

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COUNSELOR
to the 117th Annual National Encampment

Dear Brothers:

This year has seen a number of items and concerns that caused our Commander-in-Chief to seek guidance and counsel, not only from his Counselor, but his other National Officers. In addition, part of my duties included a continuation of the review of proposed changes in Department bylaws, to insure compliance with our National Constitution and Regulations. A number of informal opinions were given to the Commander-in-Chief, Department Commanders and others.

In addition, congress has seen fit to introduce legislation to re-codify our National Charter. This has passed the House of Representatives and is currently pending in the Senate. HR1085 is not supposed to make any substantial changes, however, will require our proceedings to be published by a date certain each year.

Official opinions were rendered in the following matters:

1) It was my opinion that the provisions of General Order #4, authorizing blanket authorization in initial start-up of a provisional Camp, in lieu of requiring a signature on form 23 from the Commander-in-Chief, did not violate the provisions of the Constitution and Regulations of the Order.

2) It was my opinion that for the Sons of Veterans Reserve to issue a badge to be worn by SVR members, an amendment must be made to the National Regulations.

3) It was my opinion that when a member is removed from the Order due to disciplinary action, the disciplinary action cannot include a provision that would prohibit descendants of that removed member from applying for membership.

4) It was my opinion that Article III of the National Constitution limits membership to those who have never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime. Embezzlement is an infamous crime,. Therefore, any person so convicted is not eligible for membership.

Respectfully submitted in fraternity, charity and loyalty,

James B. Pahl, National Counselor