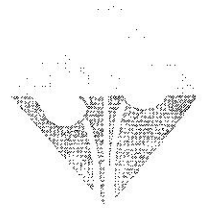




Kells-Grennie Post #316

# The Patriot

May/June 2000



May/June, 2000  
Kells-Grennie Post #316  
2750 Amboy Road  
Staten Island, NY 10306-2140  
(718) 351-9233

### OFFICERS

Commander.....	Pat Miserendino
Vice-Commanders.....	Andy Procopio
.....	Gene Ramirez
.....	John Crowley
.....	Sal Bastiani
Treasurer.....	Emery Chagnon
Adjutant.....	Elias Arout
Judge Advocate.....	Ferdie Salvatore
Chaplain.....	Tom Simonetti
Sgt-at-Arms.....	Jerry Quinn

### Committees

Americanism.....	John Crowley
Bar & Lounge.....	Leo Milham
Boys State.....	Frank Triolo
Children & Youth.....	Sal Bastiani
Graves Registration.....	William Bonelli
Hall Rentals.....	Gene Ramirez
Historian.....	Lester Modelowitz
Honor Guard Captain.....	Emery Chagnon
Hospital Visitations.....	Vincent Zangari
Houseman.....	Gene Ramirez
Membership.....	Dennis J. Conroy
Post Editor.....	Dennis J. Conroy
Post Parties.....	Sal Fulcinelli & Rocco Valenti
POW/MIA.....	Lester Modelowitz
Program Chairman.....	Elias Arout
Publicity.....	Elias Arout
Service & Welfare.....	Leo Milham

## The Commander's Message

On Sunday, March 19th, we held our third annual Essay Contest for Sixth Grade Students at the Post. This year's winner was Ashley Nickelson from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parochial School in New Dorp. On behalf of the Post, I want to thank Essay Contest Chairman Elias Arout for putting the contest together (*see article in this newsletter*).



As you know, May is one of the busiest months for the Post. In May we will conduct our Memorial Day Weekend events (*see details in this newsletter*) and elect our new Post Officers for the term 2000-2001. In June, we will hold elections for our Board of Directors. I urge all members to attend both elections and vote for the candidates of your choice.

I also have the privilege once again, to thank Mrs. Albin Cordes for her generous contribution to our Post. Mrs. Cordes, your gift will go towards next years Fourth Annual Essay Contest for Sixth Grade Students. On behalf of the membership, thank you again for your support.

This issue of the newsletter marks my final message as your Post Commander. My term will expire on the night of May 26th, when a new Commander will be elected by the membership. I wish to thank each and every member who supported me throughout this past year. I want to especially thank my officers and chairmen who helped coordinate and successfully carry out the programs, activities and parties that marked my year in office.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Commander.

Yours for the Legion,  
*Pat Miserendino*  
Post Commander

## TAPS

**James McCarthy**

3/3/00

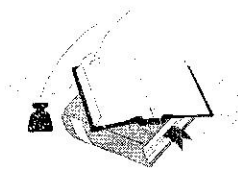
**John M. Stuckey**

3/5/00

**Richard Cross**

4/15/00

*May They Rest in Peace*



## Highlights of the *"Minutes of the Meeting"*

**March 10** Tonight the Post welcomed back Post Commander Pat Miserendino, who was vacationing in Florida. Pat gave a special thank you to John Crowley who filled in for him during his absence.

Adjutant Eli Arout announced that this years Great Kills Memorial Day Parade will be held on Saturday, May 20th at 10:00am (which also happens to be Armed Forces Day). Our Honor Guard and Post members will participate in this event.

Hospital and Visitations Chairman Vincent Zangari reported that Sal Gallo has returned home after a stay in the hospital. Sal was present at tonight's meeting. It's good to see you back, Sal.

A motion was made and passed that the Post donate \$70.00 to sponsor two children in this years Staten Island Special Olympics. This years event will be held at Tottenville High School on Saturday, May 20th.



The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Ferdinand Salvatore. Congratulations, Ferdie.

**March 24** Vice Commander Sal Bastiani reported that on Sunday, April 9th, the annual Children and Youth Breakfast will be held at the Staaten Restaurant at 9:00am. All members are invited to attend.

Adjutant Eli Arout wished to thank all the volunteers and attendees who helped make our 3rd Annual Essay Contest for Sixth Grade Students a huge success. The Post received good publicity, as the event was covered by both the *Staten Island Advance* and the *Staten Island Register* with stories and photos.

Leo Milham announced that the new chairs for the Hall will be delivered on Wednesday, March 29th. Volunteers are needed to help remove the old chairs and install the new ones.

Commander Michael Ranieri, of the *Sons of the American Legion*, presented the Post with a framed photograph of the 1977 New York State Champion, Kells-Grennie #316, American Legion Baseball Team. Mikes' Dad, Past Post Commander Pat Ranieri, was the coach of this championship team. This photo has been mounted in our foyer for all to see.

Adjutant Eli Arout made a motion that the Post resurrect its practice of mailing Holiday greeting cards to Staten Island servicemen and women who are currently on active duty.

The motion was passed unanimously and a Holiday Card committee will be formed soon.

It was announced that the next Board of Director's meeting will be held on Monday, April 17th at 8:00pm, in the lounge.

A motion was presented and passed to donate \$50.00 to the *La Society Des Quarante Hommes Et Huir Chevaux Chef De Gare* (40&8) for its special programs. The 40&8 organization are the veterans that maintains and upkeeps the Train that participates in our Island parades.

**April 14** John Crowley was once again Acting Commander for tonight's meeting. (*The Commander, along with Ferdie Salvatore and Lester Modelowitz, attended the National Commanders dinner on Long Island.*)

John Crowley read an article by Bill Franz about deceased veterans now being entitled to have an Honor Guard perform at the grave site. (*See excerpts from this article in this issue of the newsletter.*)

With the election of Post Officers just one month away, a Nominating Committee was chosen at tonight's meeting. Elected as Committee Chairman is Leo Milham. This year's committee members are: Nick Moscariello, Jerry Quinn, Dennis Conroy and Sal Fulcinelli.

Honor Guard Captain Emery Chagnon reported that the Honor Guard will participate in both Island Memorial Day Parades: Great Kills Parade on Saturday, May 20th and the Forest Ave. Parade on Monday, May 29th. Emery then made a passionate appeal for members to join the Honor Guard. Due to illness and age, many members have had to retire. Won't you help? Remember, women love a man in uniform.



The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Paul Berman. Congratulations, Paul.

**April 28** Leo Milham, Chairman of the Post Nominating Committee and his staff, nominated the following slate of officers for this years Post elections: For Commander: Gene Ramirez; for Vice-Commanders: John Crowley, Thomas Simonetti, Sal Bastiani and Nick Moscariello; for Treasurer: Emery Chagnon and for Chaplain: Pat Miserendino. Remember that any member in good standing can run for office from the floor. You do not need to be recommended by the Nominating Committee. The election for next year's officers will be held on Friday.

May 26th, at 8:30pm at the Post. All members are invited to attend to vote for the candidates of your choice.

Boys State Chairman, Frank Triolo, announced that this year's candidate to the Boys State Convention, sponsored by the Post, will be Timothy Kuck from Monsignor Farrell High School.

On Friday, May 12th, Lawrence Lee, a candidate for County Commander of the Richmond County American Legion will address the membership. All members are invited to attend.

This years Mid-Summer, Department of New York American Legion Convention will be held on July 20-22 in Niagara Falls. More information to come in the next newsletter.

Honor Guard Captain, Emery Chagnon announced that the Post will have three cars as part of our contingent at this years Forest Avenue Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29th.



The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Commander Pat Miserendino. Congratulations, Pat.

---

### Minutes of the *Board of Directors Meeting*

On Monday, April 17th, the Board of Directors held their second quarterly meeting of the year in the downstairs lounge.

Board member Leo Milham reported that the entire hall has been cleaned and improved. All the chairs in the Hall have been replaced with new chairs. Brass railings have been installed to prevent damage to the Hall mirrors. A new "disco" light (a multi-colored light that spins and pulsates with the beat of the music) has been installed for use by our customers who rent the Hall for parties. Improvements have also been made to the kitchen area and a new "power spray" will soon be installed in the sink.

Now that the inside of the building is spruced up, our attention will now be focused on the outside of the building. A motion was made and approved that the exterior be "power washed", the gutters and leaders cleaned and the front doors repainted. In addition, new bushes/plants be added to the front of the building. This should all be taken care of before the Memorial weekend festivities.

Corporate Treasurer Paul Zalesak's second quarter financial report was reviewed and approved by the Board. Paul will give his report to the entire membership at the meeting on Friday, April 28th.

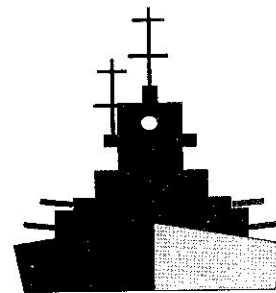
The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Monday, July 17th.

## Memorial Day Weekend Post Events

Wednesday, May 24th - Placing of the American Flag on the graves of our departed comrades at Moravian Cemetery, 10:00am.

Sunday, May 28th - Placing of Wreaths and Memorial service at six New Dorp Veterans Monuments, 10:00am

Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 9:00am.  
- Memorial Day Parade on Forest Ave. at 1:00pm.



## Fleet Week '00

Staten Island Fleet Week, Inc. will be hosting OPSAIL/ INR at the USS The Sullivans Pier in Stapleton, on Staten Island, the week of July 4th.. This will be an exciting week for all Staten Islanders, as we will be hosting nine ships at the Homeport Pier, two at Pier 2 and one at the Lighthouse Museum. The tall ships and naval vessels will come from far away as Asia and are schedule to include: The USS Nassau, the USS Monterey, a frigate from Brazil, the HS Aris from Greece, the JDS Wuugiri from Japan, the tall ship Jeanie Johnston from Ireland, a Pakistani ship, a frigate from the Netherlands and Singapore's RSS Endurans., These ships will be docking alongside our American warships.

On July 6th, the Third Annual Sunset Parade will be held aboard the USS Nassau, on Thursday July 6th at 6:00pm. The parade will consist of contingents from all branches of the armed forces, as well as, ROTC and junior ROTC programs. There will also be a Fly-By over the pier by a squadron of Navy jet fighters. Later that night, Macys will place two barges loaded with fireworks in the lower part of New York Bay. The Pier will be a prime viewing site for this fireworks show. Admission is **FREE** but by **Invitation ONLY**. For free tickets (2 tickets per request), send your request to Mrs. Catherine O'Donnell, 26 Ruth Place, Staten Island, NY 10305. Act fast because only a limited number of tickets are available.

## Third Essay Contest a Triumph

Over one hundred parents, teachers and Post members gathered in our Hall on Sunday, March 21st, to witness our Third Annual Essay Contest for Sixth Grade Students. This year's questions was, "How can I be a good citizen of my community, state and country?".

Ashley Nickelson, of Our Lady Queen of Peace School in New Dorp, won a first-place medal and a \$250 U.S. Savings Bond. Nicole Castagna, of St. Charles School in Oakwood, took a second-place medal and a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond. The third-place winners of a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond and an American Flag were Brian Philipps, Victor Arrigo, Christy Lutz and Kaitlin Rivera, of St. Christopher's School in Grant City; and Christine O'Rourke and Adrienne Chan, of Our Lady Queen of Peace School.

The judges for this year's contest were state Senator Vincent Gentile; Isabelle Ranieri, a speech therapist; and Elise Perrine, of Key Tech, Inc. in Manhattan.

The Post wishes to thank Essay Contest Elias Arout for a job well done.

## Membership Report

Our membership goal for year 2000 is 380 members. As of the end of April we have 330 renewals, or 86.8% of our goal. If you haven't sent in your 2000 renewal notice, please do so now. We have until May 30th of this year to attain our goal.

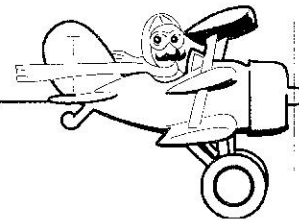
The Post would like to welcome new transfers: John Stathis and John Garbarini. *Welcome aboard!*



### *Looking to Get Away?*

Then call Arout Travel for the lowest prices on Cruises and Air/Land Packages. Just call (718) 273-3355 or Fax (718) 273-0883 for more information.

## Calendar of Events



- |                   |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>May</u></b> | 8th, Monday<br>12th, Friday<br>14th, Sunday<br>19th, Friday<br>20th, Saturday<br>24th, Wednesday<br><br>26th, Friday<br>28th, Sunday<br>29th, Monday<br><br>30th, Tuesday | - V-E Day: German Unconditional Surrender Signed (1945)<br>- Membership Meeting, 8:30pm at the Post.<br>- <b>Mother's Day</b> *<br>- County Meeting 7:30pm, to be held at the Manor Road Armory<br>- <b>Armed Forces Day</b> * Great Kills Memorial Day Parade.<br>- Placing of American Flags at Moravian Cemetery, 10:00am.<br><i>Sons of the American Legion</i> , Membership Meeting, 8:00pm at the Post.<br>- Membership Meeting, Election of Post Officers, 8:30pm at the Post.<br>- Placing of Wreaths and Ceremony at New Dorp Veterans Monuments, 10:00am.<br>- <b>Memorial Day</b> * (Observed). Flag flies half-staff until noon.<br>- Memorial Day Mass, Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 9:00am.<br>- Memorial Day Parade, 1:00pm on Forest Avenue.<br>- Memorial Day |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- |                    |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>June</u></b> | 6th, Tuesday<br>9th, Friday<br>14th, Wednesday<br><br>16th, Friday<br>18th, Sunday<br>22nd, Thursday<br><br>23rd, Friday<br>25th, Sunday<br>28th, Wednesday | - D-Day: Allied Invasion of Europe (1944)<br>- Membership Meeting, 8:30pm at the Post.<br>- <b>Flag Day</b> *<br>- U. S. Army founded (1775)<br>- Annual County Convention 6:30pm. to be held at H&S Cichon Post.<br>- <b>Father's Day</b><br>- Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942).<br>- GI Bill signed into Law (1944)<br>- Membership Meeting, Election of Board of Directors, 8:30pm at the Post.<br>- Korean War Begins (1950)<br>- <i>Sons of the American Legion</i> , Membership Meeting, 8:00pm at the Post. |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



\* Fly the Flag

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS \*\*\***

This years Post Election of Officers will be held on Friday, May 26th, at 8:30pm at the Post. The Nominating Committee has recommended the following slate of candidates for the term 2000-2001:

For Commander.....Gene Ramirez  
For Vice-Commander.....John Crowley  
For Vice-Commander.....Thomas Simonetti  
For Vice-Commander.....Sal Bastiani  
For Vice-Commander.....Nick Moscariello  
For Treasurer.....Emery Chagnon  
For Chaplain.....Pat Miserendino

We cordially invite all Post members to participate in this year's elections. Come on down and **VOTE**.

This years Election for the Board of Directors will take place on Friday, June 23rd, at 8:00pm at the Post. The Board of Directors has twelve members. Ten members are elected annually and two members (the current Post Commander and Post Treasurer) are automatically appointed.

The current Board of Directors who are running for re-election, are as follows: President - Freddie Salvatore; Vice-President - Sal Fulcinelli; Secretary - Eli Arout; Treasurer - Paul Zalesak; Board members - Jerry Quinn, Frank Triolo, Dennis J. Conroy, Leo Milham and Thomas Simonetti.

Any member in good standing can run for a board set or challenge any officer's position.

---

*Rolling Thunder*  
**Coming to Staten Island**

On Sunday, June 11, Rolling Thunder (a motorcycle organization consisting of Vietnam Veterans) will participate in ceremonies, conducted by the Staten Island Vietnam Veterans, Chapter #421, at various Island monuments honoring the 84 Staten Islanders who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

Rolling Thunder, consisting of approximately 700 motorcycles and the VVA will start the procession at the Verrazano Bridge and end at the Vietnam War Mem-

orial located at Martling Avenue and Manor Road (the Manor Road Armory).

Our Post is proud to be a participant in this event. Our Honor Guard and members have been assigned to the War Monument located at the intersection of Midland Avenue and Father Capodanno Blvd. All members are invited to attend.

For further details please contact Mick Coccozza at 876-7671 or Nick Costora at 317-6561.

---

**"...the best medicine."**

**Headline Bloopers (from actual Newspaper headlines)**

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers  
Safety Experts Say School Bus Passengers Should Be Belted  
Juvenile Court To Try Shooting Defendant  
Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead  
Stud Tires Out  
Shot Off Woman's Leg Helps Nicklaus to 66  
Local High School Dropouts Cut In Half  
Lansing Residents Can Drop Off Trees  
Sex Education Delayed; Teachers Request Training  
Some Pieces of Rock Hudson Sold At Auction

Drunk Gets Nine Months in Violin Case  
Iragi Head Seeks Arms  
Teacher Strikes Idle Kids  
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge  
Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim  
War Dims Hope For Peace  
Kids Make Nutritious Snacks  
New Vaccine May Contain Rabies  
Hospitals Are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors  
Enraged Cow Injures Farmer With Ax



## **Burial Honors for Veterans - *Guaranteed***

As part of the 2000 Defense Authorization Act, Congress has acted to insure that every veteran can receive military honors at his or her funeral, if that is the families wish.

As of January 1, all eligible veterans are now entitled, upon request, to a minimum of two service members who will fold and present an American flag to surviving family members and to a bugler to play, or, if a bugler isn't available, an electronic recording of "Taps".

At least one member of the funeral detail will be from the parent military service of the deceased veteran. The other may be from the same or from another military service. Other authorized providers, such as members of veterans' organizations, may augment the military detail.

By law, all veterans are now eligible for funeral honors if they served in the active military and were discharged under any conditions other than dishonorable or if they were a member or former member of the Selective Reserve. Veterans are ineligible, according to the new law,

if they were convicted of a state or federal capital offense and sentenced to life in prison without parole or to the death sentence.

The Defense Departments new policy calls for funeral directors, rather than the veterans' families, to contact the military and request the honors. The government has distributed kits to 24,000 funeral directors containing information and instructions on how the process works. Also included in the kits are compact disks of "Taps". Since there are only 500 buglers in the military at the present time, the department contends that use of a CD is not inappropriate because the bugler playing "Taps" is supposed to be out of sight at funeral services anyway.

The Pentagon has a website to explain the funeral ceremonies: [www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil](http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil). There is also a toll-free number for funeral directors to coordinate ceremonies - 1-800-MILHONR.

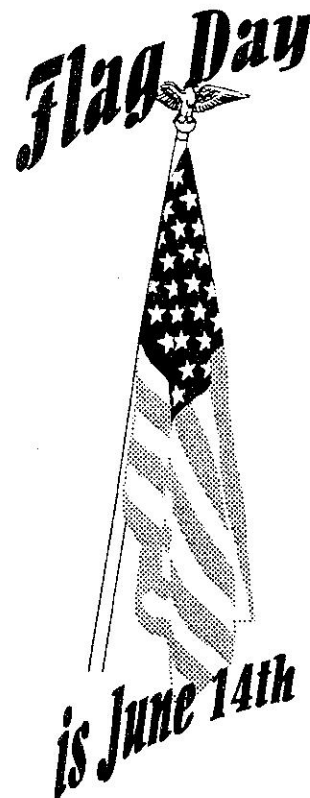
*(The above was excerpted from an article written by Bill Franz.)*

## **Cold War Veterans to be Honored in Ceremony**

The Honorable Congressman Vito Fossella has announced that he will hold a ceremony honoring all Staten Island Cold War veterans, later this year. The celebration will culminate with each participating veteran receiving the official Cold War Recognition Certificate, which was authorized by Congress in 1998 and pays tribute to our military service.

The Cold War Recognition Certificate will be awarded to all veterans who served faithfully and honorably during the Cold War era, September 2, 1945 through December 26, 1991. National Guard, reservists and active duty military are also eligible.

If you would like to obtain a certificate or attend the ceremony, please call the Congressman's assistant, Ginger, at 718-356-8400. Veterans need to supply either their Social Security Number or Military Service Number. There is no charge for a Cold War Recognition Certificate.



## OH CANADA!

During the turbulent '60's, a Canadian television commentator, Gordon Sinclair, was sick and tired of the America bashing that was taking place all over the world. He recorded his thoughts and set them to music. *Do You Remember?* If not, here is what he said (without the music, of course):

"This Canadian thinks it time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth. Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries today are paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

When the franc was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

When the earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped. The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.

I'd like to see just one of these countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States Dollar build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane equal to the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas 10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the International airlines except Russia fly American planes?

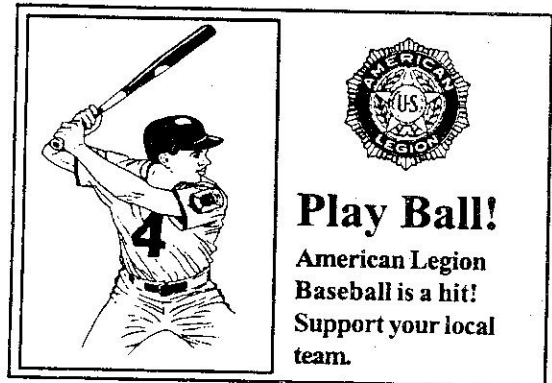
What other land on earth even considers putting a man or woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon - not once, but several times - and safely home again.

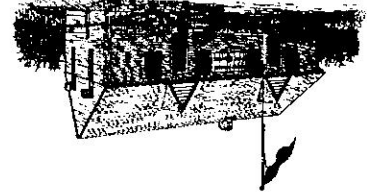
You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from Ma and Pa at home to spend here. When the railways of France, Germany, and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name your 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble.

Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to help the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake. Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles.

I hope Canada is not one of them."






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