

7 VETERAN GROUPS PLAN ALBANY FIGHT

They Set Up Council to Map Legislative Program That Will Protect Men's Rights

Seven large veterans' groups in New York State, including the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans, are banding together to form a common front in fighting for legislation they feel is favorable to the veteran and the country.

The coordinating group, which will be called the Veterans Advisory Council, was set up yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the state commanders of the seven participating organizations. The meeting was held at the Paramount Hotel.

Taking part in the meeting in addition to the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and

Association and the Marine Corps League.

The new council will be made up of the state commanders of each organization along with the legislative chairmen and one other member from each group. Leo Wheeler, state commander of the DAV, has been chosen temporary chairman of the council.

According to Mr. Wheeler, the new group will map a legislative program that will be acceptable to all the participating organizations. Then it will coordinate the efforts of the groups in getting this program before the public and state legislature.

Mr. Wheeler pointed out that the approval of Amendment 5 (the Mitchell Amendment), which stripped veterans of the right of absolute preference in civil service examinations, was in large measure responsible for the formation of the council.

"Without a united front," Mr. Wheeler said, "we are not getting results. At the last election the people were confused by the faulty

ment. In New York City, where the veterans' campaign was sporadic, we failed. From now on we'll all try to work vigorously together."

Speaking for the American Legion, Louis E. Drago, state commander, said that the Legion believed that conditions had arisen that made it necessary for the Legion to engage in a "militant and more direct fight to protect veterans' rights." The same sentiments were expressed by Joseph P. Mathews, state commander of the VFW. Mr. Mathews said, "We don't believe that the people have forgotten so soon the sacrifices made by our veterans. This meeting is only the beginning of a concerted effort to see that veterans' rights are protected."

There were twenty representatives at yesterday's meeting. In addition to those already mentioned, there were Arthur J. Aronson, state commander of the Jewish War Veterans; Thomas J. Cuita, state commander of the Catholic War Veterans; Walter E. Hopper Jr., president of the Re-

serve Officers Association; Edward Scheiborling, former national commander of the American Legion and currently legislative chairman of the New York State department and Harry C. Helman, state commander of the Marine Corps League.