

The President's Page

THE SEVENTY-THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1951

NOTWITHSTANDING the endless round of hearings and conferences in connection with a heavy legislative program and problems arising out of the partial mobilization imposed by the Korean emergency, the personnel here at Headquarters are busily engaged in perfecting the arrangements for the Seventy-Third General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States, to be held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, 22-24 October.

Had conditions remained normal, the 1951 General Conference would have been held at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York on the dates indicated, instead of in Washington. It is most regrettable that this change had to be made, for the Command and Staff of the New York National Guard had made arrangements whereby the General Conference would indeed have been outstanding and constituted a new high-water mark in Association annals.

Because of limitations of hotel accommodations and meeting place facilities, it again has been necessary to streamline the conference by limiting the number of accredited Delegates to a total of 455.

Because of the many problems which have arisen as a result of the partial mobilization and, notably, in connection with the matter of replacements under the Rotation Policy, the breaking up of a considerable number of Air National Guard units and, in addition, considerations incident to legislation of major importance, it has been deemed advisable to confine the number of speakers to the minimum.

It is contemplated that of the approximately 15 hours of deliberation available, all but approximately three hours will be devoted to a discussion of items contained in the Agenda of the Conference and consideration of the various resolutions which will be presented. Since such a program made it necessary to restrict the number of speakers who would address the Conference, it has been determined to hold a reception in the Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel on the evening of October 22, for which a total of more than 800 invitations have been sent out. The Delegates and their Guests will receive their invitations upon arrival in Washington.

Since there is but brief time remaining before the General Conference is called to order at 10:00 a. m., October 22, it is essential that the several States, Territories and the District of Columbia transmit to the Association Headquarters, without delay, the required lists of Delegates and requests for hotel accommodations. It is equally important that the States submit at the earliest practicable moment such resolutions as they desire to have considered, and also their lists of assignments on the Conference Committees on Nominations, Resolutions and Time and Place.

A number of organizations in the active military service of the United States and stationed within the Continental United States have expressed a desire to have a representative in attendance at the Conference. It is believed that such arrangements can be made without any difficulty with the Army or Air Force Commander concerned, if difficulty is experienced in

making such arrangements, it is suggested that the Association be contacted without delay.

It is advisable, in all cases, that those planning on attending the Conference make their hotel reservations through the Association. In all cases, confirmation of such reservations will be made by the Mayflower Hotel. In making hotel reservations, it is necessary that the approximate time of arrival and departure be specified, together with the type of accommodations.

In order to conserve the time of the individual Delegates and the time of the personnel of the Association, it is again requested that each State, Territory and the District of Columbia appoint or designate a Secretary of the Delegation who will be charged with the responsibility of registering the Delegation and receiving and distributing the pertinent data of the General Conference. The submission of accurate typed lists with the full name and rank of the Delegates will be helpful.

In order to facilitate matters, especially in the case of those traveling by air, there has been appointed a Conference Committee on Transportation which will provide ample transportation between Andrews Field and the Mayflower Hotel. This Committee will be set up in the Association Office at the Mayflower Hotel, and should be contacted as soon as possible in the matter of return transportation from the hotel to Andrews Field. For the incoming Delegates, the State Adjutant General should advise the Headquarters of the Association of the schedule of arrivals.

The attention of all concerned is invited to the fact that the triennial term of all officers will expire on October 24, in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution of the Association, and the terms of the Members of the Executive Council from the Second and Fifth Army Areas and the First Numbered Air Force will also expire at the time indicated. Recommendations for the election of their successors will be made by the Conference Committee on Nominations as provided in the Constitution of the Association. Each State, Territory and the District of Columbia is entitled to one Member on the Conference Committee on Nominations as well as the Committees on Resolutions and Time and Place. Selection of members of the Executive Council will be made at the Caucuses of the Army Areas and Numbered Air Force concerned, with each such entity limited to one vote. Complete instructions will be given to the various Committees at the time of the organization of the Conference.

It is suggested that, insofar as possible, each of the States, Territories and the District of Columbia forward to the Association Headquarters in advance of the General Conference all memberships which have been received, and that every effort be made to make all concerned 100% insofar as circumstances permit.

E. Walsh

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Dear Guardsmen;

The paratroopers started it. It probably began when some shivering trooper got the bright idea of snipping a chunk out of his 'chute and tucking it around his neck. Purely utilitarian in origin, maybe; nevertheless, others quickly picked it up. Looked pretty snappy, too.

Anyway, first thing you know, whole regiments blossomed in scarves as a spontaneous, wholesale addition to the uniform. They provided just the right touch of color-relief for the somber Shade 33.

The scarf custom didn't take long to get back to the Continental United States. One place where it's especially noticeable is in VIP-crowded Washington. Whenever the troops are turned out—which is often—for some visiting Big Wheel, there's real color in the parades and the cordons, now. The 3d Armd. Cav. Regt. (L) comes over from nearby Ft. Meade, extra-snappy in yellow scarves. The 3d Inf. naturally wears light blue. The Engineers from Ft. Belvoir make a splash in scarlet. 'Til Uncle Sugar took 'em away, the D.C. National Guard's two M. P. battalions, the 163d and 171st, sported scarves, too.

There's no question but that the scarves give an element of 'dash' to a uniform that sadly has lacked a bright spot ever since the disappearance of the old-time blue, with piping in the color of the wearer's Arm of Service.

We've been mulling-over some ideas along these lines, and unit commanders may be hearing more from us about it one of these days soon.

The Staff

OUR COVER

Proof that anything can happen and often does in wartime, is the cover picture showing F84s of the 116th Fighter Bomber Wing in the last place its Air National Guard pilots ever expected to see them: on the flight deck of the Escort Carrier *Sitkoh Bay*. It was one of two carriers and one transport that toted the California, Florida and Georgia Guardsmen to Japan to aid in strikes against the Reds. Pilots, crew chiefs and maintenance personnel made daily inspections to minimize the possibility of their Thunderjets rusting away. In case you're wondering: no, they didn't make carrier deck takeoffs and landings. (USAF Photo).

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