



The President's Page



TO BE OR NOT TO BE

SOMEWHAT more than a year ago—16 March 1951 to be exact—the Chief of Staff of the Army advanced a proposal to representatives of the National Guard Association for the retention of Army National Guard units for a period of five consecutive years, including two years of active Federal service, and after the personnel thereof had been released from further active Federal service at the end of 24 months. In so doing he supported the proposal with arguments which appeared to be valid and compelling, with emphasis on the morale, security and logistical reasons which, in his opinion, made such a proposal mandatory, and for which he requested the concurrence of the States concerned. With good reason, the National Guard representatives were a bit startled at the proposal and realized that any action on their part, no matter how sound, would be of no avail unless the States concerned concurred. As a result it was determined to invite the State Adjutants General affected to come to Washington without delay to be briefed concerning the proposal and to express their concurrence or non-concurrence thereto.

On 7 April 1951, the Adjutants General of the 10 States which, at that time had 60% or more of the Army National Guard units in the active military service of the United States, and, in addition, the Adjutants General of five States which, conceivably, would be affected, met in Washington, and after a comprehensive briefing by representatives of the General and Special Staffs of the Army, agreed to the proposal of the Chief of Staff with some exceptions and reservations. In so doing they requested that the Department of the Army give serious consideration to some of the problems confronting the several States, notably, in connection with the Korean mobilization and the matter of internal security, by providing, on a purely temporary basis, allotments of separate light infantry battalions which would also serve as carrier units for returning National Guard personnel and for Trainees of the National Security Training Corps in the event a system of universal military training and service was established. The State representatives emphasized the need for haste and expressed the hope that the required legislation would be enacted speedily.

The foregoing views were promptly communicated to the Chief of Staff of the Army and it was the consensus of those participating that an amendment to the Universal Military Training and Service Act of 1951 would be necessary. Because of complications which arose on a higher level, the required legislation was

not introduced until shortly before the 1st Session of the 82nd Congress adjourned in October 1951. It was, therefore, through no fault of the Congress or the Department of the Army that the needed legislation was not enacted. Had it been presented promptly, after 7 April 1951, it would no doubt have been enacted promptly and would have been supported unanimously. As a result of a year's delay the situation has changed very materially and many new factors, not apparent a year ago, forced reconsideration and re-evaluation and, too, many States were now affected which were not affected a year ago and which were not a party to the original agreement. Nevertheless, the Chief of Staff of the Army was insistent that for security and other valid reasons, it was essential that the numerical designations and colors of certain Army National Guard units be retained as proposed initially, and insisted that an early hearing be held on the Bill, H. R. 5472. Accordingly, the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee referred the matter to the Chairman of Subcommittee No. 1 thereof and hearings were scheduled to commence 3 April 1952.

In the meantime, considerable opposition and dissatisfaction was expressed by the States in general and, as a result, hearings were deferred and in lieu thereof conferences were arranged with the General and Special Staffs of the Army and the Adjutants General of certain States and representatives of the National Guard and Adjutants General Associations on 3-4 April 1952. Based on these conferences an agreement has been reached, subject to approval by the Chief of Staff of the Army, that such divisions and non-divisional units as are retained will be designated as AUS divisions and units and will carry the same designations which they now carry, while the old NGUS divisions or non-divisional units will be returned to State control at the time provided in Public Law No. 599, 81st Congress, as amended by Public Law 51, Approved 19 June 1951, and will be reorganized, generally, in the same manner as the Army National Guard was reorganized after the cessation of hostilities incident to World War II. It is believed that the solution advanced is the only practical and satisfactory solution for a very difficult problem and it is hoped that it will be approved by the Chief of Staff of the Army.

E. A. Walsh

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THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN
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dear guardsmen:

Sometimes we think we have our troubles, but they're as nothing compared with those of our neighbors in the printing plant. We have to cope only with the foibles and phobias of human beings; the guys we're talking about put out dog, bird, fish and horse magazines, and if they can't run into some of the screwiest things! Like the very well housebroken but apartment-dwelling pup that has been taught how to use facilities intended strictly for its masters' convenience.

We're glad, too we don't have to sort out the cuts and cutlines made from the pictures of 50 different horses that look as alike as two fried eggs, unless you put them under intensive scrutiny. Or cope with reading copy on page after page of stuff like "Flora Zilch by Crosby Brunswick-Hope Lancaster. 3:00—:20½." Makes us feel like we're pretty fortunate after all.

Don't know whether anyone besides the Editors (and they don't count) have got around to noticing it yet, but we've been dressing-up our book, bit by bit—a sort of Spring housecleaning.

For one thing, we got awfully tired of the cover we'd been using for the past four years. So, we had a designer run-up a half-dozen roughs, and started the new year with the one you now see.

The Contents Page has undergone a change of layout and typography.

Our very severe departmental headings had performed their function quite satisfactorily for a long time, but we got pretty tired of them, too. There again, it was the designers' job to come up with a variety of ideas, and we made our selections from them. We sprung a few of the new heads last month, and some more make their appearance this month.

Meantime, it became apparent that the nonchalant GI on our "Going Somewhere?" change-of-address coupon never was going to stumble into that open manhole, after all, so we retired him and introduced the "Gookle Burd," who flits from tree to tree.

THE STAFF

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our cover

Up into the cavernous maw of a C124 climbs a 155th Inf. truck, which will constitute only part of the monstrous "Globemaster's" triple-decked load for the "Dixie" Division's airlift to Exercise LONG HORN. Doughs who will share the ride wait to follow up the ramp, once the "six-by" is loaded. (Air Force Photo).

