

The President's Page

LEGISLATION

DURING the past week there was forwarded to the several States, Territories and the District of Columbia a digest of pending legislation before Congress which had been initiated and sponsored by the National Guard Association of the United States or which concerned the Army and Air National Guard, in and out of the active military service of the United States. It is to be hoped that this digest will be perused by as many as possible to the end that they may be familiar with the general legislative program. All concerned are generally aware that Congress is confronted with a log-jam which is really serious. At the close of June it was quite evident that the Congress and notably the Senate will continue in session until late October or even November.

On the House side our legislative matters are, on the whole, in good shape. Hearings have been completed on H.R. 1170, commonly known as the Common Federal Commission Bill; on H.R. 4111, the U.S. Property and Disbursing Officers' Status Bill; on H.R. 4112, amending the Armed Forces Leave Act of 1946 to give leave credit at the rate of 2½ days per month to members of the Army and Air National Guard; and on H.R. 4113, amending Section 125 of the National Defense Act to eliminate wearing of distinctive insignia on the uniform for members of the Army and Air National Guard.

The Common Federal Commission Bill has been held over but has been favorably reported by the Department of Defense. The U.S. Property and Disbursing Officers' Status Bill has been favorably acted upon and the full Committee has agreed to report the measure to the House. The Bill to amend the Armed Forces Leave Act of 1946 has been favorably reported on by the Department of the Army and held over by the Committee. The Bill to amend Section 125 of the National Defense Act has been favorably considered by the Committee and the full Committee has agreed to report the Bill to the House. H.R. 4114 to amend Section 81 of the National Defense Act to provide for reorganization of the National Guard Bureau is being held in Committee pending a report from the Secretary of Defense. It is anticipated that this measure will be opposed by the Department of Defense.

Hearings of the items of the Army National Guard budget for fiscal year 1952 were concluded during the last week of June, but as yet no time has been fixed for the hearings on the Air National Guard budget. Generally the budget for the Army National Guard, with a few exceptions, is satisfactory, while that for the Air National Guard is eminently satisfactory. For fiscal 1951, the Army National Guard received a total of \$256,248,000. The Air National Guard had appropriated a total of \$103,935,000.

For fiscal 1952, the Bureau of the Budget approved items totalling \$203,002,000 for the Army National Guard and in addition, under a separate item \$24,000,000 for non-armory and armory construction, or a total of \$227,002,000. The construction item contains \$8,000,000 for non-armory construction and \$16,000,000 for armory construction, which will be available until 30 June 1953. The National Guard Association recommended to the House Subcommittee that \$2,949,000 cut from Project No. 412 (pay of Administrative Assistants and caretakers) be restored and that in addition an increase of \$5,340,000 be approved for the school program, and \$300,000 additional for the public information program, and that provisions be made for rations or subsistence for the six additional armory drills to be conducted on a week-end basis.

The National Guard Association is not satisfied as to the manner in which the non-armory and armory construction programs are set up as a separate appropriation, and made it clear that all construction shall be handled by the National Guard as heretofore, and will submit language to make this procedure effective. As previously stated, the amount of \$87,900,000 approved by the Bureau of the Budget for the Air National Guard for 1952 is quite satisfactory. However, the appropriation language with reference to construction is not satisfactory in that it is a departure from previous years and the National Guard Association is submitting language to conform to that used in the appropriations measures of the past several years.

As yet no supply bills have been passed by the Congress notwithstanding the fact we already are well into the new fiscal year. No guess can be made as to when such bills will be passed, and it therefore will be necessary for Congress to authorize expenditures ad interim by means of a resolution. Neither is there any indication when hearings will be conducted by the Senate Armed Services Committee and Subcommittees thereof on general military legislation and notably on those Bills which have been initiated and sponsored by the National Guard Association. Every effort will be made to get such hearings under way before the end of August.

The National Guard Association is optimistic that the Common Federal Commission Bill, the U.S. Property and Disbursing Officers' Status Bill, the Amendment to the Armed Forces Leave Act, and the Amendment to Section 125 of the National Defense Act, will be passed during the 82nd Congress, and possibly during the first session.

E. Walsh

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AUGUST, 1951

Dear Guardsmen;

Realize it or not, every time you don your uniform, lift a forkful of spam to your mouth, squeeze the trigger of a GI weapon, you've been involved in laws.

Cuss as we will about red tape, legislation and regulations, the Army can't get along without at least the legislation and the regulations. After all, they established the National Guard, granted the appropriations that bought your equipment, designated the amount of time you take for drill, camp, and so on.

Now the National Guard Association, speaking for the National Guard, constantly is involved in these laws, regulations and new legislative measures affecting all of us. And it takes a lawyer to find his way through the maze, too.

So, for the first time in its 73 years, the NGA has its own fulltime Legislative and Legal Officer. After having been here at the Association for some months on leave from the National Guard Bureau, Maj. Vernon B. Vaden has moved over to Association headquarters in downtown Washington permanently.

He knows the ropes with respect to National Guard legislative and policy matters, as the result of years of experience in the Bureau. From Poplar Bluff, Mo., he went to the Bureau back in '38 as a civilian legal advisor on procurement and was commissioned in 1942. On the side, he doubles as JAG and IG for the District of Columbia National Guard.

With the Korean truce parleys already underway as this issue goes to press and a possible armistice in the offing, we have gone the whole hog on news of National Guard IX and X Corps units "over there" in an effort to bring you up to date on their latest achievements should the last shot resound. We only regret we have not been able to give space to each and every Army and Air National Guard unit in Korea, but many of these units have been under security wraps. As it is, we are grateful indeed for the fine copy sent in by IX and X Corps PIOs, and we hope you like it.

The Staff

OUR COVER

"Mail Call" brings 'em flocking around the moment's most popular man in the outfit—the one who brings the letters from home—whether it be in a Stateside training camp or, as here, in the paddy fields in Korea. It's the Utah mail that attracts the rapt interest of this aggregation of ex-Guardsmen of the 213th Armd. F.A. Bn. (Army Photo from IX Corps PIO).

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