

AS WE SEE IT . . .



IS THE ARMORY BOTTLENECK BREAKING?

A MAJOR cause of delay in the construction of armories for the National Guard has been the imposition of rigid and unrealistic criteria as to the maximum amount of space such armories may contain, if the States wish to obtain Federal contributions toward the cost.

There have been numerous conferences and communications on the matter, and at last, a glimmer of light may be detected.

One of the most recent complications was introduced in the form of a letter, dated 10 Nov 1954, from the Chief, National Guard Bureau, on the subject: "Space Criteria—One-Unit Armories." This letter, and the determination relative to the space criteria, was based on a Memorandum dated 29 Oct 1954 from the Asst Secretary of Defense for Properties and Installations, addressed to the Asst Secretary of the Army for Logistics and R & D, and referring to Army recommendations relative to space criteria, set forth in a 23 Sep 1954 Memorandum.

The directive of the Asst Secretary of Defense to the Army, and in turn to NGB, involving joint utilization of armory facilities, was unsatisfactory in the following respects:

1—That as a result of a 29 July conference among Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Massachusetts, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; Maj Gen Verne D Mudge, USA-Ret, member of the Committee's staff; and Maj Gens W H Harrison, Jr, Massachusetts; Karl F Hausauer, New York, and E A Walsh, President of the National Guard Association of the United States, the participants understood that if Army approval was forthcoming for increased criteria as recommended by the Association's Armory Space Criteria Committee, approval would be forthcoming from the Dept of Defense. However, and notwithstanding the fact that the Bureau and the Army had approved the Committee's criteria (except for 100 square feet for a check room) in the amount of 15,960 square feet, the Dept of Defense had reduced that figure to only 15,140 square feet.

2—That as a result of this reduction, the Dept of Defense either had overlooked or ignored the fact that the Association representatives and its Special Committee had stressed that 16,060 square feet would have been sufficient for about 85% of the armories, and that there would only have been required a special, or common, criterion, for multiple-unit armories and those for Div Hq & Hq, DivArty Hq & Hq, Signal, Ordnance and Tank companies, Field Artillery Bn

Hq & Hq batteries, and for units with an authorized strength of less than 100 men.

3—That Par 2 of the 10 Nov letter from the Chief, NGB, not only nullified the procedure theretofore prescribed which required only a single blanket agreement by a State relative to joint utilization of an armory, but precluded erection of any armories under the new space criterion by prohibiting its application to a project unless it was covered by a separate agreement in each case providing for joint utilization; and, since the States could not and would not accept such a procedure, the net effect was that no construction was possible under the Chief's letter.

4—That the requirement imposed by Par 2 of the Chief's letter was unrealistic in that while reducing the space criteria, it nevertheless, by req. agreement for joint utilization, was in effect adding X number of bodies within a space that already was deficient to accommodate the strength provided.

5—That the reading and application of Par 2 was contrary to the express provisions and intent of Sec 4 (d) of the National Defense Facilities Act of 1950, which states:

"Provided, that except as agreed at the time the contribution is made the facilities provided through contributions made pursuant to Section 3 (c) of this Act shall be subject to joint utilization only to the extent deemed practicable by the State concerned."

The National Guard Association has pointed out again and again that since the first appropriation was made for armory construction under the 1950 Act, millions of dollars have been spent for armories for the Army Reserve, and most expeditiously, while the Army National Guard program not only has been hamstrung by the imposition of obstacles, through red tape and delay piled upon delay, but there is marked discrimination in the types of buildings erected and facilities provided for the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard, much to the detriment of the latter. The Association submits that in no instance, insofar as it is aware, has the Army Reserve been required to execute any agreement with a State in the matter of joint utilization, or has any State been consulted relative thereto.

6—That from the inception of the program, the States have been thwarted and delayed by dilatory tactics and imposition of requirements never intended by the law.

7—That the provisions of the Act of 1950 pertaining to contributions were clear and unmistakable, namely 75% Federal and 25% State, but the ratio now approximates 55% Federal and 45% State, or even less in the case of

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dear guardsmen:

That soft Southern drawl that greets you, should you chance to phone the Association's Washington Headquarters—or drop by for a visit—belongs to Virginia-born Katherine Dawson. She's of course, the



official Receptionist, and not the least of the responsible posts at 100 Indiana Ave NW. For, not only does she operate the central switchboard, but handles incoming and outgoing messages over the office's Western Union Desk Fax and teletypewriter and (during spare

moments) assists in typing chores, besides the distribution of mail. A graduate of Occoquan High School, across the river in "Virginy," Mrs Dawson served with the Internal Revenue Bureau before joining us in March '53, as Assistant Membership Statistician. She has been "receptioning" since September 1953.

Katherine's an ardent fisherman, and whenever she can find the time (weather permitting) from the care of a four-year-old son, she's off with rod and line. She's enthusiastic, too, about athletics—as a spectator—giving particular attention to football, baseball, basketball, and soccer.

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our cover

In the East Canyon of Utah's rugged Wasatch Mountains, National Guardsmen from the 115 Engr Gp receive practical field training, while at the same time they perform a public service to the State. This log crib bridge connects portions of the Pioneer Memorial Road—a six-and-one-half-mile of roadway built during two week-end bivouacs.