

# The President's Page

ET TU, BRUTE!

**E**MULATING the ghost of Banquo that will not down, the oft-buried matter of the Federalization of the National Guard has arisen to plague us once more.

**T**HE National Executive Committee of the Reserve Officers' Association of the United States, meeting in Washington last month, adopted two resolutions. In one, the Committee endorsed the Number One recommendation of the Gray Board, which was headed: "National Security Requires That All Services Each Have One Federal Force." In another, it directed that each Department of the R.O.A. ascertain the sentiment of its membership relative to Federalization, and that to assist them in this, National Headquarters arrange for preparation of statements pro and con. The arguments in favor of Federalization were to be prepared by the President of the New York Chapter of the R.O.A., and the arguments against, by the President of the National Guard Association of the United States.

**T**HIS action came as a bit of a surprise to the National Guard Association, although there had been indications that some such move was afoot. When the adoption of the R.O.A. resolutions became known to the officers of the National Guard Association and the Adjutants General Association, during their recent meeting in Washington, the first reaction was one of anger, and it was received as a stab in the back.

**W**E COULD not but feel that had the situation been reversed, and had the National Guard Association called on its membership to submit their views on whether the Organized Reserved Corps should be dissolved, and requested the President of the R.O.A. to defend his Corps, we undoubtedly—and properly—would have been told the matter was distinctly none of our business.

**T**HE action denotes that a majority of the National Executive Committee of the R.O.A. have alined themselves with the Gray Board and the United States Air Force, which is making an all-out effort to obtain the Federalization of at least the Air National Guard.

**I**N THE March issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, I commented on the amazing testimony of Mr. Symington, Secretary for Air, and Lt. Gen. Elwood Quesada, at the House Armed Services Committee hearing on H. R. 1437, the Army and Air Force Authorization Bill. General Quesada's subsequent performances before the Adjutants General and later the Air National Guard Logistics Conference, were even more amazing. On one hand, the Adjutants General learned from his own lips that the Air Force had done a very poor job in connection with the training of the Air National Guard, and that the Air Force apparently was unable to control its subordinates. On the other, those attending the Logistics Conference heard a three-star General deliver a rambling diatribe on how to issue tools, notably screwdrivers.

**E**VEN more illuminating is the following extract from the Report of the Air Force Association Directors' Meeting in New York on 22 January:

1. Air National Guard Federalization. It was strongly recommended by Smith, Doolittle, Lanphier and Gill Robb Wilson (Aviation Editor *Herald-Tribune*) that we continue pressure for federalization. General Quesada, who is in charge of the reserve program and federalizing the Guard, and other USAF officers, have assured the above in conversations last week that federalization is still a major issue of policy. While the National Guard has interpreted the appointment of the board\* as a weakening of the USAF position, General Quesada says this is not so and that this will give the Guard a chance to save its face and also prevent a frontal battle during the next few months of budget hearings. Federalization of the Air Guard was described by Mr. Wilson as a wedge and that if the USAF can't make that stick, it probably couldn't make the single Air Force stick."

\*It is assumed that this refers to the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Secretary Symington of which General Quesada is the Chairman.

**T**HE foregoing, coupled with General Quesada's testimony on the Authorization Bill, demonstrates that General Quesada is eminently unfit to hold the position as Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the U. S. Air Force as Coordinator for the Air National Guard and Air Reserve and, in addition, the position as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Air Committee. Such positions presuppose unswerving fairness and complete impartiality. General Quesada has demonstrated conclusively that he possesses neither, and therefore, should be relieved.

**P**ERHAPS we should not be too severe with General Quesada, for as a hired man he merely reflects the fixed sentiments of his superiors, and we could not expect him to sacrifice his career in connection with what some Professionals seem to consider the extremely unimportant Citizen Soldiers of the Air. But, after the unanimous action of the House Armed Services Committee in amending H. R. 1437 to preserve the integrity of the National Guard—both Ground and Air—and with the Air Force suffering a stunning defeat at the hands of the National Guard, it is indeed amazing that a branch of the Federal Government, notably, the United States Air Force, should show so little regard for the action of the Congress. The Air Force has become entirely too big for its britches, and we sincerely trust that the President and the Congress will assume the control and jurisdiction with which they are clothed.

**T**HE National Guard was not surprised at the action of the United States Air Force. But it was surprised at the coincidental action taken by the National Executive Committee of the Reserve Officers' Association of the United States. That was the unkindest cut of all.

*E. Walsh*

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## Dear Guardsmen:

Well, here's another issue off the press, and it's a wonder it got off at all, what with the way the merry-go-round has been spinning.

Not that there's been any lack of copy—quite the reverse. We have to stall off the authors who want to know when their masterpieces are going to get into print, and the PIOs who insist each of their little gems is worth at least a full page.

The trouble is there's so much activity popping, and in so many directions. Between issues, most of the staff has been involved in two "dry run" inspections each week in preparation for annual Armory inspections. The Adjutants General Association's three-day meeting, and a couple of meetings of USP&DOs, kept us humping. Cocklin finally broke loose for a Florida vacation, overdue from last year, and temporarily cast aside Washington woes in favor of the circus, the Red Sox, the sunny sands and other delights. Hogan buzzed off to the 53d Wing CPX at Harrisburg while Crist headed in the opposite direction to spend a weekend with the Tennessee National Guard Association in Nashville, leaving the distaff side to "man" the office (which, by the way, might give them the dangerous idea the bosses oughta go away—and stay away).

Speaking of the distaff side, Colonel Sam Wallace of Tennessee says that when the AGs come to town, everybody below the rank of B.G. might just as well stay out of our office—you can't get close to the pulchritude because there are too many generals in the way.

Anyhow, we've all been having a welcome change and a brief chance to breathe a different atmosphere than Washington's.

Which makes us wonder whether our friend Lt. Col. R. C. Williams, Jr., knows what he's getting into. His sound little piece, "The Man With 6 Hats," in this issue, is, in effect, his farewell to Hawaii and his old assignment there as RA Instructor. By the time you read this, Colonel Williams will be making up some leave time before settling down to one of the thousands of desks in the Pentagon. That's an awful big place—quite a contrast to a berth with a cozy little RCT, where you know everybody and everybody knows you. Coincidentally, another of our old friends—Lt. Col. Dan Craig, who used to be Executive Officer in the National Guard Bureau—is swapping places with Colonel Williams. It's just a private opinion, but we think Colonel Craig got the better of the deal.

That's enough philosophizing—gotta get going if we want to get the May issue out on time.

*The Staff*

### OUR COVER

Two plus two don't always equal four, the way we balance our checkbook; however, April showers plus the new deal on weekend smallarms firing for the National Guard do equal an idea for our April cover. Cynics that we are, as soon as NGB put out the dope on how outfits were to do their shooting before going to camp, we took it to be a foregone conclusion that the skies would open every time the gang went out to shoot. So, out in Aurora, Illinois, Phototoonist Bob Richardson latched on to our basic idea, and his deft fingers subtly moulded the clay figures that visualize what's likely to happen. Gotta allow a little artistic license, of course; but some leftover photos of range firing, from our "morgue," inspired his characters' facial contortions.

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