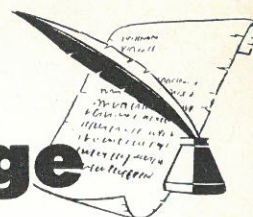


# The President's Page



## BACKWARD AND FORWARD

A FEW weeks ago, the fiscal year 1952 ended and on the evening of 7 July 1952 the gavel of the presiding officers sounded the knell of the 82d Congress. There is something about the dying days of a year, be it fiscal or otherwise, and the dissolution of a legislative body that brings to mind Janus, the two-headed god of the ancient Romans, who while looking backward with one head was, at the same time, looking forward with the other. At the moment, we find ourselves emulating this ancient Roman deity by attempting to evaluate that which has transpired and, at the same time, look forward and determine, insofar as we may, what the future holds.

On one hand it appeared that the National Guard Association, thanks to the splendid work of the Standing Committee on Legislation fortified by topnotch and coordinated support from the States, once again was on the verge of achieving notable success in obtaining the enactment of legislation which it initiated or sponsored, or obtaining changes and amendments to measures initiated by the Department of Defense and others which were unsatisfactory to the Guard in the first instance.

High on the list, of course, was the matter of appropriations for the support of the Army and Air National Guard. The Bill as passed by the House and reported by the Senate was eminently satisfactory to us, save for the rejection by the Senate Appropriations Committee of the so-called non-armory construction amendment proposed by the National Guard Association. It became necessary to carry the matter to the floor of the Senate at the very last moment, and it was adopted. We are indeed grateful to those Senators who sponsored and supported this amendment. Unfortunately, this effort in the Senate proved to be in vain, as the House Conferees refused to concur in the amendment, and so it was lost. As a result, there is now available the sum of \$11,000,000 for non-armory construction, which the States cannot use unless they contribute 25% of such cost. This is indeed regrettable and difficult to understand.

Of almost universal interest to the Department of the Army, the States, Territories and the District of Columbia was the so-called "Carrier Bill" which provided for the retention of designations and colors of Army and Air National Guard units in the active Federal service. This Bill was materially changed to conform to objections voiced by the Guard, and it is now Public Law.

In spite of rather sharp criticism and vitriolic condemnations and innuendoes from other sources, the National Guard stood fast on the proposition that certain changes were very much in order before it could agree to accept the "Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952." In doing so, the National Guard refused to sacrifice principle for expediency or be a party to the imposition of a reserve system which would not only place veterans in jeopardy again and again, but which placed the entire burden of National security on a comparative few who had served, while thousands of others evaded military service. The Bill, as reported to the Senate by the Long Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was quite satisfactory to the National Guard, although it failed to grant relief to the Guard in the matter of manpower procurement by eliminating the date of 1 February 1951 from Public Law 51, approved 19 June 1951. The Guard, however, was perfectly willing to leave this matter and other salient problems to the 83d Congress in the hope that such problems will be resolved prior to 1 July 1953, as stressed by the Committee in its report. The Bill is now Public Law. It is reported in greater detail elsewhere in this issue.

The National Guard Association was thunderstruck when it learned, too late for further action, that the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations had stricken from the National Defense Appropriation the language contained in the House Bill which granted to the National Guard of the United States, after years of effort, the franking privilege for of-

ficial mail. The matter was taken up with the House Conferees in an endeavor to have them insist on the restoration of the House language, and which they did. As a result, the original language was restored and the National Guard of the United States now has the franking privilege.

With only a few days remaining before Congress adjourned, the National Guard Association was fortunate in having the "U. S. Property and Disbursing Officers Status Act" favorably reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee and passed by the Senate on 3 July. It was then sent to the House, and in spite of the best efforts of the Association, the House failed to act upon this measure in their haste to adjourn on 7 July, and so the Bill was lost.

It is indeed a source of great disappointment that after it appeared that the National Guard Association would be completely successful in achieving its entire legislative program, the non-armory construction amendment and the USP&DO Status Bill were lost.

The States, Territories and the District of Columbia and the Army and Air National Guard are understandably concerned with the future situation of the National Guard as a whole and with the reorganization of those organizations and units which have been or still are in the active military service of the United States. They have no illusions or delusions as to the magnitude of the task of reorganization of these units and the future maintenance thereof, and particularly in the matter of strength. The repercussions and reverberations resulting from a number of events in connection with the Korean episode, and particularly the iniquitous Replacement and Rotation Policy, will be felt for many months, and, possibly, years to come. The situation will be further complicated as a result of discrimination in the matter of promotions, and no amount of argument will convince them that their grievances are more apparent than real, for the record speaks for itself. Their experiences will only serve to convince them that promises are usually short-lived or are given with the tongue in the cheek, and that policies and regulations will be interpreted and implemented to suit the whim of those who have the final say, and which is usually in the lower echelons rather than in the higher echelons, and, finally, that laws relating to the citizen-soldier are all too often contravened.

Tragically enough, there seems to be no prospect of improvement. Rather, matters will, probably, be much worse, and it may be anticipated that those things which have happened to the 31st and 47th Divisions will happen to the 37th and 44th Divisions, only sooner and in even greater measure. The destructive effect of such measures cannot be exaggerated, and the damage which will accrue to the whole reserve system defies calculation. Where the National Guard is concerned, this is an old story. Each time there is an emergency involving a mobilization, it thinks things will be different, but they never are. Seemingly, they grow worse as centralization of power in the Federal Government increases apace. We of the Guard do not, necessarily, charge that such measures are designed for the primary purpose of destroying the Guard, but, if continued, that could be the ultimate effect.

No matter what the Guard encounters in connection with an emergency involving active Federal service, and no matter how black the picture may appear at the moment, the fact remains that in spite of these things the Guard always comes back bigger, better, and stronger than ever. As it has been in the past with the Guard, so will it be in the future. We hark back to that battlecry of some years past, namely, there always will be a Guard. It is indestructible.

*E. Walsh*

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### dear guardsmen:

You've seen those ads: "GET BIG MAIL!" They get the lonely, letter-starved correspondent on big "sucker lists." Well, we don't have to be on anyone's sucker list to get lots of mail. And we try to reply to everyone who writes. Once in a while, however, someone never gets a reply and thinks we're negligent stinkers.

What has happened in such case is that the writer omitted to show his return address on the letter. It's SOP to put return address SOMEWHERE on the letter itself—usually, in the upper right-hand corner—and not just on the envelope. The reason is that when there's lots of mail to be opened and routed to various departments, letters get separated from envelopes—particularly when the same letter concerns several subjects that require handling by different personnel.

Many's the time we've ransacked wastebaskets in an effort to match up an address-less letter with its envelope. Sometimes we succeed; when we don't, we're stymied, and you'll never hear from us.

Hate to be a stinker and spoil a good story, but after we'd had Bill Kreh's piece about whether a baseball really curves set in type and illustrated, we got into conversation with a scientist neighbor. Somewhat of a ballplayer himself despite growing paunch and receding hairline, friend neighbor explained that the scientists have to make some basic assumptions about ballistics properties, etc. A weak point in their calculations is the inability to determine precisely what effect the stitching and various other irregularities on the surface of the ol' cowhide have on its flight from the pitcher's fingers. The upshot is that if the data fed into the electronic marvel is right, the answer will be right; but who can prove that the data's correct?

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### our cover

Back home in Florence, S. C., this trio is part of what's known far better under its old-time name of "The Harlee Guards," than as the less romantic but more official Co. I, 118th Inf., 51st Inf. Div. Snapped as they charged over a rise during field training at Ft. McClellan, Ala., are Pfc. Carl Beasley, Claude Rudsen and Charles Barbour. (Photo by PI Sec., 51st Inf. Div.)