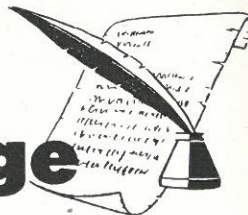


# The President's Page



## LEGISLATION

WITH 31 July the scheduled date for adjournment of the first session of the 83rd Congress, the legislative tempo has been stepped up and (barring something unforeseen) the end of the month should see an exodus of the weary lawmakers from the Nation's Capital. The Supply or Appropriation Bills are the key to the situation. With five of them passed by both Houses and waiting only for the appointment of conferees by the House, it would appear that the target date can be met.

The Department of Defense Appropriation Bill for FY 1954, H. R. 5969, was reported to the House on 27 June and passed by that Body on 2 July. The House Committee was extremely generous where the Army and Air National Guard were concerned, and their recommendations were sustained by the House of Representatives. For FY 1954, the Army National Guard received \$210,035,000 and the Air National Guard \$147,100,000, for a total of \$357,135,000. This is an increase of \$57,030,000 for the Army National Guard and \$41,100,000 for the Air National Guard, or a total increase of \$98,130,000 over FY 1953. In addition, the Committee recommended, and the House approved, subsistence for officers attending drills of eight hours or more duration in any one calendar day, and further provided that moneys appropriated for FY 1953 and FY 1954 for so-called non-armory construction would not be subject to the 75% restriction imposed by PL 783, 81st Congress.

Under the provisions of Section 643 of the Bill, the National Guard shall have, hereafter, the same privilege of free transmission of official mail matter as the Department of Defense. This is permanent legislation.

Hearings on Department of Defense Appropriations for FY 1954 have been completed by the Senate Subcommittee, during which representatives of the National Guard Bureau and the National Guard Association were heard. It is quite certain the Senate will make no changes in the amounts approved by the House for the Army and Air National Guard.

We are, indeed, very grateful to the House and Senate Committees and to the House of Representatives for their generosity and for the inclusion of the pertinent language in connection with money for the nonarmory construction program and the granting of franking privilege on a permanent basis. In its Report No. 680, dated 27 June 1953, the Committee on Appropriations had some very laudatory things to say about the Army and Air National Guard. On page 26 of the Report, the Committee observed that the Army National Guard had done commendably well in attaining budgeted strength goals, and will, in all probability, end the fiscal year 1953 at or above the estimated strength figure. On that basis and the probabilities of continued increase in strength, the boost over fiscal 1953 is recommended.

The Army National Guard is budgeted for an aggregate strength of 300,000 for FY 1954 as against a year-

end strength of 265,000 on 30 June 1953. The Air National Guard is budgeted for an aggregate strength of 52,637 for FY 1954 as against 31,046 on 31 May 1953. On page 54 of the Report, the Committee observed that the purpose of the increased strength and money for the Air National Guard is to permit greater reliance on the Air Guard potential as a part of the air defense of the United States. The Committee believes that equipping the Air Guard with modern jet aircraft under the new program and assigning it greater responsibility in the air defense organization is a wise move, in line with the best tradition of defense of the United States in that it recognizes the traditional role of the "Minute Man" type of citizen-soldier.

The National Guard Association has completed drafting and introduction of all Bills as required by the action of the 74th General Conference with the exception of the final action to be taken in connection with Resolution No. 1 of that Conference. The U. S. Property and Disbursing Officers Status Bill, S. 2217, which superseded S. 1450, was passed by the Senate without dissent on 6 July and is now pending in the House. Effort will be made to have hearings held on this Bill before the House Armed Services Committee the early part of the week of 12 July. Indications are that the Bill will pass without difficulty. Twice the Bill passed the Senate only to be lost in the House, due to adjournment or because of a single objector. Indications are that the Equalization of Benefits Bill will be heard by the Senate Armed Services Committee at an early date. This Bill, which is a Department of Defense Bill, has been held in the Bureau of the Budget for several months; it is still there, notwithstanding efforts by the Senate Committee to have a report thereon expedited.

Hearings on the Reserve Officers Promotion Bill, H. R. 1222, commonly referred to as "ROPA," have been under way since 1 June but have been temporarily suspended pending a re-write and submission of the Air Force Title by the Air Force. It is assumed that hearings will be resumed the latter part of the current week or early in the week of 12 July. It is not believed that final action on the Bill will be taken until the convening of the 2nd Session of the 83rd Congress.

Hearings on the Investigation of Reserve Training were suspended on 19 June and have not been resumed. It is doubtful that further hearings will be held during the current session. As yet, the National Guard Association has submitted no data in connection with this matter. The legislative program of the Association is a rather heavy one, but it is believed that the program is in excellent shape and will be considered by the Congress when it reconvenes in January 1954.

*E. A. Walsh*



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AUGUST, 1953

dear guardsmen:

It's always nice to be able to tell a success story, particularly if you have some personal or business link with the hero of the occasion.

That's why we're pleased with the breaks Joe Austell Small has been getting. A very active guy, Joe has been putting out a magazine called "Western Sportsman" from an address that's very apt, considering: on Bridle Path, in Austin, Tex. For several years, we've been running his column, "The Great Outdoors."

Now, he has realized a life's ambition by starting a quarterly called "True West." The aim is to tell about the honest-to-cactus West as it actually was in the old days—not the West as depicted in dude-written pulp fiction and horse operas.

Newsweek for June 8 gave Joe and his venture quite a plug. We're delighted to add our two cents' worth and hope that "True West" will better Joe's expectations of being "twice as big, twice as good—and we may even come out with it twice."

Tracking-down one of the many inquiries that come our way, we phoned the Pentagon the other day and—of all things—a PRIVATE answered the phone. He took the query, and quick as a flash told us just where, in that maze of offices, we could get the answer. We did, too. The normal batting-average is five different offices before you hit the right one.

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### our cover

Amid the smoke and din of mimic battle, crewmen of Ft Collins' Co H, 157 RCT, fire their 75mm recoilless rifle at Camp Carson, Colo, during field training of the Colorado National Guard. Perfecting their technique against that time when they may have to face a real enemy are: Sgt John Trone, the gunner (2d from R); M/Sgt Robert Bryant, crew chief (far R); Sgt Obed Cisneros, leader (behind gun); and Sgt Robert B Salisbury, who is observing through field glasses results of the latest shot. (Photo by Cpl Lockard)