

The first of these objects stated, is, of course, the major purpose of the organization: To secure the cooperation of parents, teachers, and other adult citizens in all that concerns the education and welfare of children and youth. Since the administration of the school is recognized as the function of school authorities, the national by-laws provide that Congress parent-teacher associations "shall not seek to direct the administrative activities of the schools or to control their policies".*

The P.T.A. is a non-commercial group. They do not endorse commercial enterprises or advertise them at their meetings. Gifts involving commercial obligations are not accepted by the association or its officers or chairmen. Lists of associations, officers or members are not made available in any form to commercial interests. The name of the association or the names of officers in their official capacity cannot be used in connection with a commercial enterprise or publication.*

The group maintains a nonsectarian policy thereby guaranteeing a recognition of the rights of every individual to his own religious beliefs. The association does not promote the interests of any single religious denomination and care is taken to respect every kind of religion in the community. Any devotional exercises presented in the meetings are thoroughly nonsectarian.*

The association, its officers and members in parent-teacher relationships must abstain from partisan activities and discussions including the endorsing of candidates for public office. The name of the group, its officers or members must not be used in connection with any partisan issue or for any partisan candidate. However this nonpartisan policy does not in any way affect authorized Congress activities in the field of legislation. (The Legislation Committee is a bona fide committee of the association "concerned with the fact finding, study, dissemination of information and direct action designed to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth, to promote a continuous and close observation of existing laws to ensure the proper administration and enforcement of them, and to determine the need for changes".)*

The fifth guiding principle of the P.T.A. is that of cooperation with community or coordinating councils. The association cooperates with other organizations but does not join them. They cooperate with other groups "to develop coordinated programs based on such common interests as promoting wholesome influences for children and youth; enforcing laws that affect child welfare; health and safety; character-building organizations; the employment of youth; adequate recreation-

*Excerpts taken from the Parent Teacher Manual 1950-53. Handbook of National Congress of Parents and Teachers.