



ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Our next meeting will be the Chapter's Anniversary Dinner, which is now being planned for *Tuesday evening, March 10th*, at the Architectural League.

The theme will be our Latin American relations, particularly as they affect the arts and professional interests.

A number of distinguished guests and speakers will be present. Ladies are not only invited, but expected.

A more detailed announcement will be broadcast later, but please mark March 10th on your calendar now.

P.W.R.

Remarks of Melvin E. Scheidt, Acting National Director, Public Works Reserve, made at the Architectural League, January 22:

Our being in the war has merely emphasized our post-war problems. The war has awakened us to finding the best means of utilizing our resources, also how to cover the transition from war to peace without going through a period of unemployment—how to transfer our efforts from defense to national development. No nation has ever yet planned in advance for a post-war period—this applies both to conquering countries and conquered countries.

Approximately 50 per cent of the country's efforts will be devoted during this emergency to military endeavors. We must therefore face the problem of how to divert that 50 per cent back into civilian life. We cannot depend upon the government to care for anywhere near that 50 per cent through "public works."

The Federal government can take up only 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the slack of unemployment. We learned in 1930 that public works is not a panacea for unemployment. The National Resources Planning Board began in 1938 a survey of 1930 conditions and a study of how to avoid those shortcomings.

The P.W.R. is sponsored by the Federal Works Agency, and co-sponsored by the National Resources Planning Board, and the funds are provided by the W.P.A. Some of the objectives of P.W.R. are:

1: A complete listing of public improvements and services desirable

or necessary, together with such estimates as are available.

- 2: Assistance to local government units to the end that plans for each local project may be on the shelf complete and ready for immediate operation when the time comes.
- 3: Encouragement to local governments in solving their local problems.
- 4: Encouragement and assistance to local governments in planning continuous programs.

P.W.R. is appropriating no money for detailed plans and specifications. Instead it operates in the field of public administration.

There is a Committee working in each State. Cities and municipalities are asked to send the P.W.R. a listing of their needs for analysis. Occasionally financial assistance is given in the form of advance payments of loans.

LEGISLATION

We commend to our readers the regular department in the *Empire State Architect*, "Legislation," run by our fellow member, John Briggs. Here will be found each month a summary of the news of both Albany and Washington. "This monthly résumé," says the columnist, "is intended to start you on your own research."

MEMBERSHIP

The following candidates have been presented for Institute membership:

1. Edwin A. Salmon
Sponsors:
F. G. Frost, Sr.
F. J. Woodbridge
2. Saul Edelbaum
Sponsors:
F. J. Woodbridge
Lawrence Moore
3. John Alexander Frank
Sponsors:
Willis N. Mills
J. Davidson Stephen
4. Sylvester W. A. Murphy
Sponsors:
Albert Schweizer
George J. Cavalieri
5. Paul Schulz
Sponsors:
Henry Otis Chapman
Harold Beder

ARCHITECTS, NEVER TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER!

With this encouraging note, A.I.A. President Shreve ended his talk at the Chapter dinner meeting on Tuesday, February 3: "No matter how dark the picture may seem at the present, architects should never take 'no' for an answer." Ninety-five attended, including over twenty guests invited by our Associates—neophytes all.

The Committee of Associates, who arranged the meeting under the chairmanship of Benjamin J. Rabe, had invited Mr. Shreve to address us on the position of our profession today.

He outlined the situation: Huge government appropriations and expenditures are new in this generation; industry has changed; workmen have changed their occupations; private building has stopped, partly because the government needs the materials and partly because clients are afraid to proceed.

However, the greatest building year in the history of the country is in prospect, yet architects are not participating in this building; they are either seeking government work, or government employment.

The A.I.A. Board, realizing this situation, appointed Edmund R. Purves as its Washington Representative, whose duty is to feel out the "Washington Situation," and as a result of the cordial relations he has been able to establish, Washington officials interested in defense housing, camouflage, industrial buildings, etc., all come to Mr. Purves when they need to discuss the architectural viewpoint.

Regarding defense housing, now that funds are available under the Lanham Act, just passed, Baird Snyder III, Deputy Commissioner acting for F.W.A. Administrator Fleming, has announced that he proposes to use the services of private architects. He has asked the A.I.A. to help him in finding local architects accessible to the projects. The A.I.A. has avoided setting up panels of architects, but is now co-operating by selecting names from the questionnaires on file at the *Octagon*. The list selected for each locality will then be sent to the local Chapter for review and recommendation, after which the names will be submitted to the Government for the final selection.

A form of contract known as "Architect-Engineer Construction Management" is now being used by the Government for larger projects, in which the architect is asked to set up the site plan, design the heating, lighting, sewage disposal, etc., in fact plan the entire project so that it may be returned complete to the Government.

If an architect wants work today, he must be prepared to deal with all these factors. He must think more of practicality and less of design, he must study his problem from the point of view of investment rather than of aesthetics, he must be efficient in the control of funds and he must have a complete knowledge of building codes.

BUSINESS MEETING

Before hearing the speaker of the evening, the members present held a business meeting which took up in rapid order:

HONORARY ASSOCIATE:

The Chapter's Committee on Awards presented the name of Dr. S. S. Goldwater, former Commissioner of Hospitals, for election to Honorary Associate membership in the Chapter. Due notice of this to all members having appeared in *THE OCULUS*, the vote was then called for.

Dr. Goldwater was elected unanimously.

UNIFICATION:

Before presenting the resolution on unification, of which the members had had due notice in *THE OCULUS*, Mr. Shreve was called on to tell briefly of unification trends in other parts of the country. He spoke particularly of the State Associations, which have affiliated with the A.I.A., of which there are now 21. Of itself this strengthens the Institute, for whereas about one-third of the registered architects in the country were formerly members of the A.I.A., there are now over half of the country's architects within the A.I.A.

The resolution was then read by Lewis G. Adams and seconded. During the discussion Mr. Adams answered questions on the advantages of the plan and the mechanics of carrying it out, after which the resolution was carried by a vote of 34 to 17.

Mr. Adams then presented a further resolution empowering the President to appoint a Committee of three to carry out the provisions of the first resolution and to report to the Chapter's Executive Committee every two weeks. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Seth Talcott made the suggestion that the plan might be more effective,

were the Chapters to make no attempt to retain their present identity, but merge themselves completely into the new setup.

LEGISLATION:

Matthew Del Gaudio, Chairman of the Legislation Committee, reported that the perennial Phelps Bill has again been introduced and that his Committee is making every effort to oppose it.

N. Y. CITY CIVILIAN DEFENSE:

Mr. Del Gaudio reported that the home addresses of every Chapter member residing in the City were being listed to the end that every precinct in New York City may be covered by at least three architects who in an emergency can be called upon for technical assistance. He requested that everyone present hand in his name, home address and police precinct number, to help this work.

POST WAR PLANNING:

President Stevenson read a letter to Mayor LaGuardia from George McAneny, signed by some 20 interested New Yorkers, including himself as President of the Chapter. It urged the need for post war planning and suggested specifically that the Mayor invite public agencies, such as insurance and banking groups, civic organizations, etc., to form a committee to see that public and private initiative join forces in the replanning of the City.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed:

Here is a little comment for *THE OCULUS*:

"The intoxication of the Modernist influence is evidently wearing off.

In the beginning of the year 1942, A.D., we find announcements in the Sunday and Daily chronicles that the Small House Committee of the New York Chapter A.I.A. has given Certificates of Merit for excellence in the plan and design of three small houses.

In the designs premiated, there is not a lally column nor an unsightly vizer in sight. All three structures are also devoid of the usual, or equally good factory windows approved by the Architect, which can usually be depended upon to roast Hell out of the occupants.

As a matter of fact, the three structures all look like comfortable homes to be occupied by sane persons, under the old crocheted motto, "God Bless Our Home," instead of the sign, "This way to the Cocktail Lounge."

Congratulations to the Committee!
W. H. G.

WAR WORK

The most comprehensive list of jobs for architects in the war effort we have seen to date, is one just received from Yale University, made up for "Alumni in Architecture." We summarize from this:

For Civil Service jobs in army or navy, the most direct approach is to the War Office, not through the Civil Service Headquarters.

(1) Nov. 7th; the Civil Service wrote architecture schools that opportunities were available to those who had completed a four-year architecture program plus certain work in naval architecture.

(2) Jan. 16th; there are opportunities in the government mapping program for architects who have courses in surveying or photogrammetry.

NAVY

(3) Bureau of Yards and Docks. Civilian Personnel Section. Civilian jobs. Drafting work. Civil Service rating of P-1 or P-2. Address: Civilian Personnel Section, Washington, D. C.

(4) Bureau of Aeronautics, Photographic Interpretation Section. Apply for ensign's commission. Address: Lieut. Commander Quackenbush, U. S. Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C. New training course probably starts March 1. Billets probably on shipboard.

(5) Commissions in the Civilian Engineering Corps and Naval Reserve; difficult for architects to secure. Information from Reserve Officer Section, Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

(6) Bureau of Plant Protection. Naval Reserve. Address: Lieut. Commander McCaag, 3rd Naval District. Age wanted, 25-40.

ARMY

Information regarding civilian employment or applications for commissions can be secured from the Office of the Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington, D. C. The Civil Engineering Corps of the army is in charge of all types of construction work, including camouflage.

(7) Civilian jobs in design, construction, engineering, etc. Civil Service rating P-1 or P-2. This is the Ammunition Division, Plant and Maintenance Unit of the Ordnance Department. Address: Major R. L. Russell, Ordnance Dept., U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

(8) Commissions in the U. S. Army. Apply for commission in the U. S. Army Engineering Corps, Construction Division. Apply through Local Corps Area Headquarters.