

**Official Minutes of the Ninth Convention of the North American Turner Union Held in  
Indianapolis, Indiana on May 30, 31 and June 1 and 2, 1880.**

Milwaukee, Wis.

Printed by the Doerflinger Book & Publishing Co., 1880.

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**Ninth Convention of the North American Turner Union held in Indianapolis, Ind. on May 30  
and 31 and June 1 and 2, 1880.**

First Day.

In accordance with the National Executive Committee's call the delegates of the various Turner districts gathered for the Ninth Convention. Following the Indianapolis Social Turner Union's instruction, the Session gathered in the hall of the Indianapolis men's choir on May 30, 1880 at 10 o'clock in the morning. Turner Hermann Lieber, speaker of the Indianapolis Social Turner Union, welcomed all. Concluding his address, he presented the city's mayor, Mr. John Cavin, who also welcomed the delegates and emphasized the importance and praiseworthiness of the efforts of the Turner Union.

Dr. H. M. Starkloff, president of the National Executive Committee, opened the Convention with the following address:

“Turners, once again, we are about to devote all our attention to gymnastics, an issue very close to the hearts of all Germans regardless of where they might reside. We, the representatives of the large of North American Turners Union founded at the end of the Rebel War [Civil War], have gathered at this convention for deliberations and decision-making. Why the Germans are everywhere the ones to foster the education of body and intellect in a harmonious relationship is a question worth deeper exploration than the time allows me. Is it the heritage we received from the Helenians? Does the old spirit of the peoples who came from their settlements in Asia, crossed the Hellespont and built a kingdom stretching over the entire area northeast of the Mediterranean See live in us?

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Was the Thracian Orpheus indeed a Germanic artist? Are the most noble of the known ancient peoples indeed blood relatives of the old Teutonians?

All this has been stated and much can be said to support it. In addition, the joy in art, music and complete development of the body, intrinsic to the German people as no other, seems to be in favor of this view. One may only look at Rome and his repeatedly degenerated sons who only took over the noble spirit of the Greeks that characterized them for a while.

However, let us leave this and turn our attention to the task close to our hearts. The report that I, as president of the Executive Committee, will have the honor to present contains in a concise form all announcements and suggestions we deemed necessary to make. With justified pride, we point out the fact that the Union gathered new power once again and is determined to thrive. It is up to us to stimulate this growing process. In this context, I take the liberty to ask – would not a simplification of our goal be the best path to embark upon? I know only too well that the matter of gymnastics is closely interconnected with that of freedom and general progress, however one can justly say that this view stems from our German fatherland. It was only to able to survive here so long and to infiltrate our being because we, tossed at the friendly coasts Americas, found conditions absolutely contrary to our principles so that we naturally stepped into battle. Our efforts were completely absorbed in the big cause of freedom. I am talking about the great fight against slavery. It became ours and the German Turners can declare with pride

that they not only entered it with significant determination and courage but also that, in part thanks to them, it brought freedom.

Union debates, public assemblies and elections mark the way. Finally, blood filled pictures, battlefields covered with corpses and hospitals echoing painful groans, as well as the brave fight of fearless men and the joyous exultation of victory show us that we helped end the ignominy of slavery. The wound hurt for a long time, the pain lasted long after the enormous battle. The waves are not smooth yet; we still must pave the free North the way to victory over the South, which demagogues and selfish politicians do not allow to embrace the spirit of modern times. However, we can say that we now live in an entirely free republic. It is not without errors and flaws, however it does recognize in its Constitution "Equality for all before the law" and millions embrace this postulate.

We have freedom as the German Turners imagined it. We fulfilled all our duties. This part of our mission is accomplished and now we must find new tasks.

How about we invest our efforts in turning gymnastics from a German into an American concept? Would that not be a goal worth of pursuing? The way is marked and the task would not be hopeless. There are gymnasiums and exercise halls everywhere, however they lack our lively spirit. They are primarily institutions for the training of athletes, any kind of intellectual life and inner feeling is absent. Could we not endeavor to implement reforms there?

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Our supporters are filling the gymnasia, we already have the attention of American pedagogues and friends of young people. What if we now put all our resources into introducing gymnastics in the public schools and thus make a gift to the American people, more meaningful than any other? I think this a worthy endeavor because he who has the young people, has the future.

A lot more can be said at this point, however an opening address is too narrow and I must be content to deliver inspiration only. The Convention must deliberate whether this idea is worth

pursuing. Only those can be successful who stand on real ground - those who chase after theoretical visions, even when the effort is true, will be lost in the dust. We must remember that and strive always to free our work from phrases and phantasies.

There is no doubt that the gymnastic schools not only increased the number of unions but brought about their recent remarkable growth. When you explore this, you will see that the improvement is even faster. We do not have to give up the German cause. On the contrary, we would expand it. With the current increasing immigration, we will soon reach a point of honor and advantage for the Turners which can help the country's growth and further development.

Lastly – may a positive spirit guide our sessions.

The Turners have never lacked diligence, let us add unity to it. Then this year's Convention will again mark a worthy chapter in our history.

I will take the liberty and, on behalf of the Executive Committee, express the hope that you will applaud our management of the Union affairs. In addition, I hope that they will be put on such shoulders which will lead them in the spirit of the gymnastics culture, brotherhood, justice and progress.

Let me end with a "Best luck" to the future of the North American Turner Union".

Temporary organization: G. F. Wüst from the North Western Turner District was elected for chair and Richard Günther from the West Wisconsin Turner District for secretary.

The chair appointed the following committee for the examination of the mandates: Höchster, Pfänder, Huchting, Becker and Pfäfflin. After a short break, this committee reported the following representation and right to vote:

National Executive Committee: Starkloff, Huhn, Gollmer, Leser, Tiedemann, Tönsfeldt and Stifel.

New York Turner District, 15 votes: Conrad Kuhm, Carl Gantzhorn.

Indiana Turner District, 7 votes: C. Köhne, R. C. Knöfel, Louis Kimmel, Otto Schissel, Hy. Müller, F. Eßlinger, W. H. Esch.

St. Louis Turner District, 35 votes: F. P. Becker, Leo Rassieur, John R. Bollinger, Gust. Hansen, Ed. Wagner, H. G. Härting, S. Pabst.

New England Turner District, 15 votes: Julius Hermann.

Wisconsin Turner District, 38 votes: Georg Brosius, C. Hermann, Boppe, F. B. Huchting, Otto Linde, L. Goldstucker, Dr. Chas. Ottilie, P. Träumer.

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Chicago Turner District, 14 votes: C. Rüdy, H. Rubens, A. Georg, C. Plum, Max Stern, P. Ellert, E. Höchster, H. Suder, J. Gloy, C. Heydtweiler, J. Koch, Theo. Thielepape, C. F. Leusch, E. Liebig.

South Eastern Turner District, 2 votes: John R. Fellmann.

Philadelphia Turner District, 10 votes: A. Voight, H. Stahl.

North Pennsylvania Turner District, 2 votes: Chr. Eberhardt.

New Jersey Turner District, 8 votes: Fr. E. Schmitt, C. Steinmetz.

Central New York Turner District: not represented.

Pittsburgh Turner District, 12 votes: P. Schäfer.

Missouri Valley Turner District, 8 votes: F. Noll.

Minnesota Turner District, 8 votes: Wm. Pfänder.

Upper Mississippi Turner District, 12 votes: Chr. Müller, L. Fritz, A. L. Müller.

Upper Missouri Turner District, not represented.

Rocky Mountain Turner District, 4 votes: A. Kriegar.

New Orleans Turner District: not represented.

Peninsular Turner District: not represented (excused).

Central Illinois Turner District, 6 votes: H. Birkenbusch, Chr. Riebsame, Ernst Blankenburg.

Pacific Turner District, 24 votes: Gustav Rietzke.

North Western Turner District, 1 vote: G. F. Wüst.

Central Mississippi Turner District, 1 vote: Geo. Langknecht.

Connecticut Turner District, 8 votes: D. Ginand.

North Indiana Turner District, 3 votes: John Lederer, John Ries.

South Atlantic Turner District: not represented, (excused).

Lake Erie Turner District, 8 votes: Carl Zapp, H. Müller.

West Wisconsin Turner District, 3 votes: Rich. Günther.

Long Island Turner District, 8 votes: H. Linzmeyer.

West New York Turner District, 6 votes: H. Pfäfflin.

Ohio Turner District, 11 votes: E. Weier, Wm. Kleinöhle, Carl Scholz, Wm. Ricker, C. Ulrich, F. Theobald, Jul. Krämer, A. Scheibenzuber, K. Höbe, F. Haffner.

A total of 75 delegates with 269 votes.

The Committee's report was approved.

The president of the National Committee read the yearly report as it appears in the printed copy of Executive Committee's report, with a few additional remarks about the publication of suspensions and the efforts to create a Death Fund in the Union, as well as the letter to the German gymnasts on the occasion of their Frankfurt Fest.

Approved and submitted to the Committee for Auditing of the Bookkeeping and Reports.

An invitation from the German veterans to participate in their decoration of graves was read. It was decided to reply letting them know we cannot attend in corpore. A committee of delegates Stahl, Riebsame, Georg, Kimmel, Scholz and Bollinger was elected to attend the festivities.

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A committee was formed to submit a draft for the permanent organization of the Convention. Rassieur, Riebsame, Otilie, Stern and Kriegar were elected to serve on it. After a short break, it submitted the following nominations:

Wm. Pfänder, First Chair,

Conrad Kuhm, Second Chair,

J. R. Fellmann, First Secretary,

T. C. Thielepape, Second Secretary.

The nominated delegates were elected through a vote.

A committee was formed to submit nominations for the standing committees. Rubens, Voigt, Otilie, Köhne and Chr. Müller were appointed to serve on it.

Adjourned until 2 pm.

Afternoon Session.

The session was called to order by the chair at 3 o'clock. All delegates were present except those excused.

The committee reported the following standing committees nominations which were approved:

1. Committee for Platform and Statutes: Rubens, Boppe, Köhne, Härting, Wüst, Schmitt and Hermann.

2. Auditing Committee for the Bookkeeping and the Financial and Statistical Reports of the Executive Committee: Rietzke, Linde, Krämer, Schäfer and Herm. Müller.

3. Committee for Categorization of the Instructions: Lederer Scholz, Fritz, Ginand and Ellert.

4. Committee for Practical Gymnastics: Brosius, Eberhardt, Georg, Zapp and Hansen.

5. Committee for Intellectual Efforts: Pfäfflin, Stern, Voigt, Hy. Müller, Bollinger and Riebsame.

6. Committee for Complaints and Appeals: Rassieur, Höchster, Gantzhorn, Kimmel and F. Noll.

7. Committee for General Union Affairs and Gymnastic Teachers Seminary: Ottilie, Chr. Müller, Steinmetz, Kriegar, Tönsfeldt, Weier, Plum, Becker und Georg.

8. Committee for the Union Publication: Huchting, Gloy, Eßlinger, Linzmeyer, Günther, Schissel and Pabst.

The delegates were asked to submit all instructions and suggestions to Chair Lederer.

Decided: all requests must be submitted in a written form if so required.

Adjournment until Monday, May 31, 8 o'clock in the morning.

J. R. Fellmann, secretary.

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Second Day.

The session was opened by the First Speaker at 9 o'clock. All delegates except Fellmann, Liebig and Müller were present.

The minutes from the first day were read and approved.

The Committee for Categorization reported that it fulfilled its duties and distributed all instructions submitted to it to the relevant committees.

Turner Gloy from Chicago requested the following decision be adopted:

“No speaker shall be allowed to talk about the same topic more than twice. Each presentation shall not longer than ten minutes.”

The requested was approved with the following amendments: the duration of each presentation will be cut down to five minutes and the presenter will be allowed to have the final say.

Report of the Committee for Complaints and Appeals.

The below signed committee has the honor to submit the following report regarding the legal action of the Committee of the Pacific Turner District against the convention of the Pacific Turner District:

A new gymnastic union, the “Vorwärts” (“Forward”), was founded at the begin of this year in San Francisco. It applied to the district’s leadership for admission in the district and the union. The application was released according to union policies and after four weeks passed,

the admission of the new union was considered. The “San Francisco Gymnastic Union” raised the objection that there are plenty of gymnastic unions in the city already. The objection was deemed insufficient and the new organization was accepted. Shortly thereafter, the district convention was held. The “San Francisco Gymnastic Union” raised the issue there again and managed to get the decision of the district leadership annulled and have the new union’s delegates ejected from the convention. The district committee protested against this and the union “Vorwärts” submitted an appeal to the National Executive Committee.

These are the facts. The Executive Committee’s ruled as follows:

We must answer the question: Does the Pacific Turner District convention have the right to annul the decision of the district committee by which the gymnastic union “Vorwärts” was admitted in the union?

The National Executive Committee points to the National Gymnastic Union’s statutes C., 3. (The Appeal Process), paragraph 4. According to this paragraph, the appeal against the admission of the gymnastic union “Vorwärts” should be submitted not to the district convention but to the National Executive Committee. Thus, the submitted appeal as well as the actions of the district convention cannot be viewed as legal. It is our opinion that the nothing can hinder the “Vorwärts” union to function as a member of the district in question and our Union.

Even though the request to annul the Executive Committee’s decision submitted to the convention was not called an appeal, in reality it is nothing else. The “San Francisco Gymnastic Union” did not succeed with his objections at the district committee

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and took the issue to the next authority, the district convention, where it managed to get their attention. This process cannot be called anything but “complaint” or “appeal”.

The district convention should have rejected it as contrary to the Union statutes. Since they failed to do that, we can only view their actions as unjust.

J. Tönsfeld,

T. A. Stifel,

Rich. Bösewetter.

After exhaustive examination of the documents in this matter, the signed below committee was convinced that the ruling of the National Executive Committee was a just one. This is the reason it recommends the Convention adopt its ruling. The committee believes that the district committee of the Pacific Turner District was absolutely justified to reject the objection of the "San Francisco Gymnastic Union" against the membership of the "Vorwärts" gymnastic union and to admit the latter in the union.

We deem the actions of the Pacific Turner District convention, namely objecting the right of the "Vorwärts" union to seat and vote and annulling its membership in the district, not lawful. The appeal of a decision of the district committee must be done by the National Executive Committee directly and not by the district convention. If the "San Francisco Gymnastic Union" believed that the club accepted by the executive committee did not deserve to be a member of the district and national unions, it then ought to have submitted a complaint to the executive committee including the exact grounds for his objection. The executive committee can, after notification of the club in question and a thorough examination to convince itself of the validity of the grounds, then act according to the statutes of the Pacific Turner District against this club. This is the only lawful way to act in this matter.

Of course, each party is free to appeal the decision of the district committee by the National Executive Committee at a later point.

The signed below committee regrets deeply that an old and loyal union as the "San Francisco Gymnastic Union" let itself be guided by its zeal it thought was just and went against the law to correct an imaginary injustice through another injustice.

The committee hopes and expects that, in future, the "San Francisco Gymnastic Union" will be able spare the National Executive Committee the very unpleasant task indeed of having to decide in a matter that pertains to their internal district affairs. In addition, the committee expects the "San Francisco Gymnastic Union" to resolve this dispute in a way that may contrive the good and growth of the union.

The committee:

Leo Rassieur,

Emil Höchster,

Carl Ganzhorn,

F. Noll,

Louis Kimmel.

The report was acknowledged and accepted as read and without discussion.

Report of the Committee for the National Union Publication.

The above committee takes the liberty to submit the following report to the Convention:

There were ten districts with instructions regarding the publication of the National Gymnastic Union, listed as follows: five for keeping the "Freidenker" ("Freethinker") in its current form, three for keeping the "Freidenker" in a changed form, one instruction demands the National Gymnastic Union have its own publication or keep the "Freidenker" and another one was against the "Freidenker", however it did not give a suggestion another journal.

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In addition, a draft was submitted to the committee in which Turner Heinrich Huhn makes the following offer to the Convention:

“Regarding the national union publication, I offer to produce a newspaper myself which would be devoted exclusively to gymnastic and educational issues and general Union affairs true to the platform and tenets of the Union. Furthermore, the publication will strictly omit any party politics. It would be published in the same format as the “Zukunft” (“Future”), eight pages, or would be issued monthly and it would publish all official announcements of the Executive Committee free of charge. The pricing will be: a) if issued weekly – not more than \$2.00 per year; b) if issued monthly – not more than \$3.00 per year”.

After examining all suggestions in the utmost thorough manner and conducting the appropriate discussions with the editors of the current Turner journal, the committee feels obligated to recommend the following decision to the Convention:

Decided to keep the “Freidenker” as the Union’s publication and instruct the Executive Committee to renew the current contract between the Executive Committee and the publishers of the “Freidenker” for another two years.

The committee recommends further:

To instruct the editors of the “Freidenker” to accept only such announcements pertaining to gymnastics matters that are of general interest.

F. B. Huchting,

J. Eßlinger,

Otto Schissel,

John Linzmeyer,

John Gloy,

Richard Günther.

After the committee report was read, Turner H. Huhn withdrew his offer regarding the Union publication.

Turner Becker from St. Louis moved to appoint a committee of three to submit a suitable draft for a contract including a proposal in what way to keep the "Freidenker" as the Union publication. Turner Höchster moved to table it. Motion passed. Turner Köhne from Indianapolis moved to approve the report as read. Turner Stern from Chicago submitted a substitute for the presented committee decision:

"Decided to keep the "Freidenker" as the Union publication and advise the Executive Committee, if at all possible, to sign a contract with the publishers of the journal in a way that the title may be changed so that the current main section [be] the Union publication and three or four pages be devoted to purely technical gymnastic affairs and such of the Executive Committee, the districts and the Union. The editorial staff will be asked to reduce all articles which are of interest only to the citizens of the same city as the article's author".

The substitute was rejected with 183 to 83 votes.

Next, the report was approved as read with 260 to 57 votes.

Report of the Committee for Auditing of the Bookkeeping and the Financial and Statistical Reports of the Executive Committee.

The signed below committee examined the records of the treasurer thoroughly and found them in the best order. The same is true for the records of the other employees. We recommend the reports be accepted.

Signed:

Gustav Rietzke,

Otto Linde,

S. A. Schäfer,

J. A. Kremer,

Hermann Müller.

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The report was acknowledged and accepted without any debates.

Turner Stern from Chicago moved to accept the following:

“Decided that when the speaker’s decision is appealed, only the appellant and the speaker will be allowed to speak”.

Motion passed.

Report of the Committee for Practical Gymnastics.

The Report of this committee was acknowledged and the recommendations included in it were approved as paragraphs in the following form:

Decided:

1. To allot \$200.00 to the technical director of the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary Georg Brosius to enable him to devote more time to the observation of the German gymnastics culture, especially gymnastics in the schools, during his visit in Germany, to submit a report about it and to utilize the experience he gained there for the benefit of the Gymnastic Union.

2. To adopt the gymnastic fest regulations by gymnastic teacher Georg Brosius, discussed at the Gymnastic Teachers Congress, as guidelines for the future and have them published in a brochure and sent out to the unions (see Appendix B).

3. To instruct the Executive Committee to contact the publishers of the Union newspaper and ask them to obtain the lecture by gymnastic teacher Robert Riecken held at the Gymnastic Teachers Congress in separate copies and make them accessible to the unions.

4. To hold a Gymnastic Teachers Congress two days before each gymnastic fest and four days before each Union convention.

5. To recommend to the gymnastic unions they cultivate basic men's choirs especially on the sports field. In addition, the acquisition of the school song book by F. Reis is recommended for the children's choirs.

6. To recommend the following new gymnastics texts be acquired in the union libraries: "Vorturner Exercises" by Fritz Döhmel; "Assistance for Vorturners" by Alfred Böttcher and "Turntafeln [set of lithograph plates of gymnastic exercises for instruction] for Team Gymnastics" by the Berlin Gymnastic Association.

7. To thank the Technical Committee and various members of the Observation Committee at the Philadelphia Union Fest for their efforts in reporting about the event. In addition, to approve the actions of the Technical Committee regarding not publishing one of the received reports.

Turner Riebsame from Central Illinois moved to instruct the National Executive Committee to issue gymnastic teacher Brosius a mandate to grant him easier access to the gymnastic authorities in Germany. Motion passed.

At this point, the session was adjourned until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

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Afternoon Session.

The Chair opened the session. All delegates were present except Pabst, Hermann, Liebig and Noll.

Report of the Committee for General Union Affairs and Gymnastic Teachers Seminary.

This committee presented its report which was accepted in the following form after some deliberations:

General Union Affairs.

1. The Executive Committee will remain in St. Louis.
2. The next gymnastic fest will be in St. Louis and, if possible, will take place at the end of May or beginning of June.
3. The next convention will be held in Newark, N. J.
4. It is recommended to the unions to purchase blue woolen gymnastic suits.
5. The \$6.00 which the Burlington "Vorwärts" ("Forward") union owed the district at its expulsion were waived to the Upper Mississippi Turner District. In addition, the district will be reimbursed the \$8.80 in union dues it paid for the gymnastic union in Sterling which left the national Union.
6. An invitation from the National Liberal League to the Freidenker Congress in Brussels will be answered by the Executive Committee's secretary expressing thanks but it will be declined.
7. The Lookout Mountain Turner District which was dissolved two years ago must be removed from the list and its outstanding balance, as well as that of the Texas Turner District which was removed a long time ago, no longer kept in the Union records.

Seminary Affairs.

The Seminary directors had submitted the following recommendations to the committee:

1. As emphasized in our circulars and annual reports for years, we are of the opinion that a thorough systematic education of male and female gymnastic teachers is necessary for the accomplishment of the goals of the North American Gymnastic Union and its continuous growth. We believe it best to keep the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary in quite the way it was structured last year – if a merge with the German – American Teacher Seminary is not desired.

2. We recommend this education may not be attempted through a floating Seminary, but, wherever the Convention may move the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary, the latter remain in the same place for a longer period of time, and the reason for this is:

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All faculty, as well as the current directors, can accomplish results only through their own practical experiences in their respective areas of work; the records and archives of the Seminary's leadership in the last five year-long courses create only reference points and guidelines for the continuation of the Seminary.

3. We recommend all gymnastic classes be removed from the evening and added to the day schedule. To learn seriously, the students must give their full attention and all physical and intellectual energy to the task.

4. The course may not take less than eight (8) months.

5. We recommend the Convention allot the amount of \$600.00 minimum from the ready Union Scholarship Fund to the next course. With this money, the Union could cover the necessary expenses for three deserving candidates. Currently, all tuition and living costs for the duration of one course amount to two hundred (200) dollars.

6. In addition, we recommend the Convention decide that the committees in those districts where no dues for the scholarship fund have been approved yet order a vote immediately regarding this issue to see whether the district wants to approve such dues or not

and how much those dues would be. The result from this local vote must be submitted to the National Executive Committee by August 1 of this year at the latest.

For the Board of Directors,

Max Gerlach, recorder.

Milwaukee, May 27, 1880.

These recommendations made by the best teaching authority deserve our immediate attention. We agree wholeheartedly and recommend the following decisions:

1. The Gymnastic Teacher Seminary must remain under its current leadership in Milwaukee.

2. Articles 4 and 6 are adopted.

3. Article 5 is adopted as well, with the addendum that the Board of Directors of the Seminary may dispose of the scholarships as it deems appropriate.

In addition, decided: Regarding the merge of the Gymnastic Teacher Seminary with the German – American Teacher College in Milwaukee: the reasons listed on page 5 of the report of the Executive Committee against such a merge are accepted. For every course, \$1,200 will be allotted from the Union treasury to cover the expenses of the Gymnastic Teacher Seminary. A note of thanks goes to its Board of Directors for their work, wise business sense and support of the gymnastic interests of the Seminary.

Report of the Committee for Platform and Statutes.

This committee submitted the following report about the platform and principle decisions:

After a thorough examination of the instructions, based on the platform and principle decisions, that the delegates of the various districts submitted and under consideration of the

fact that only two districts, namely New York and Rocky Mountain, suggest further deliberations of the principle decisions and more or less extensive changes of it while several districts support the unchanged version or further improved additions to it, the committee agreed unanimously to recommend the following to the Convention:

To keep the platform and the tenets unchanged and in their current form until the next National Convention.

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However, the Executive Committee is obligated to hold debates and votes about the platform and decrees so those may serve as material for the next Convention's deliberations and decisions.

In addition, the committee recommends the Convention announce the following explanation: "The tenets and demands for reform expressed in the principle decisions build the program for creating the system of pure government by the people. Our republic must adopt this program so that the fate of the ancient republics would befall upon it.

Therefore, the authorities and members of the Union may be reminded in earnest to make on occasions the people's government the topic of exhaustive debates and to open up an active campaign in the Union and among the people of the United States. This would deepen the understanding of the government by the people. The Gymnastic Union must try everything to prepare for the realization of such government. However, the Convention does not consider it against the program when Turners participate individually in the political life of the nation according to their own preference as long as no practical organization for the accomplishment of this goal is built."

The Convention instructs the current and any future National Executive Committee to take measures that such demands for reform, whose realization may be possible in the near future through energetic propaganda, be introduced and fostered in all gymnastic districts at the same time. This should to follow a uniform plan.

Rassieur submitted the following substitute for this part of the committee reports:

The Convention supports the following tenets to realize the principles included in the platform:

1. Free education for everyone in all educational institutions supported through state or community funding. Introducing compulsory gymnastic and German classes for those who wish to take these classes in all public schools.

2. Ban of children's work for industrial purposes.

3. Statistical assessment of the work conditions through the federal government.

4. Sanitary support provided by the local authorities through control of factories, food and housing.

5. Stop to all further gifts of land by the government.

6. Introduction of income and inheritance tax with tax exemption for the minimum family support income.

7. Destruction of all monopolies.

8. Deep reforms of the judicial system in all areas of our life.

This substitute for the committee report was rejected.

The committee report, as read, was approved without any changes after an earnest and exhaustive debate with 229 to 40 votes.

In addition, the committee made the following recommendations which were affirmed as decisions without any debates:

1. Since the Convention already instructed the Executive Committee to take measures that such demands for reform, whose realization may be possible in the near future through energetic propaganda, be introduced and fostered at the same time in all gymnastic districts

following a uniform plan, the committee recommends the Convention adopt the following declarations:

2. The Convention declares that active propaganda is especially desired for establishing compulsory school attendance for all and for introducing German classes and compulsory gymnastic classes in the public schools.

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3. The Convention recommends to the Executive Committee the creation of a plan for propaganda using the instructions and propositions of the New York and Ohio gymnastic districts as much as appropriate.

4. The National Executive Committee is asked: when there are communications to be sent to Congress or the state legislatures favoring any decisions or law reforms that are close to our platform or tenets, the Executive Committee is to prepare and circulate them among the gymnastic organizations of the Union.

The committee:

H. Rubens,

C. Hermann Boppe,

C. Köhne,

H. G. Härting,

G. F. Wüst,

Fr. E. Schmitt,

Julius Hermann.

Adjourned until Tuesday, June 1, 9 o'clock in the morning.

J. R. Fellmann, Secretary.

Third Day.

The session was opened by the Chair. All delegates were present. The minutes from the previous day were read and approved with the edition that Rassieur's substitute for the proposed tenets be included (see above).

The announcement that a spelling error in the article in the "Telegraph" about our session yesterday twisted the meaning of one of our tenets completely brought about the decision to appoint a committee of one to ask the editor to correct the error immediately. Delegate Härting was elected.

A request about further amendment of the tenets and instructions made by delegate Gantzhorn from New York was sent on to the Committee for Platform and Statutes.

Decided: the Executive Committee must reach an agreement with the Doerflinger Book & Publishing Co. in Milwaukee regarding a suitable book of gymnastic songs.

The following dispatch came in and was read and accepted:

*Yankton, D. T., June 1, 1880.*

*To the Indianapolis Social Gymnastic Union.*

*Greetings to the Ninth National Convention!*

*Executive Committee of the Up. Missouri Turner Union.*

The Committee for Platform and Statutes reported several suggestions for statutes changes it prepared by using the draft from the National Executive Committee and the instructions received from the various districts.

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These changes were accepted as paragraphs. Through majority of received district votes, it was decided that conventions take place every two years, however Union gymnastic fests will take place only every four years beginning in 1881.

After another request to change the last sentence in §1, Art. A. was rejected, the statutes were adopted unanimously in the following form:

## **Statutes.**

### **A. Organization.**

1. Several gymnastic unions located close to each other which join an organization build a district, however the districts should be confined as much as possible to their own state borders. Any unions from the same township must belong to the same district.

2. The legislative body of the district is the district convention which takes place at least once a year. The delegates to the district conventions are elected by the individual unions. Each district may determine the ratio between the number of delegates and its members as it deems appropriate.

3. The executive authority of the district is the district committee. Its members are elected for one year by the district according to its own regulations.

4. The highest legislative body of the Union is the National Convention. Delegates from all districts are sent to this convention. However, the decisions of the National Convention in all principle and governing matters of exceptional importance must declared laws only when they

have been approved by a majority of the union members who actually have the right to vote through a ballot. The decision about which leadership issues ought to be presented to the unions for a ballot is for the National Convention to make. The National Executive Committee determines the procedure according to which all ballots are conducted.

As soon as 500 Turners of the North American Gymnastic Union ask for a ballot about any issue, the passing of a law, the reform or the removal of an old law, etc., in written form, the Executive Committee will be required to present this matter immediately to the unions and demand a vote about the issue in question within 6 weeks from the of the announcement:

- a) Only the votes in person shall be counted.
- b) After the successful gathering of the elections results, the Executive Committee will be responsible for announcing the end result to the individual unions. Every decision which received the majority of votes shall come into effect within 30 days of the official announcement.
- c) The election results of the individual unions, organized by districts, must be published in the National Union newspaper.

5. The highest executive authority is the National Executive Committee.

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## **B. Government.**

1. A National Convention meets every two years. It determines the location for the next convention, the Executive Committee determines the day the Convention starts, when possible in the second half of May. The date must be announced at least two months in advance.

2. Upon demand from such a number of districts representing at least 1/3 of the union votes. the National Executive Committee is obligated to call an extra convention. Its location is determined by the Executive Committee. This convention may not take place in less than 30 days

from the time of the call for it. Should the Executive Committee refuse to respond to this demand, the districts that submitted the petition will call the convention on their own.

3. Only districts delegates have a seat and a vote at the National Union Conventions. No delegate can represent more than one district.

4. Each district must be represented by the National Union Convention, either through its own or delegates from other districts. The districts are entitled to the following number of delegates: one vote for the first 50 members and an additional vote for the next 50 members and above. A delegate can represent several votes in a district, however, those districts which want to be represented through candidates from other districts, do not have the right to elect a delegate from the district hosting the convention. Districts with outstanding dues for the year preceding the convention can be allowed a seat and a vote only if the convention grants it.

5. Districts that are not represented at national conventions and do not submit sufficient excuse to the Executive Committee within four weeks from the first day of the convention must be expelled from the Union. The Executive Committee's decision must be published in the national union newspaper.

6. The National Union Convention determines the Executive Committee district, the convention of the Executive Committee district elects the members of the Executive Committee and three substitutes. An absolute majority is necessary for the election of the substitutes. The members of the Executive Committee, no fewer than 9, appoint the officers from among themselves, as follows: one first secretary, one second secretary, one corresponding and one meeting secretary and one treasurer. The corresponding secretary and the treasurer must be remunerated for their time consuming work. The National Union Convention must provide the Executive Committee with sufficient funds for this purpose. It is up to the latter to determine the actual wages. The Executive Committee's district convention elects the Executive Committee's members and must take place within 30 days after the National Union Convention. The Executive Committee's district convention must elect the nine members of the Executive Committee and the three substitute officers whose job it is to fill any vacancies as first, second and third substitute according to the received votes.

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Should a vacancy open in one of the five officers positions, the new Executive Committee, reinforced through the substitute, will elect a new officer from their midst.

7. The Executive Committee district is responsible for the management of the Union treasury through the Executive Committee. The treasurer of the National Executive Committee must provide a sufficient surety to the district committee.

8. At national conventions, the Executive Committee members have all rights of the delegates except the right to vote and therefore cannot represent any district. The Executive Committee members cannot take on any district positions.

9. The fiscal year of the Union begins on July 1 and ends on July 1 of the next year.

10. Every Union district pays yearly dues of 20 cent for every member in the first half of the year.

11. Any new districts joining the Union pay an application fee of 3 dollars for every local union to the Union treasury. If they joined during the first 9 months of the current fiscal year, they will pay the dues for the full year. If they joined in the last 3 months of the current fiscal year, they will pay the dues for the next year.

12. Gymnastic clubs leaving a district organization will be viewed as new if they do not join another union organization within 60 days.

13. No district will have the right to accept a club, which has not fulfilled its financial and other obligations toward the district organization it belonged to previously.

14. The district committees are responsible for the dues of such a membership of their district union as it is recorded in the statistical reports before the National Executive Committee.

15. Any districts which, after having received a second reminder from the Executive Committee regarding any management affairs, do not resolve these, can be suspended by the

Executive Committee without any further process. This action must be published in the Union newspaper. However, the Convention alone can expel them from the Union. Any expelled districts can be accepted back in the Union anytime if they fulfil their obligations, however they must pay the regular application fees remitted by new districts.

The districts that have not submitted their statistical reports to the Executive Committee by March 1 of the following year, must be charged a 10 per cent increase over the dues of those unions who owed members' dues last year. The same charge will be applied if they submitted their complete statistical to the Executive Committee after March 1. The same charge will be applied to districts with outstanding dues for more than one year.

16. Candidates to join a gymnastic union must be at least 18 years of age, have an unblemished character, must be US citizens or have taken steps to become citizens, may not have been suspended from a gymnastic organization or, within the last year, expelled from such one. They must submit to a four week long probation period and when they are accepted into the organization, they must pledge to abide strictly by the platform and statutes of the Union as well as the statutes of the club and district in question.

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17. The National Executive Committee provides forms for Turner passports to the districts by request. Only such passports stamped with the Union seal are valid in the entire Union.

18. Every Turner who owns such a passport prepared by accredited organization employees must be accepted in a gymnastic organization without a probation period, vote and application fee if he joins it within sixty days of the issue of his passport (or six months if the passport was issued abroad) and if he pledges to abide by the specific statutes of that organization. Every Turner who leaves his organization after fulfillment of his obligations can receive a passport if he so wishes.

19. A Turner who leaves his organization without fulfilling his obligations to it and joins another organization, even after a successful probation period there, should be suspended from the new organization until he has fulfilled his obligations to the original one.

20. A Turner who moves to a different city must join its gymnastic organization if there is one. Should he wish not to do that, the district committee of the district he is leaving must give its permission. No Turner may belong to two Union clubs in the same town.

21. Turners who belong to a gymnastic organization which refuses to join the Union for material reasons or on principle will not have the privileges the Union members have when joining, etc. In addition, such gymnastic organizations will not receive any other type of support from the Union.

22. Any type of lottery to whatever purpose is prohibited.

23. One of the main tasks of the gymnastic organizations and the Union must be to urge the inclusion of systematic gymnastic classes in the existing schools as an essential part of a robust education for young people.

24. The gymnastic unions are obligated to practice gymnastics according to rational principles and pay special attention to the fact that only gymnastic teachers, instructors and Vorturners [Vorturners were the most gifted and skilled gymnasts in a group who assisted the gymnastic teacher by demonstrating the new exercises to the other gymnasts who then learned and practiced them under the guidance of the Vorturners] may be hired who grasp those concepts and are able to teach accordingly.

In addition, it is the duty of the unions to work toward building and improvement of good German – English schools where music, singing, drawing and gymnastics are represented to their full advantage. The unions must work toward obligatory school attendance and make sure that German is taught in the public schools.

25. It is the duty of the unions to hold monthly instructional presentations, lectures or debates for the education of their members. If the individual unions require it, the district committee will provide the topics. The unions must inform the district committee what results

were accomplished at the lecture or debate using the forms provided by the district committee within four weeks. These reports will be sorted and sent on to the Executive Committee which will publish a compiled report.

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26. A Union Gymnastic Fest will take place every four years, beginning in 1881. The previous convention will determine the city where the fest will take place.

27. The judges for these fests will be appointed by the Gymnastic Teacher Congress, which takes place in the year before the fest. Their travel expenses will be covered by the Union.

28. The Union prizes are in form of diplomas and laurel wreaths. At individual unions' and districts' fests, other prizes are permitted as well. The topics for the literary competition, one of which must be about physical exercises, will be determined by a special committee appointed at the Union convention. Gymnastic teachers may participate only in the literary competition. The literary works that won diplomas at a Union gymnastic fest will be published in the Union newspaper.

29. The districts' committees must submit an accurate statistical report to the Executive Committee every twelve months, on January 1 of every year. The Executive Committee submits a report to the Union annually as well.

30. The Union platform and statutes must be the guidelines for all districts' constitutions. The latter may not contain any policies that are in conflict with the Union's Constitution. Members, unions or districts not abiding by any one of the regulations of the platform or statutes of the Gymnastic Union must be reprimanded by the next highest authority. Should they refuse to comply, they can be expelled.

31. The punishment of expulsion may only be applied to a member of the Union for dishonorable conduct. The district committees must submit all such expulsions to the National

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will make them public to the unions semi-annually.

32. Accusations or suspicions may never be announced to the public. However, if there are well substantiated reasons for an accusation or complaint, it is the duty of the individual Turner as well as of the particular union or district to bring those to the suitable authority.

33. When the town determined by the last convention to host a Union fest or a Union convention turns out to be impossible or absolutely unsuitable for unexpected reasons, the Executive Committee must suggest two places and provide its reasons for selecting them. The city which receives a majority of votes will host the event. If there is no time for such vote, the Executive Committee has the right to postpone the convention to allow a vote be conducted.

### **C. Accusation and Appeals.**

The Accusation.

1. When a Turner is accused of any offense by either a union or another member, he must be notified of the meeting at which the accusation will be presented to the committee at least one week in advance.

2. The notification must include a brief description of the accusation.

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The Process.

1. At the committee meeting where the process takes place, the plaintiff or the speaker must first explain the charge. This is followed by the questioning of the witnesses for the prosecution and then the witnesses for the defense. If the prosecution wishes to debilitate the statements of the witnesses for the defense, it may question them again. The same applies to

the defense if it wants to debilitate the statements of the witnesses for the prosecution questioned last.

2. Every defendant is free to have a representative who has to be a Turner, however. This representative can submit the witnesses for the prosecution to a cross-examination. The same applies to the plaintiff's representative who also has to be a Turner – after the direct questioning is over, he can question the witnesses for the defense.

3. These processes are led by the First or possibly the Second Speaker. Both parties must abide by his orders.

4. After the witnesses have been questioned, the defendant, or his representative and then the plaintiff or his representative are allowed to speak on behalf of their party and make their case.

5. The deliberation of the verdict must be conducted in a private meeting excluding all people who are not committee members.

6. The committee has only then the right to preside over a matter of accusation if at least two thirds of its members are present.

7. To issue a verdict, it is necessary to have a majority of votes from all committee members.

8. The record keeper must record the witnesses' statements in their essence. The statements must be verified by the plaintiff and the defendant or their representatives.

The Appeal Process.

Appeal to the Union.

1. In case one of the disputing parties is not satisfied with the verdict, it can appeal it to the their union within two weeks.

2. The union has to schedule an appeal and notify the other party at least three days in advance.

3. The appeal must be conducted in a private meeting of the union. The meeting must begin with reading the charge and the witnesses' statements, following which either party or their representatives are allowed to make statements. A simple majority decides whether to confirm or reject the verdict.

4. No new proof material is allowed at the appeals meetings in the union.

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Appeal to the District Executive Committee.

1. If one of the parties wishes to appeal the decision of the union to the district executive committee, it must send a written notification to the union as well as the district executive committee within fourteen days.

2. In the case of an appeal to the district executive committee, the union, whose verdict the appeal is brought up against, is obligated to submit all relevant documents and verified witnesses statements to the district executive committee immediately.

3. The process must be the same in the district executive committee as it is in the union executive committee with the only difference that new proof material may be allowed only when a majority of the executive committee members decides that there are compelling reasons for that.

4. The appeal to the district convention is no longer performed. An appeal against the decision of the district's executive committee must be submitted to it directly.

Appeal to the National Executive Committee.

1. When an appeal is submitted to the National Executive Committee in regards of a decision of a district's executive committee, the procedures must be the same as when a union verdict is appealed to the district executive committee. However, under no circumstances may new proof material be accepted.

Appeal to the National Union Convention.

1. When an appeal is submitted to the Union Convention, it must be submitted by the National Executive Committee within fourteen days.

2. The convention will declare its own procedures.

**D. Revision of the statutes.**

1. These statutes can be changed only in a regular national convention when there is a two-thirds majority of the represented national votes.

Adjourned until 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

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The Chair called the meeting to order. All delegates present.

The following two committees were appointed to draw up the topics for the literary competition:

For a topic regarding physical exercises: Gloy, Zapp and Brosius.

For an additional question: Bollinger, Pfäfflin and Stern.

They presented the following two questions later in the afternoon:

1. How can the gymnastic teacher ensure good discipline in the classroom and on the sports field without risking losing the affection of his students?
2. In what way can the tenets of the North American Gymnastic Union be turned into practice by the individual unions and gymnasts?

#### Death Fund.

The Committee for General Union Affairs submitted a report regarding establishing a Death Fund, which was adopted after a thorough deliberation in the following form:

1. An optional death fund is to be established and submitted to the districts for initial vote.
2. The Executive Committee must prepare a plan how to create and manage such a fund and send this plan to the districts together with the documents necessary for a vote well in advance. The documents must include columns titled "Under the Supervision of the National Executive Committee" and "Not under the Supervision of the National Executive Committee".
3. The Death Fund must be under a separate authority overseen by the Executive Committee. This authority must submit a complete report about its work at every National Union Convention.

#### Report of the Committee for Intellectual Efforts.

This committee submitted the following report which was approved without any debate:

Your committee must admit that it undertook its task with a heavy heart. An overview of the decisions of previous conventions and reports of the Executive Committee convinced us of the energetic efforts it and the Convention made to raise the intellectual life in the Union,

however also of the poor results that were accomplished. The decisions made by the authorities seem to have been acknowledged, read and put aside by the individual unions. The only thing that becomes clear at the conventions is the sad fact that nothing has changed in the Union regarding the intellectual efforts.

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In most cases, the lectures and various other events failed owing to the apathy and lack of interest of the majority of the clubs members. Much too often, the benches were half empty when the presenters talked, the debates required by the statutes did not take place or, only on rare occasions, were attended by many. Recommendations and requirements turned out to be of no use or accomplished merely temporary results.

And yet, the diligence and intelligence represented at the national conventions, the reports we hear from the various advanced unions convince us that there is no shortage of diligent men in the Union who care deeply about its intellectual advancement and are prepared to fight for it. The experience we gained seem to prove to us that it is not the lack of men who are willing and capable to lead the intellectual development in the unions but of audience, which, fully aware of the need for further education, is able to honor the endeavors of those men and join them ready to do their part.

When the recommendations of the Committee for Intellectual Efforts pass, there is little or no objections, however, as soon as it comes to turning the ideas into practice, as soon as there is need to sacrifice money or comfort, all sorts of difficulties arise and scare away many well-meaning Union members and they drop the efforts for intellectual advancement be.

Therefore, we believe that, just as the gymnastic union works with the young generation to win it over for its efforts in the area of gymnastics and to educate it, the Union must also turn the individual clubs into educational institutions for the young people. There they will be taught the true freedom and impartiality of the republic. Through the universal exposure of their minds to the phenomena of nature and human development, they will be equipped with

the ceaseless desire for progress and personal growth. That is why we recommend to all unions to establish Sunday schools, as advised at the New Ulm Convention, where the religious and historical development of humanity can be presented in comparison to the children of the Union members, their minds can be opened to their oneness with all nature and thus to the currents of our time.

To do this, we recommend the Executive Committee be tasked with the creation of a plan for implementing this idea and the individual unions be required to report about what they have accomplished in this regard.

We appeal in all earnestness to all progressive elements of the Gymnastic Union to work together so they may finally take the sting out of the all too often heard reproach of our enemies that intellectual efforts cannot find solid ground in the Gymnastic Union.

Further, your committee recommends the Convention accept the following:

1. To instruct the Executive Committee to begin a temporary collaboration with other German and English free minded organizations for the propaganda of common goals.

2. To instruct the Executive Committee to establish a permanent "Bureau for Intellectual Efforts" made up of the members of the "Intellectual Committee" and the corresponding secretary of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the Bureau will be to organize and direct lectures and debates in the gymnastic unions. It will work directly with them. The Executive Committee must allot appropriate monetary compensation for the secretary for all the work this will create for him.

3. Decided to establish two monetary prizes for the best original lectures held by Turners in the gymnastic unions every two months, as outlined next: the committees of the unions where the lectures were held will send the works to the permanent Bureau for Intellectual Efforts for examination and judging. The best lecture will receive a \$10.00 prize. The permanent committee will report bi-monthly to the National Executive Committee which, in its turn, will notify the Union members through the Union newspaper and publish the winners' presentations.

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No member of the Gymnastic Union may receive more than one prize in one year. The permanent bureau has the right not to give a first, second or neither prize if the lectures submitted to it do not demonstrate merit.

It would be desirable if there were members of the National Gymnastic Union who, for a reasonable fee, would be willing to hold comprehensive for all lectures in the unions. We believe such an exchange of Turner speakers among the various districts would be of significant benefit. The necessary resources would be provided by the district treasuries or the unions where the lectures are held.

4. We recommend the permanent Bureau act in this way to win capable and enthusiastic Turners and to take on the coordination between the districts.

H. Pfäfflin,

John B. Bollinger,

Georg Müller,

Max Stern,

Anton Voigt,

F. B. Huchting,

C. Riebsame.

C. Kuhm from New York submitted the following motion:

“Considering that part of both large political parties in the country appear willing to try to put the same man in the chair of the president of the United States for the third time, let it be

decided that we, representatives of the Gymnastic Union, protest most resolutely against any such attempt.”

A motion to table this motion was rejected with 136 against 114 votes. The motion above was passed with 121 1/5 against 101 4/5 votes. The following districts did not vote: New England with 15, Pacific with 24, North West with 1, North Indiana with 3 und West Wisconsin with 3 votes, all together 5 districts with 46 votes.

Decided that, should Grant be nominated president, the members of the North American Union are strongly encouraged to spare nothing to prevent his election.

Decided: the Executive Committee is instructed to send the report of the Committee for Platform and Decisions as well as the actual platform and tenets in suitable format to the German press in the country to be published immediately.

Decided: to wish safe trip and good luck to the representatives of the North American Gymnastic Union at the gymnastic fest in Frankfurt, especially to the Milwaukee team and its leader.

Decided: to replace the words “Fresh, Upright, Happy, Free” with “Fresh and Free, Strong and Loyal” in the motto of the North American Gymnastic Union.

Decided: to edit the official minutes in such a manner that the reports of the standing committees appear in order and as a comprehensive unit for each committee. The opening address of the Union speaker and the still accurate decisions made at previous conventions must be included at suitable places in the minutes.

Decided: to express the gratitude of the Convention to the current Executive Committee for their management of the Union affairs skillfully and successfully. At the same time, the Convention asks the Executive Committee district St. Louis to grant the current members of the Executive Committee their well-deserved recognition by re-electing them.

Decided: on behalf of the Convention, to thank the citizens and Turners of Indianapolis for their hospitality and the ladies for their hard work to make the informal gathering so pleasant.

Decided: on behalf of the Convention, to thank the Indianapolis press for the accurate reports about the sessions.

Decided: to thank the Convention officers for fulfilling their duties in an outstanding manner.

Adjourned until Wednesday, June 2, 9 o'clock in the morning.

J. R. Fellmann, secretary.

#### Fourth Day.

The session was opened by the Chair. A quorum was present. The minutes from the previous day were read and approved after including a note to honor delegate Scholz' mention that he submitted certain motions which the Convention deemed appropriate to send on to the Committee for Platform and Statutes.

A letter from Brussels, Belgium, including an invitation to a fest on August 17 to celebrate Belgium's Independence connected to the Belgian Gymnastic Fest and an agricultural exposition, was forwarded to the Executive Committee for it to reply.

Since there were no other recommendations, the agenda commenced.

After a short break, the minutes were read and approved.

Adjournment sine die.

J. R. Fellmann, secretary.

## **Appendix A.**

### **Platform of the North American Gymnastic Union.**

We, the Turners of the North American Gymnastic Union, connected under the name “The North American Gymnastic Union”, aim to support each other in the education and training of physically and intellectually diligent people.

We acknowledge in the expansion of education and fostering of good morals the only way to a sound reform in the social, political and religious areas.

We support and strive for the development of the republic of the people on a truly humane ground. We will fight most determinedly against every attempt to restrict the freedom of conscience as well as all infringements of the law, which impede the improvement of our free institutions.

### **Tenets.**

In its efforts to realize the principles included in the platform of the N. A. G. U., the Convention affirms the following:

The sovereignty of the people is unsalable and cannot be given to its representatives in the legislative and executive areas. Just as all must be done for the people, so then all must be done by the people. That is why the people must secure the constant and direct dependence and responsibility of those it entrusts with its interests. For this purpose, it must retain the right to remove those representatives when they do not fulfill their obligations in a satisfactory manner and hold them accountable under conditions and provisions capable of preventing abuse. At the same time, it must retain the right to submit nominations and to make the merit of all important laws passed by its legislators dependent on its subsequent approval.

Complicated representations and artificial power distribution borrowed from the government system of the old world

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hinder and ruin true democracy and foster reactionary tendencies. The people need only one group of responsible and accountable agents for its legislature and government. This group will put its decisions into action through an executive or administrative commission under its direct supervision, a commission, it elects from candidates from the entire population.

The Senate and the Office of the President are both copies of monarchical institutions and ought to be destroyed as not democratic and not suited for a republic.

The right of the separate states to pass laws or introduce policies which are against the spirit of the national constitution, namely such pertaining to the freedom of the press, religious affairs and the right of assembly, must be revoked completely.

The Convention recommends the following as suitable ways to lift poverty and improve the social conditions: defend work against exploitation and secure its real wage; sanitary support of the citizens through control of factories, food and housing; statistical assessment of the work conditions through the government; ban of children's work for industrial purposes; stop to all further gifts or sales of land to individuals and corporations. The public land must remain the property of the people under all conditions and for all time. It may be given to real farmers to use under secured conditions.

Free education in all educational institutions supported through state or community funding must be provided to everybody. Public financial support must be made available to the poor.

Introduction of a progressive income and inheritance tax and tax exemption for the minimum family income.

Destroying of all monopolies, deep reforms of the judicial system, removing of all indirect taxes.

An important catalyst for the improvement of our poor social conditions may be the reduction of the work hours and determination of a lawful workday. Therefore, the Convention urges all unions to learn more about this through lectures and debates.

Religious views and beliefs are an individual's own spiritual and moral need according to individuals' private view and education. Due to their nature, these views cannot be controlled or influenced with violence. On this account, all institutions, laws and decrees created and passed by the government in that regard, are tyrannical measures and are against good reason as well as against the spirit of the Constitution. They must be viewed and counteracted as violations of individual rights and the freedom of conscience.

Some of these measures are: the requirement of the Sunday festivities; tax exemption for church property; hiring chaplains in Congress, the legislatures, the army, the prisons and other institutions supported by public taxes; arrangement of religious holidays and fasting days by the President and the state governors; requirement to swear on the Bible or in any other religious form; the support of religious tendencies or institutions through federal funds or declarations; print of religious slogans on coins and documents.

## **Appendix B.**

The Order of the Gymnastic Fests of the North American Gymnastic Union.

I. General guidelines.

1. Organization, Management and Program.

§1. Organization.

The Gymnastic Fests of the North American Gymnastic Union take place every four years. They last three days. One of these days must be a Sunday. The city to host the fest will be determined by the last convention. Should this town turn out to be impossible or absolutely unsuitable for unexpected reasons, the Executive Committee must suggest two places and provide its reasons for selecting them. The city which receives a majority of votes will host the

event. If there is no time for such a vote, the Executive Committee has the right to postpone the fest to allow a vote be conducted.

## §2. Management.

The Executive Committee of the North American Gymnastic Union or the committee it has authorized and sent there oversees the fests. This committee must make sure that the general rules and regulations for the gymnastic fests are abided by. The gymnastic fest committee appointed by the host union (or unions) is the one in charge the following: a) creating the program of the fest and sending it on to the National Executive Committee 12 weeks before the fest begins; b) preparing and furnishing the place for the fest and any other necessary rooms, for instance locker rooms for the competing athletes, meeting rooms for the judges, a wrestling ring furnished with saw dust or mulch, etc.; c) making arrangements for the lodgings of the guests; d) collecting the registrations for the fest and distribution of the tickets.

Additional regulation to b): the following gymnastic equipment and tools in good and usable condition must be supplied – 3 horses, 1 vaulting horse, 3 horizontal bars (with spare poles), 3 parallel bars, 3 sets of jumping equipment (landing area, take off board with a cord, etc.) enough spring boards, 12 javelins with disc (see javelin throw), 1 climbing wall with vertical and horizontal double poles, ladders and ropes, ca. 1 ½ Zoll wide [1 Zoll = 1.03 in.] and 50 feet long, as well as tape measures, 1 iron dumbbell of 56 lbs., 2 iron dumbbells, 85 lbs. each, one iron dumbbell of 112 ½ lbs.,

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1 rock in the shape of a cube of 37 ½ English pounds or 17 kilogram, 1 pair swinging clubs of 5 lbs. each, 1 even area or a floor covered with boards for the competition, free and choreographed exercises.

The gymnastic field must have the size 150 ft. x 250 ft.

The union hosting the gymnastic fest is required to prepare for inclement weather so the competitions could be finished in a sheltered room. In addition, the National Executive Committee will appoint three gymnastic teachers employed in the Union clubs (and not already elected for judges) to build an observations committee. Their travel expenses to the gymnastic fest will be covered by the Union. This observations committee will not interfere in any way in the management of the fest. Its role is to only observe the procedures at the fest and then submit its findings in a report as detailed as possible to the Executive Committee.

### §3. Program.

A welcoming party will take place on the night before the fest begins, at which time the gymnastic fest leadership is handed to the committee of National Executive Committee.

Usually, the program is as follows:

First day: a) general free [with no fastened apparatus] and obligatory exercises; b) competitive athletics; c) gymnastics by the various unions and districts as well as the out of town fest guests.

Second day: a) competitive gymnastics; b) free gymnastics by the strongest athletes (winners at districts fests sent to the national union fest by their districts).

Third day: a) if necessary, continuation of the competitive gymnastics, then award ceremony; b) an excursion for all participants. If there is to be a parade, it will be organized only on the third day together with the excursion.

§4. An exposition of gymnastic equipment must be held at the gymnastic fests as well.

## 2. Participation in the National Union Gymnastic Fests.

### §5. Access.

Only gymnastic unions which belong to the North American Gymnastic Union, resp. their members who fulfill their obligations to those unions and their districts in accordance to

the statutes, have access to the Union gymnastic fests. Gymnasts and gymnastic unions which are not part of the North American Gymnastic Union can be invited by the National Executive Committee and, provided its agreement, by the fest committee of the host town. Both authorities may invite other people accomplished in gymnastics or the public life.

All participants, those who have a right to attend and those who received invitations, have the same rights and obligations. The National Executive Committee must notify the fest committee of the host town of all participants four weeks before the fest. The fest committee will provide each fest participant with a lodgings and an event ticket.

#### §6. Registration.

The fest participants must be registered with the fest committee of the host town 14 days before the fest.

§7. No Turner may appear in unusual dress at the gymnastic fest. In addition, it is forbidden to carry drinking horns.

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§8. Only those Turners will be admitted at the competitions who participate at the required group, free and choreographed exercises. Gymnastic teachers and instructors are required to encourage all other capable gymnasts to participate at those.

II. Organization of Gymnastics and Competitive Gymnastics, its Judging and Award Criteria.

#### 1. General policies.

§9. The entire preparation and management of all types of gymnastics is the responsibility of the gymnastic committee of the host city. It is required that a gymnastic teacher is a member of this committee. He is its chair and first leader of the gymnastic part of the fest. The duties of

the committee are: a) setting up and furnishing the sports field and various locations as described in §2; b) providing the necessary gear for the competitions, including the wreaths for the winners; c) creating the free, choreographed and general exercises.

#### §10. Judging.

The National Executive Committee will determine the judges for the Union fests and have their names published in the Union newspaper a month in advance. The union will reimburse them for their travel expenses. There are 12 judges. The Executive Committee may appoint 3 judges for the fencing and swimming competitions from the host district or one close by. If necessary, the judges can help each other out in their duties during the competitions.

A chair and a record keeper are elected among the judges. The chair leads the judging process and oversees the work of the judges. The record keeper prepares the records and a report about the judging process, which, signed by the chair as well, must be submitted to the National Executive Committee within 2 weeks after the fest. In addition, the record keeper is responsible for providing the judges with writing and measurement materials. At the begin of each meeting of the judges, he must announce the names of the judges and note any absences in his official report as well.

Three judges must be assigned to each piece of the gymnastic equipment (for the horse exercises, three judges each for the side jump and back flip). The same applies for each type of athletics and for the free and choreographed exercises.

Before the competitions begin, the judges will elect a records keeping committee of five from the competent guests of the fest. The committee will add the numbers of the result lists created by the judges and hand their findings, signed, to the chair of the group of judges.

## 2. Specific policies.

### A. Gymnastics for Attendees.

§11. Only free and choreographed exercises will be conducted for all attendees. The chair of the gymnastic committee will publish the free exercises two months before the fest at the latest in the Union newspaper. The fest attendees must practice the exercises in advance.

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#### B. Gymnastics of the Individual Districts and Clubs.

§12. Every district and club/other group of fest participants has the right, given there is sufficient time and opportunities, to perform exercises it has prepared in advance. These exercises must be registered with the gymnastic committee four weeks before the fest. Level of gymnastic difficulty, what kind and how much gymnastic apparatus, size of the required location and projected duration (may not exceed 20 minutes) must be provided with the registration.

The gymnastic committee must decide immediately what is acceptable and has the right to reduce performance time if necessary. Any rejections by the gymnastic committee regarding required location, apparatus or too high a number of entries can be performed, however, only in exceptional circumstances, when a gymnastic performance is not possible even at the end of the second day. Such rejections may only be applied to the groups registered last.

#### C. General Elective Gymnastics.

§13. Every fest attendee who desires to participate in the general elective gymnastics may do so. These take place at the end of the first day. The gymnastic committee determines the duration of the event.

#### D. Competitive Gymnastics.

§14. Registration for the competitive gymnastics is done four weeks before the fest with the Technical Committee of the Executive Committee and the gymnastic committee of the town hosting the gymnastic fest.

§15. Young adults' teams are not allowed at the Union gymnastic fests.

§16. Turners who have held a position as a paid or otherwise remunerated gymnastic teacher in the last six months before the fest may not participate at the competitions in the physical exercises. They may only compete in the literary works.

§17. The judges will organize the competitive gymnasts and teams, write them down in the participants' lists and announce them before the exercises begin. To simplify the record keeping of the results lists, the competitive gymnasts and teams will be afterwards announced with assigned numerical badges. Any registered participants absent at the start of the exercises will be removed from the competitions.

§18. The competitions include team and individual competitions. Both take place at the following gymnastic apparatus: horizontal and parallel bars, the horse (side and back flip) as well as in four sections of athletics. In addition, as far as the team competitions are concerned, free and choreographed exercises (with or without apparatus) will be included. The number of athletes in one team may not be fewer than six. Turners whose unions or districts do not build a team will be assigned to other teams, however their accomplishments will be judged only as individual ones. The apparatus competition will be conducted only in one section.

§19. At each of the gymnastic apparatus, horizontal and parallel bars, the horse (side and back flip), three exercises must be performed, namely two compulsory and one elected. The compulsory exercises will be selected among the familiar exercises of level three as follows:

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It is the duty of each gymnastic teacher employed in a gymnastic union to send in 2 exercises for each of the gymnastic apparatus to the Technical Committee of the National

Executive Committee no later than four months before the fest. Failure to do so will result in the reprimanding publication of his name in the Union newspaper.

The Technical Committee must select 16 exercises for each of the gymnastic apparatus and announce them in the Union newspaper one month before the fest. Via a drawing, the group of judges determines the compulsory competitions exercises from those submissions on the morning of the second day. The Technical Committee must provide suitable material for the drawing.

§20. The judges must select those 4 exercises among the first 8 exercises of the following athletic disciplines which will then be combined with the apparatus gymnastics: 1. free high jump; 2. free long jump; 3. running; 4. rope climbing; 5. weight lifting; 6. stone throw; 7. high jump with a pole; 8. javelin throw; 9. club swing; 10. wrestling; 11. slash fencing; 12. thrust fencing; 13. swimming; 14. shooting.

§21. All measurements will be taken by the judges using American foot and/or a stop watch.

§22. The judges must consider the following three criteria: 1. smooth performance; 2. beauty; 3. difficulty of the exercises.

§23. The exercises will be evaluated as follows: a) 10-point system by the apparatus gymnastics – the evaluation must be done by the old standards and no chairman will be elected; b) in athletics, the guidelines in the following paragraphs will be abided by:

§24. The Union prizes are diplomas and laurel wreaths.

Only teams whose members participate in all events of the competitive gymnastics and individual gymnasts doing the same are eligible for a prize. They are entitled to a prize only if: by teams – they have received at least two thirds of the highest possible score and by individual gymnasts – they have received at least half of the highest possible score. The average score a team receives determines the individual prize (the average score is determined by dividing the total score of all team members by their number). No prizes 'a' and 'b' will be given; their numbering will be done strictly according to the points received.

The two best teams and the three best individual gymnasts who have performed all obligatory exercises will be awarded a laurel wreath and a diploma, all other teams and individual athletes will receive only a diploma. For every type of gymnastics, there will be 3 prizes – the first will be a laurel wreath and a diploma, the second and third only diplomas. Individual gymnasts may participate in all types of athletics, independently from the apparatus gymnastics. Gymnasts who have received several prizes will be awarded the matching number of laurel wreaths but only one diploma where all athletic disciplines will be noted in which the prizes were awarded. In addition, the scores will be included there as well.

§25. An intellectual competition will be conducted in combination with the physical competitions. It includes recital and literary papers.

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The former takes place on the evening of the first day of the fest. The topics for the literary papers, one of which must be on physical exercises, are determined at the Union Convention preceding the Union gymnastic fest by a committee appointed specifically for that purpose. The papers must be received in the Executive Committee's Committee for Intellectual Efforts at the latest 4 weeks before the fest. The Committee for Intellectual Efforts will evaluate the papers and must submit the names of the authors of the best works to the group sent by Executive Committee to the fest. This group will announce the names at the award ceremony. The Executive Committee judges group will elect three competent fest guests as judges for the reciting competition.

The latter will submit their decision to the chair of the Executive Committee judges group. The best recital and the best literary paper will be awarded a diploma and a laurel wreath, the runner-ups in each category only a diploma. The literary papers to receive awards at a literary fest must be published in the Union newspaper.

Every submission may only be marked with a motto, while the author's name must be in sealed envelope bearing the same motto which may be opened by the judges only after the

decision has been made. The Executive Committee has the right to allot material prizes for literary papers.

§26. There will be no taxes for any Union members who compete.

### 3. Special Regulations for Separate Exercises.

#### Free Jump.

§27. The landing space will be created by filling a ditch with bark or mulch instead of using mats. The runaway will be made from a plank suspended in the ground and will begin from the landing space. It is ca. 15 Zoll [=ca. 15. 55 in.] wide and 30 ft. long.

#### a) Free High Jump.

§28. We will begin to count by a height of 42 Zoll [1 Zoll = 1.03 in.]: 42" = 0 points, for each 2 additional Zoll up to 60 Zoll one point will be given; over 60 Zoll, one point will be given for each 1 Zoll. Every jump must be completely free, without any touch of the cord; however, every Turner is allowed a second jump at every height.

#### b) Free Long Jump.

§29. We will begin to count by a distance of 12 feet: 12 feet = 0 points, for each additional foot up to 14 feet one point will be given; over 14 feet, one point will be given for each  $\frac{1}{2}$  foot.

Regarding touching the cord the same rules apply as by the free high jump. If the body falls back, this will lead to disqualification even if the feet of the gymnast have passed the cord.

#### Running.

§30. The track will be ca. 656 ft. or ca. 200 m. long, in a straight line if possible.

Finishing the track in 35 secs. = 0 points, each second less counts for 1 point.

#### Rope Climbing.

§31. The rope will be at least 40-50 ft. long and ca. 1 ½ Zoll thick: a height of 20 ft. = 0 points,

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one point will be given for each additional 3 feet. The reached height will be measured by securing a tape measure at the neck of each gymnast and the reached height will be read when they get down. The reached height will be read when the gymnasts get down.

The legs must be held stretched in any position, any fidgeting and pushing of the legs will lead to immediate disqualification.

#### Weight Lifting.

§32. The hand weights used will be the following: 1 weight, 56 lbs., 2 weights, 85 lbs. each and 1 weight, 112 ½ lbs.

Method of weight lifting: the 56 lb. hand weight will be lifted with one arm, right or left; both 85 lb. hand weights will be lifted with each arm alternating and the 112 ½ lb. hand weight will be lifted with one both arms.

One time lift of the 56 lb. weight counts for ½ point, one time lift the 85 lb. weight counts for 1 point and an one time lift the 112 ½ lb. weight counts for 1 point.

All points are added up and whoever reached the highest number is the winner. The 56 lbs. and the 112 ½ lbs. weight must be lifted up as high as the arm's full vertical stretch from touching an 8 in. above the ground held rope, without any swinging and without taking any pause using the legs, several consecutive times.

The 85 lbs. weights are lifted upward in the arm crook position.

#### Stone Throw.

§33. The stone must be in the form of a dice and weigh  $37 \frac{1}{2}$  English lbs. or 17 kilogram. The same rules for measuring the distance apply here as by the long jump. The stone may be thrown with the right or the left arm.

#### High Jump with a Pole.

§34. A height of 6 ft. = 0 points; for up to 8 ft. 4 in., 4 Zoll receive 1 point; over 8 ft. 4 in., each 2 Zoll receive 1 point. The cord may not be touched neither by the gymnast nor by the pole. Two jumps are allowed for each height.

#### Javelin Throw.

§35. The target for the javelin throw will be a disc with a 2ft. diameter, divided in 10 rings. The distance for the horizontal throw is 35 ft. and for the arc throw 40 ft. Each Turner is allowed three throws. Those who cannot reach at least 50% of the targeted rings, are not eligible to receive a prize. Only throws that hit the target will be counted. Approximately one javelin length in front of the target, there must be a contraption, an opening, through which the javelins must pass. If this opening is touched, the throw will be disqualified.

#### Club Swing.

§36. 5 lb. clubs will be used, it will be swung for of 10 minutes. The judges must consider the following: number of swings and connections performed, the beauty, choreography and duration of the performance.

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### Wrestling.

§37. a) All participants stand according to their height; b) Every participant must tell how much he weighs; c) The division in pairs is done by a committee from three of the judges. It will consider the weight, height and muscular build of the competitors and assign the pair partners as equally as possible; d) After all the pairs wrestled once, the gymnasts who lost, will participate in a narrowed down wrestling competition.

The winners from that match will wrestle with the first winners so everyone wrestles with everyone; e) Judging: Whoever was thrown in the second competition receives 1 point, whoever has the lowest number of points is the winner, for example: 0 points - first place, 1 point – second place, 2 points – third place, etc.; f) Each pair has 3 minutes to achieve a hold. If this did not happen, the pair will take equal hold left over the shoulder, right over the hip or vice versa. Whoever touches the floor with both shoulders has lost.

### Slash and Thrust Fencing. Swimming Shooting.

§38. The district hosting the gymnastic fest creates the policies and appoints the judges for these three disciplines. The athletes participating in shooting can use their own weapons if this complies with the regulations.

### Free and Choreographed Exercises.

§39. The following rules apply to the free and choreographed exercises:

- a) Teams must have at least six members.
- b) Each team gets fifteen minutes.
- c) The exercises are selected freely.

d) The judges must consider the difficulty and number of the exercises as well as the smoothness, regularity and beauty of performance and choreography.

e) Each judge will submit his decision according to the general impression on a scale from 1 to 10.

f) A team that failed to receive 2/3 of the highest possible score is not eligible for a prize.

g) Each team practices under the command of their regular coach.

h) Each team is free to perform the exercises with or without apparatus (poles or weights).

### III. Prize Awards.

§40. The Chair of the judges group announces to them to decisions of the records keeping committee. After the judges' approval, the Chair hands in the result to the Chair of the Executive Committee's fest committee. The latter announces the winners at the appropriate time and presents them their awards. It is the judges' duty to keep their evaluations secret until the winners are announced.

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**1880**

**Tenets of the Union Convention.**

1. The sovereignty of the people is unsalable and cannot be given to its representatives in the legislative and executive areas. Just as all must be done for the people, so then all must be done by the people. Therefore the people must secure the constant and direct dependence and responsibility of those it entrusts with its interests. For this purpose, it must retain the right to remove those representatives when they do not fulfill their obligations in a satisfactory manner and hold them accountable under conditions and provisions capable of preventing abuse. At the same time, it must retain the right to submit nominations and to make the merit of all important laws passed by its legislators dependent on its subsequent approval.

2. Complicated representations and artificial power distribution borrowed from the government system of the old world hinder and ruin true democracy and foster reactionary tendencies. The people need only one group of responsible and accountable agents for its legislature and government. This group will put its decisions into action via an executive or administrative commission under its direct supervision, a commission, it elects from candidates from the entire population. The Senate and the Office of the President are both copies of monarchical institutions and ought to be destroyed as not democratic and not suited for a republic.

3. The right of the individual states to pass laws or introduce policies which are against the spirit of the national constitution, namely such pertaining to the freedom of the press, religious affairs and the right of assembly, must be revoked completely.

4. The Convention recommends the following as suitable ways to lift poverty and improve the social conditions: defend work against exploitation and secure its real wage; sanitary support of the citizens through control of factories, food and housing; statistical assessment of the work conditions through the government.

5. Ban of children's work for industrial purposes.

6. Stop to all further gifts or sales of land to individuals as well as corporations. The public land must remain the property of the people. It may be given only to real farmers to use under secured conditions.

7. Free education in all educational institutions supported through state or community funding for everybody. Public financial support must be made available to the poor. A progressive income and inheritance tax and tax exemption for the minimum family income must be introduced. Destroying of all monopolies, deep reforms of the judicial system, removing of all indirect taxes.

8. An important catalyst for the improvement of our poor social conditions may be the reduction of the work time and determination of a lawful workday. Therefore, the Convention urges all unions to learn more about this through lectures and debates.

9. Religious views and beliefs are an individual's own spiritual and moral need according to individuals' private view and education. Due to their nature, these views cannot be controlled or influenced with violence. On this account, all institutions, laws and decrees created and passed by the government in that regard, are measures that are tyrannical and against good reason as well as against the spirit of the Constitution. They must be viewed and counteracted as violations of individual rights and freedom of conscience.

Some of these measures are: the requirement of the Sunday festivities; tax exemption for church property; hiring chaplains in Congress, the legislatures, the army, the prisons and other institutions supported by public taxes; arrangement of religious holidays and fasting days by the President and the state governors; requirement to swear on the Bible or in any other religious form; the support of religious tendencies or institutions through federal funds or declarations; print of religious slogans on coins and documents.