruction administered and housed in convenient central locations. In fact, no one has ever discovered a more efficient and economical means of mass instruction. Pupils will continue to begin their formal work in some such department as the kindergarten, and those who do not later decide otherwise will end up in the university or college. But between these two points lie a variety of routes, many side tracks, and frequently changing emphasis, and the architect must constantly be aware of and familiar with the educational problems in order that he may best draft their most efficient housing.

In fact, the only substantial basis upon which to advance a sane prediction of the nature of the postwar building is to anticipate as closely as possible what demands the war and postwar problems will make upon existing educational practices. Without doubt, every hamlet in the land will be represented for a time by one or more world policemen, stationed in some faraway country. Our new acquaintance with a smaller world will encourage more geography, history, economics, and government. Mathematics and science, correlated closely with shopwork, will be regarded hereafter as far more

essential than formerly, in order that we be prepared for a highly scientific world. Classrooms must be improved to accommodate this changing emphasis. As never before we shall have trained diplomats, consuls, soldiers, and businessmen in every corner of the globe. We are certain to become the leading world power, and our educational program must prepare for that prodigious task.

It seems crystal clear that school buildings must be planned more than ever for pupil activity in every classroom, shop, auditorium, library, and playground. The future building is to become an educational workshop, not only for those within school age, but for the entire community. The public is going to demand of teachers that they be conversant with the application to everyday life of the tables, rules, and dates that so frequently have been taught as such, with no related connection with the lives of either pupils or adults, and it is going to insist that buildings furnish the appropriate setting for this improved type of instruction.

A Federal Works Program

We can anticipate almost for a certainty another federally sponsored public works school-building program. We may hope that both local school districts and federal authorities will correct the errors committed in our first experience of that sort. The element of haste should disappear, and architects can be selected with more attention to their proven abilities in the school-building field. Communities needing new construction should be developing their plans now, for the success of the next public works program depends upon the thoroughness with which the ground is prepared well in advance. The first federal program was conceived in haste and executed in greater haste, a defect that probably could have been avoided in that instance, but there certainly will be no excuse for a repetition of the error.

Cooperative Planning

The first step, therefore, in planning the best buildings for the future will be cooperative and careful planning well in advance of actual construction. The number of architectural firms in the entire United States, qualified by experience and educational interests to develop new plans and designs to meet the needs of future schools in a manner that takes full advantage of the functional use of new methods and materials, is very limited and the work of these architects, as well as that of others will profit immeasurably by time for adequate study.

To our minds, the most praiseworthy factors in the planning and construction of the Crow Island school building at Winnetka, Ill., were the unusual cooperative studies by the architects, school officials, and landscape gardener. Here is a school system employing appropriate and suitable conveniences for an environment that would facilitate and encourage pupil activity. The architect, Mr. Perkins, after weeks of firsthand observation caught the spirit of what was being attempted in the school. Then, and only then, could he be in position to present adequate solutions for study and criticism. No postwar building should be attempted without this sort of deliberative co-planning.

Many State Codes Obsolete

Another improvement in the problem of postwar school-building planning, and one that we predict with less confidence is greater freedom from the many obsolescent and out-moded state school-building codes that so frequently hamper architects and school officials. What a boon to progress in school design and construction would result if many states could adopt a school-building code patterned after that used in the state of Connecticut! This code, revised in 1941 by John E. Nichols, Supervisor of School Buildings and Plans, contains complete information, illustrations, and suggestion for architects and school officials. Its presentation is in the spirit of suggestion rather than finality. The way is left open for the architect to take his sketch plan to this expert in education and school planning for consultation and advice, as well as decisions on requirements. No progressive step is ever denied a fair trial—and, in fact, new notions with promise of development and progress are consistently encouraged. Unfortunately, many states are not favored with the open-mindedness of Connecticut.

In hazarding these predictions of things to come, the writers have colored them with their hopes. It is a safe

assertion that after this war America will still be the richest nation on earth, and our greatest assets will not be our fields, rivers, and mountains, or even our mass production facilities—but our children. Our greatest heritage to them will be the depth of culture and practical adaptation of our educational system to a balanced life in a world of democracies. For what else do we wage all-out war?

Bulletin:

A file of the Michigan Society's Bulletin for 1942 (vol. 16) was given to the Library but we find one number is missing, vol. 16, No. 14, April 7, 1942.

We plan to bind this as a permanent file and naturally would like to have it complete.

Do you know where we could secure this missing issue?

LEICESTER B. HOLLAND

Chief, Division of Fine Arts
Library of Congress, U.S.A.

We are able to supply this number to Dr. Holland, though, since it contained the article on post war Housing by Dean MacCornack, requests have far exceeded the supply—Ed.

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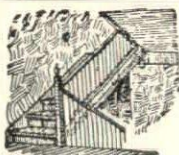
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