Legion Airs '40 & 8' Issue; Keeps Color Bar by Trick Move

Vets shout noisy nay to proposal

Legionnaire from Brooklyn stopped at microphone

B U L L E T I N

A motion by the Rhode Island delegation to reconsider a resolution which sought to ban the Forty-and-Eight's "white-only" membership clause met vocal disapproval at the American Legion convention Thursday morning.

The motion was made by Eric Taylor of Providence.

Earl Simpson of Oklahoma, new chef de chemin of the Forty-and-Eight, told the AFRO that the racial issue as far as the society is concerned is a Legion matter.

WASHINGTON

The "racial issue" was blamed, Wednesday, for defeat of a compromise effort to end discrimination in the "Forty-and-Eight" Society of the American Legion.

A New Jersey proposal to change the constitution and give the Legion* executive authority over the society was rejected in a voice vote on the convention floor in the District Armory.

After the voting, colored and white delegates in favor of the substitute motion said they felt that stressing the racial implications of the proposal had caused its defeat.

AT ONE POINT in the discussion, National Commander Arthur Connell of Connecticut was asked by Legionnaire Ben Hillard of Colorado to warn the delegates to stay on the motion and not appeal to the race issue.

Mr. Connell immediately heeded the suggestion and ruled all future remarks on the color question in the "Forty and Eight" out-of-order.

From then on he strictly confined speakers to discussion of the Legion's control of the Forty and Eight.

Liberal and conservative elements appeared to have joined forces to shout down the measure after it threatened to cause a wide-open debate on the "white only" membership policy of the Legion's fun-making auxiliary.

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NO COLORED delegates took part in the hour-long discussion and the heavy negative vote was recorded without challenge.

One representative, Legionnaire A. W. Rollins of Brooklyn, N.Y., attempted to take the microphone during the argument, but was ruled out of order because he was not an official delegate.

The large New York contingent which put up a last-ditch fight to save the proposal had its 225 votes recorded in support of the anti-discrimination resolution along with New Jersey's 78 votes.

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ALTHOUGH Rhode Island took no active part in the floor fight, representatives later told an AFRO reporter they were going to make another attempt to seek passage of a strong New York resolution early Thursday.

Opponents of the New Jersey proposal included delegates from Georgia, Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Indiana, Nebraska and Illinois and Indiana who led the fight.

The opposition representatives said they interpreted the resolution as an subterfuge to enable the Legion to take over the internal affairs of the independently chartered Forty and Eight.

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AN EVEN MILDER compromise offered by Past Commander John Stelle of the Illinois delegation to appoint a committee of five each from the Legion and the Forty and Eight to study the matter was soundly shouted down by the delegates.

The controversial New Jersey motion was made by Harry V. Groome, vice commander of the New Jersey delegation. He proposed substituting a minority report for the report of the important Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

It was this minority report which called for the change in the Legion constitution.

The majority report had recommended that resolutions from Kentucky, New York and New Jersey dealing with the "Forty and Eight" constitution be rejected.

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THE MAJORITY report was given by George Boiter of Nebraska, following a plea by National Commander Arthur Connell of Connecticut for "tolerance among the delegates in considering the views of others."

A rumbling murmur through the packed auditorium indicated the remarks had been taken as a plea before the delegates and Mr. Connell promptly jumped to the microphone to state he was "strictly impartial and neutral" in the affair.

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IN CALLING for a separate vote on the heated issue, Mr. Groome recommended that the Legion's constitution be amended by adding a section 3 to article 14.

The amendment read that "the Society should be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the national executive committee and thereafter approved by any Depart of the American Legion.

Supporters of the bill, including delegates from Hawaii, Nebraska, New York and Alaska made dramatic pleas for the bill which received polite applause.

THE STAGE for defeat of the measure was set by Mr. Connell, possibly inadvertently, in a series of political maneuvers.

The national commander asked that the minority report be withdrawn temporarily to allow the convention to vote on the remainder of the recommendations of the Constitional Amendments Committee.

These proposals dealt with Korean veterans, a national baseball commission and the Legion's fiscal year.

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PENNSYLVANIA AVE.—With the Capitol in the background as the American Legion's 36th Convention gave Washington its biggest parade since Lincoln's Grand Army at the close of the Civil War.

Louis R. Douglass, 1731 S St., NW.; John W. Harding, 2332 Angel Pl., SE; and Lawrence G. Nash, 502 - 24th St., NE, members of James Reese Europe Post No. 5, talk things over at convention hall.

consideration of the two other measures rejected by the committee.

Both the strongly worded New York resolution and the Kentucky proposal specifically referred to the elimination of the "white only" clauses in the "Forty and Eight" constitution.

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COMMANDER JOHN RYAN of New York told the AFRO that New Jersey was allowed to take the lead in the floor fight because it was felt its measure would pass more readily.

After the defeat of the New Jersey proposal, Mr. Ryan vainly tried to restore the New York resolution to the floor only to be repeatedly ruled out of order.

The large delegation was scheduled to make another attempt early Thursday in a political maneuver with Rhode Island.

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JOHN TAYLOR, adjutant of the Rhode Island delegation and Robert Burgeon, chairman of the state Education Against Discrimination Committee said their delegation was pledged to support an anti-discrimination measure.

Mr. Groome also told reporters he had been pledged support of the New York, Nebraska and portions of the California and Pennsylvania Departments on his recommendations, but the "situation got out of hand."

Delegates should have organized for success

WASHINGTON

"AMERICAN LEGION delegates interested in having the Forty and Eight Society drop its race bars should get organized."

This was the opinion expressed by top legionnaires on all sides of the controversial issue. Tuesday, following a series of endless caucuses and button-hole conferences.

"I have been of that opinion all along," I. B. January, delegate from the Louisiana Department stated after hopes of bringing the question to the convention floor began to wither.

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"THERE ISN'T enough grass roots support, all the convention do is raise a lot of fuss and go back home and forget it," John R. Roxborough, Jr., judge advocate of the Michigan Department, told an AFRO reporter.

Mr. Roxborough who was recently appointed consultant to John Dulles, secretary of state, was attending the convention as legal advisor to his delegation.

"The only way you're going to get this thing through is to negotiate with the Forty and Eight" George C. Love, past commander of Tom Phillips Post 182 of Detroit, stated.

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"I'M AGAINST any compromise, even if we lose on the floor, Howard Jackson, Missouri delegate and first colored member of the St. Louis District Legion Executive Committee, declared.

Other leaders in the move for definite action were:

Camilus M. Daney Jr., commander of the Chrispus Attucks No. 3 of Norfolk, Va.; David Brown, commander of the George F. Giles Post No. 87 and the New York contingent headed by Samuel Birbum and John Silvera Jr., commander of the Jesse Palmer Post 1068.

The New York contingent was sponsor of the strongly worded resolution submitted to the Legion's internal affairs committee calling for ouster of the Forty and Eight if it didn't drop its "white only" membership clause.

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THE FRENCH named society composed of Legionnaires organized into a separate auxiliary, is the fun-making body of the veteran's organization.

Prospects of an outspoken floor fight on the resolution began to wither late Tuesday as more and more delegates began to back up on their original demands for a vote now issue.

Repeated efforts of Mr. January to arrange a caucus on the issue in his Willard Hotel room were made early in the week before the Wednesday session.

The Louisianian said the purpose was to get delegates to go back to their departments and seek support for the non-discriminatory resolution.

Many white delegates were believed to be in sympathy with the move and some openly urged the restricted clause be dropped from the society's constitution.

Principal deterrent to any action against the strong independent body appeared to be politicking for national offices by members of various departments.

Leaders seeking top positions in the Legion have been slow about speaking out against the strong body for fear of loosing support.

Other States besides New York who had resolutions against the Forty and Eight Society's racial restrictions are New Jersey, Rhode Island and California.

Mr. Roxborough said the resolution passed by the Michigan department called for action within the Michigan Forty and Eight Society.

"The only way we're going to do it is within the organization" the attorney agreed. "The society resents being dictated to by the legion and its made up of legionnaires.

"I don't think there's much chance of putting them out or splitting up the legion over it.

"The best thing is to work on it all next year in the various state departments where the men have influence," Mr. Roxborough explained.

Elks chieftain blasts '40 & 8'

WASHINGTON

Grand Exalted Ruler Robert H. Johnson of the IBPOEW this week added his voice to the attack on the color bar in the American Legion's 40 and 8 Society.

In a letter to Al B. Clarke, head of the 40 and 8, which was meeting here with the Legion national convention, Dr. Johnson called the color bar an "iniquity-filled provision."

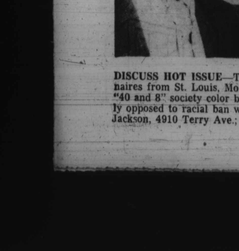
"AS A national administrative officer of the Order of Elkdom of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and as head of the biggest colored fraternal organization in the world," Dr. Johnson told Mr. Clarke, "I add my voice to those who are urging that the 40 and 8 display genuine Americanism by removing this iniquity-filled provision from your constitution.

"If you fail to do so," the Elks chieftain continued, "you will be continuing a blot upon the fair name of our country and one which will be regarded as a mark of hypocrisy by those who advocate the causes of nations which would see our unity destroyed."

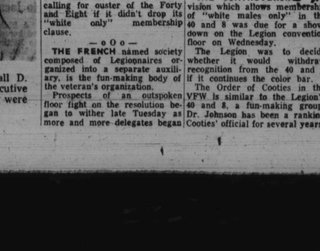
THE CONTROVERSIAL provision which allows membership in the "white only" in the 40 and 8 was due for a showdown on the Legion convention floor on Wednesday.

The Legion was to decide whether it would withdraw recognition from the 40 and 8 if it continues the color bar.

The Order of Cooties in the VFW is similar to the Legion's 40 and 8, a fun-making group. Dr. Johnson has been ranking Cooties' official for several years.



DISCUSS HOT ISSUE—Three Legionnaires from St. Louis, Mo., discuss the "40 and 8" society color barrier. Opposed to racial ban were: Howard Jackson, 4910 Terry Ave.; Henry Levison, 600 Oliver St. and Marshall D. Hagemann, chairman central executive committee, all of St. Louis. They were quartered at Hotel Annapolis.



FIGHT BAN—New York Legionnaires huddled over the controversial "40 and 8" color bar at the American Legion Convention held here this week. They are from left: Wesley Parks, sergeant at arms; John Silvera, publicist and commander of Jesse Palmer Post No. 1068, Bronx, N.Y.; and William Jones, city-wide commander, Bronx, N.Y.

Legion's segregation pattern hasn't changed

WASHINGTON

By TREZZ ANDERSON

Washington has seen the American Legion come and go, and found the Legion's pattern of segregation just as marked now as it was 20 years ago.

There was not a colored face among those which packed the official reviewing stand at 16th St. and Constitution Ave., NW, Tuesday, for the big parade.

And as the thousands upon thousands of marchers came up to give their salute to National Commander Arthur J. Connell, colored faces were few and far between.

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WHEN THEY did come in profusion, they were in their own segregated units.

There was a strange paradox in the integrated marching unit from Governor Herman Talmadge's Georgia capital of Atlanta, and that from Commander Connell's home state of Connecticut.

There were seven colored marchers mixed in with the whites from Atlanta. From New Haven, Conn., Buckner Post 108 had a color guard of seven colored legionnaires.

The only other colored legionnaire from Commander Connell's state was a lone marcher in the front row of the Meridian, Conn., drill unit.

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BIGGEST HAND received at the reviewing stand was given to double amputee William Washington of Merchantville, N.J., who was leading the New Jersey contingent smartly pacing up Constitution Avenue on his two stubs, both off just above the knees.

The oldest drum and bugle corps in the legion, from Racine, Wisc., drew a big hand. They were all white, and have been national champions four times.

They brought to mind the crack colored drum and bugle corps from Col. Charles Young Post 168, Charleston, N.C., which twice won the national title, in 1930 and 1934.

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THE FIRST all - colored unit to appear before the reviewing stand was the Tom Powell Post 77, from St. Louis, Mo. Smartly attired in blue and gold trousers, grey blouses and tall white shakos, the drum and bugle corps did a real number to the delight of the huge crowd.

There were 42 men in the drum and bugle corps.

Integration was more marked in the New Jersey units than in any other in the big legion portion of the parade.

The Kenneth Hawkins Post 61, Atlantic City, N.J., was impressive as it bore down on the reviewing stand. With its junior drum and bugle corps the only group of "buckle - bucking" drum majorettes, the unit was given an ovation, when the lassies did a special routine.

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THE CATHOLIC cadet units—St. Marks Cadets, Butley, N.J.; Blessed Sacrament Cadets, Newark, N.J.; Students Corps, Rahway, N.J.; the championship St. Josephs Cadets Post 160, Newark, N.J. — all were integrated, and all drew big hands.

Blessed Sacrament won the junior national championship this year. St. Josephs Cadets also won a national title.

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BUT THE absence of colored faces on the reviewing stand, and the lack of fraternizing between white and colored Legionnaires stood out sharply as the pattern of segregation emphasized itself more and more.

Virginia's offering included four colored youths from Danville, Va., carrying between them a huge tray containing leaf tobacco.

Danville also had two colored posts in the parade, Walden Thomas, 125, Waldron France Post 29, and the Boy Scouts sponsored to their parents at the first - aid tent behind the reviewing stand.

As the sun began to hide its face behind the Washington Monument, the parade of the legion proper was only one - third finished, and still to start was the '40 and 8' and its allied units.

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AS THE crowd began melting away, new faces turned up to take the deserted places. Even the dignitaries on the reviewing stand had begun to run in substitutes, as the pace grew wearisome.

It was the biggest parade the District has ever seen . . . and it kept on coming far into the night.

P.S. Most of the regular legion marchers were elderly.

Stanley omits liberals from school study

Armistead Boothe — Ted Dalton left off 32-man commission

RICHMOND

All of the so-called liberals in the Virginia General Assembly were adroitly skirted by Gov. Thomas B. Stanley in the appointment of his 32-man school segregation study commission.

While neither Delegates Armistead L. Boothe of Alexandria, Robert Whitehead nor Sen. Ted Dalton of Radford are considered liberals in the broader sense of the term, they are ranked as the state's leaders in the field.

Neither of the men was named to the commission appointed by the governor on Saturday. The body is slated to hold its first meeting Sept. 13 at the capitol.

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WHILE MOST of the legislators reacted favorably toward the governor's about-face (he had originally planned a bi-racial group), Delegate Whitehead questioned the wisdom of the move.

Mr. Whitehead, often at odds with the administration (at this time), said he was unable to understand why the governor felt Senator Dalton and Delegate Boothe off the commission.

He pointed out that both men had proposed bi-racial solutions of the problems posed by the Supreme Court's desegregation ruling in advance of that court's forthcoming decree on the matter.

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SENATOR DALTON, Republican candidate for governor in 1953, said he thought the commission should "have the benefit of the best talent outside the General Assembly, including colored representatives."

Commenting on the action, the Rev. W. J. Hodge, Lynchburg NAACP president said he felt that the commission should "concern itself with carrying out the decision of the Supreme Court instead of trying to get around it."

In order to reach that end, he said, "it should have included both colored and white educators, plus a few members of the NAACP legal staff."

761st Tankers meet in Chi

CHICAGO — The Fountain view lounge, 540 E. Michigan Ave. in downtown Chicago, will be the meeting spot for the 6th annual reunion of the 761st Tank Bn. Assn., Sept. 3-5.

The Chicago chapter will have a caucus forum at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, with special activities for wives, sweethearts and girl friends.

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A WOMEN'S AUXILIARY will also be organized.

Col Paul Bates, 761st Wartime CO., and other officers will be here. It was colonel Bates, who, in 1942, saved Brooklyn Dodgers Star, Jackie Robinson, a 761st lieutenant, from a Louisiana court-martial.

Richard A. Carter, 1821 S. St. Louis Ave., Chicago, 761st national president, wants all ex-tankers to contact him at once. of them colored — were "found?"

Delegates hold post-mortem

WASHINGTON

Delegates at the American Legion convention here admitted they were confused and outmaneuvered Wednesday on the issue of the color bar in the Forty and Eight Society.

After the vote, colored delegates had plenty to say in private huddle on the floor. They numbered about 25 of the thousands of persons present.

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"DELEGATES don't usually take the floor. They leave it to their commander," William M. Jones, county vice commander of New York said in explaining why he didn't speak.

"Sometimes it isn't expedient to speak" said W. D. Broughton Sr., of Fairmont, W. Va. "Sometimes you hurt yourself," said Joseph McDaniels and E. W. Dove of Augustus, Ga.

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THE LEGIONNAIRES said they were all set to debate a strongly worded resolution from the strong New York delegation, when they were caught off guard.

"We didn't do as well as last year at St. Louis where we had a real debate on the matter," Howard Jackson of the Missouri delegation said disgustedly. "I was confused," he said.

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"THEY WERE all scared like rabbits," interned A. W. Rollins a Gold Star father from Brooklyn, N.Y. "I tried to speak but my own delegation stopped me. I had something, too, in the practical effect.

Mr. Rollins was the only colored Legionnaire who tried to get the floor.

He was ruled out of order because he was not a delegate. **There were about 25 colored delegates** seated on the convention floor among their various departments.

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E. B. McKISSICK, a delegate from Asheville, N.C., who said his son was the first colored student to attend the University of North Carolina, said he didn't speak because it was his first time attending a convention.

Joseph C. Richmond of Greensboro, N.C. said "It wasn't necessary to speak since the other speakers in favor of the resolution expressed my sentiments." Seored by the Danville group.

William Thomas Post of Alexandria, Va., had one of the largest delegations in the parade. All were colored.

MARYLAND DID well for itself in integration. Of the 17 flags borne in their massed colors, five were borne by colored legionnaires. Cheverly, Md., Post 108 had two colored legionnaires in its ranks.

There were several colored legionnaires in the Detroit District Association marching unit, along with a drum and bugle corps formed by a colored majorette.

Vermont, Wyoming, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Iowa, and several others so called "Northern" states, had no colored representation at all.

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AMONG THOSE in the crowds near the reviewing stand was William Irving Grant, butler for Millionaire William Phillips. Mr. Grant was the man who "fingered" his son - in - law, James Rufus Landis, in the $160,000 Bureau of Engraving theft last December.

A number of little boys — two left in the crowd and were reunited with their parents.

COMRADE WILLIAM WASHINGTON
From Emma Guyton Post in New Jersey

Calls Legion parade DC's finest spectacle

WASHINGTON

By MARY STRATFORD

As 750,000 Washingtonians and visitors watched, thousands of Legionnaires marched gaily through the District's main stem streets in colorful parade, Tuesday.

Bearing Old Glory down the city thoroughfares, military units and the Legion joined in regimented ranks, marking the first time the American Legion's magnificent spectacle has been seen in Washington.

THE PARADE pointed up the presence of 150,000 war veterans in the nation's capital for the 36th national annual convention of the Legion. Of this number, 10,000 were colored.

An American Legion spokesman said the huge turn-out of spectators at the parade routes, was the greatest in capital history.

The units began forming for the 10-hour match at approximately 1:30 p.m., while temperatures were recorded at a comfortable 75 degrees.

At 3 p.m., the members of the Junior Drum and Bugle Corps, Waldron France, Post 29, of Danville, Va., moved from a bus at the corner of fourth and Madison Ave., NW, to join the parading ranks.

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THE DANVILLE GROUP maintained housmg quarters at the Lorraine Hotel, operated by Father Divine in Northwest, NW, "because prices are sky - high in the District."

According to J. H. Fuller, commanding officer, a local residence home offered rooms for $100 per night for the group of 64 persons.

"We couldn't pay it," Mr. Fuller declared, "So we went to Philadelphia, where we pay 50 cents each for rooms, 75 cents for board."

THE DANVILLE Bugle Corps boasted that they won Virginia State championship honors in Richmond, Va., last month. Mr. Fuller, a local resident, is called "Northern" states, had no colored representation at all.

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Corps, Federal Post 19, of Baltimore, stood around on the mall grounds before parade formation time, discussing the American Legion clubhouse.

They said they had not visited the clubhouse but intended to "drop in" before returning to Baltimore.

Participating in the discussion were:

Daniel E. Dixon Sr., past adjutant general; Clifton Monk Sr., and Earnest Blackwell, past commander.

OTHER MEMBERS of the Baltimore Corps, nicknamed the "Blue Devils," on the grounds early, were:

Charles G. Wilson, commander; Raymond Toney, president of the Drum Corps; Joseph L. Jones, drum major, Sona Wulford, majorette, and William H. Coner, assistant sergeant - at - arms.

Marching with the "Blue Devils" were three members of the William E. Crumbwell Post 204, also of Baltimore.

They were: Curtis Berry, first vice - commander; John Tucker, sergeant - at - arms, and Milton Pinkett, second vice - commander.

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PRANCING ABOUT awaiting their turn to join the parade, were youthful members of the William Thomas Band, Post 129, Alexandria, Va.

Dressed in a glistening satin skirt and blouse was Shirley Lee, majorette. Her fellow - high - stepper, Freida Robinson, wore a clinging dress of blue and gold.

Drum majors were: William Berry, George Dixon and Odell Scott.

About 75 Alexandrians made up the marching unit, headed by George Gibson, commander.

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MEANWHILE, AS PARADE activities swelled to high pitch among the Legionnaires, Dedecans, freed from their government jobs to witness the parade, sprawled along the parade routes.

Samuel McCauley, his wife, Gladys and daughter, Sharon, who reside at 108 49th St., NE, stood on top of chairs that they brought from home.

Mr. McCauley, who said he witnessed the inaugural parade, declared "it was nothing like this!"

Frank Turner, of 325 Channing St., NE, Fred Sherman, of 1311 Constitution Ave., and Douglas Johnson, of 624 11th St., NE, all postal employees, perched on their mail trucks to see the Legionaires strut by.

They said the crowds had blocked passage to a mailbox, where they were scheduled to unload their mail.

"We're going to sit right here until it's over," they declared.

They only had about nine hours to wait.

Still going strong at end of march

WASHINGTON

By LARRY STILL

The high - stepping, hard-blowing units of the record long American Legion parade were still going strong at the end of their 18-block march, Tuesday.

Group by group, the multi-colored aggregations swung past the reviewing stands, through the stacked crowds and up banner - lined Constitution Avenue to the "point of dispersement" at 18th St., NW.

Anxious crowds gathered around the Munitions building and Pan - American Union were kept running from the flag decked thoroughfare to Virginia Ave. as the finishing paraders alternated on the streets at the end.

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A FEW of the colored delegates marched side by side with their white comrades in some of the state departments including Louisiana, Arkansas and Georgia.

"We always have," said D. C. Tyson of Macon, Ga. He was accompanied by John Jackson and Thomas W. Bount as they turned in arm - bands at the 18th and Constitution Ave., NW, disbursement point.

Although several of the state delegations were mixed, many Departments displayed proudly stepping separate units including Maryland, Missouri, New York and the District.

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MOST OF THE SERVICE units leading the grand march were integrated except the National Airline Training School WOOTS whose white-clad squad was conspicuous with its absence of tan representatives.

The Department of Illinois's higher echelon was also surprisingly without tan representation as they passed.

The all - colored George F. Giles Junior Drum and Bugle Corps of Chicago, National Champions of 1954, paced the 50 state units, however, and H. P. Calloway of the Charles A. Young Post 591 of Rock Island was a color bearer.

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THE NEW JERSEY Department appeared to have been the most integrated Legion delegation from the line-of-march, with several vice county commanders observed.

Among them was James R. Brokenborough, vice commander of Brokenborough Post 205, Pennsgrove, N.J.

Mr. Brokenborough, who said the interracial post was named after his uncle, is also vice-commander of Salem County District Legionnaires.

P. J. Hill, past commander of the Mitchell Davis Post 182 in Trenton, N.J., is also a county vice-commander. The 59-year-old official has been a Legionnaire for 20 years.

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HE WAS STILL PEPPY as he 61. Mr. Tucker, a Sergeant at arms, said he had been in the Legion 21 years.

One New Jersyite who seem to know everyone was the large contingent was William Washington, 62, of the Emma Guyton Post 152, Merchantsville, N.J.

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CORRAOR WASHINGTON is a legless vet of World War I whose legs were shot off in Argonne Forest while serving with the famed 369th in France.

He said he drove to the convention in his specially constructed Packard automobile to take part in the parade. Post 152 gave him the car.

At present Mr. Washington makes his living by performing as a one-man band, in his home town. He has two daughters.

Others in the large New Jersey delegation were Kenfeth Maxice Holt, St. Claire Fraiser, W. M. Matthews and Thomas I. Anderson of Kenneth Hawkins Post 61 of Atlantic City, N.J.

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MRS. D. J. MATTHEWS and Mrs. Laura Roper, both past presidents of the Hawkins Post ladies Auxiliary were chaperones for the unit's Junior Drum and Bugle Corps.

James A. Jaffress, past commander of the P. C. Wayminer Post 149, Kansas City, Mo., was another official observed in the integrated line of march.

Mr. Jeffress who is vice state commander, returned to the spectator ranks after his long walk to enjoy the parade with Ira Myles of the Johnson Hood Post 151 of Rockville, Ill.

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ONE OF THE more than interested spectators along the route was John R. Roxborough, recently appointed consultant to John Dulles, Secretary of State.

Mr. Roxborough who is judge advocate of his home state of Michigan's Legion Department stood eating a cherry filled ice cream stick as blaring units stepped smartly by.

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HE TOOK HIS EYES off the route long enough to answer a few questions on the hot Forty and Eight issue on which he prepared a resolution for his Michigan group.

The smart young attorney was emphatic in his opinion that the "Legion couldn't make the Forty and Eight do anything on the convention floor." He added:

"There isn't enough grass roots support. All the delegates do is raise a lot of fuss here and go back home and forget it. You have to be organized to do a thing like that."

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Other spectators who didn't seem to know or care about the heated jim-crow issue as they delightedly watched the passing figures were Mrs. Elizabeth Beatrice Bumbry, 4219 Dix St., NE, and her daughter Diane; Mrs. Elizabeth Coates of 2327 E St., NW, Mrs. Lucile Warren and Mrs. James Warren and Monica Warren of 2323 E St., NW.

The women said they were among the government workers who were given a half day off to enjoy the colorful scene.

Paul A. Bullock, a Capitol Cab driver of 1855 Calvert St., NW, also took the day off to watch the parade with his son and daughter. "I thought I'd give them a holiday," he said.

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MOST CAB DRIVERS have been complaining that the Legionnaires weren't riding, anyway.

Another spectator was Chief Flying Cloud of the Sioux nation who led the North Dakota Department.

After passing the disbursing point Flying Cloud came back and sat next to Mrs. R. Stroud of 2207 I St., NW and Mrs. Hattie Dorsey of 1140 Abbey Pl., NE.

The Chief passed out autographs to the two ladies along with the crowd of children and amateur movie cameramen who gathered around.

One devout spectator was so inspired by the marching legions that he said he was going and join the army immediately. He was Willie McNeal of Wilson, N.C.

"I wish I had joined two years ago when I started" the 20-year-old youth said wistfully as he gazed down the flag decked Constitution avenue at the oncoming yellow and black drum and bugle corps.

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ANOTHER GROUP of parade fans who sat wearily on the curbstones after parading Legionnaiers were from interracial St. Joseph's Academy of Newark, N.J.

"They're all goods boys," Father Thomas J. Finnegan, rector of the parish, said. "I took them to Miami last year and refused to separate them."

"We're going again next year and I'm not going to leave any of my colored boys behind," Father Finnegan emphasized.

The priest said he was really surprised to find the lack of racial strife in the District. His unit was quartered at the Congressional Hotel.

"Washington's reputation as a place in which it's mighty easy to get lost, was attested to by Mrs. Lois Washington Gilbert, also a member of Giles Post, who said that she might have guessed that a Baltimore if she hadn't seen groups of Legionnaires headed the other way.

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ALL SECTIONS of the country were represented by the tan delegates. Commander Robert B. Coleman of the Buckner West Post No. 108, New Haven, Conn., said that he was his state's only colored delegate.

Alonzo Johnson of Tyner-Ford Post No. 213, Vicksburg, Miss., said that he believed that he, too, was his state's only colored delegate.

A veteran of the 92nd Division in World War II, he said that this is his fifth national convention and he plans to keep attending until he has to do so in a wheel - chair.

As the first units of the parade marched out at 2 p.m. their places were immediately filled by busses which disgorged outfits scheduled to follow in the line of march.

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MANY UNITS had been in the city for several days. Others arrived only a matter of hours before they were scheduled to march.

One of the most unhappy groups in the staging area was the drum and bugle corps of Detroit's Charles Young Post No. 77 whose drums, and a station wagon carrying them and the two men who were driving became lost in transit.

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THE DETROIT DELEGATION included a number of Legionnaires from Charles Young Post 77 who were staying at Porter House, 2800 12th St., NW. Among the Detroiters were:

Mrs. Lillian Thomas, secretary of the auxiliary, and Sgt. Hilliard Roberts, Sgt. Eugene Hatch and Pvt. Ned Booth, all veterans of World War I.

Commander James Whitelaw and Adjutant Reuben Hughes of the Toledo, Ohio unit became separated from the rest of the delegation somewhere between Toledo and Detroit and not been heard from two minutes before the Detroit contingent was slated to march.

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FAR HAPPIER was the drum and bugle corps of the Giles Post No. 87 of Chicago which last year's junior drum and bugle corps national champions as a result of competition which took place the night before the parade.