EVEN more illuminating is the following extract from the Report of the Air Force Association Directors' Meeting in New York on 23 January:

"1. Air National Guard Federalization. It was strongly recommended by Smith, Doellin, Laughter and Gill Boll Wilson (Aviation Editors Herald-Telegram) that we continue pressure for federalization. General Quaids, who is in charge of the National Guard Bureau, have been interesting the Guard, and other USAF officers, have assured the audience in conversations last week that federalization is still a major issue of policy. While the National Guard has interpreted the opposition of the board as a weakening of the USAF position, General Quaids says this is not so and that this will give the Guard a chance to save its face and also prevent a frontal battle during the next few months of the hearings. Federalization of the Air Guard was described by Mr. Wilson as a wedge and that if the USAF can’t make that stick, it probably couldn’t make the single Air Force either."

"It is assumed that this refers to the Air Hoc Committee appointed by Secretary Symington of which General Quaids is the Chairman."

THE foregoing, coupled with General Quaids’s testimony on the Authorization Bill, demonstrates that General Quaids is extremely undid to hold the position as Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the U. S. Air Force as Coordinator for the Air National Guard and Air Reserve and, in addition, the position as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Board Committee. Such positions are expensive to our organization and constitute important power. General Quaids has demonstrated conclusively that he possesses neither, and therefore, should be relieved.

Perhaps we should not be too severe with General Quaids because he truly reflects the fixed sentiments of his superiors, and we could not expect him to sacrifice his career in connection with what some officers consider to be the extreme unimportant Citizen Soldiers of the Air. But, after the unanimous action of the House Armed Services Committee in amending H. R. 1497 to preserve the integrity of the Guard—both Ground and Air—and with the Air Force Forces aloft at the hands of the National Guard, it is indeed amazing that a branch of the Federal Government, notably the United States Air Force, should show so little regard for the action of the Congress. The Air Force has become entirely too big for its britches, and we sincerely trust that the President and the Congress will assume the control and jurisdiction with which they are clothed.

THE National Guard was not surpirsed at the action of the United States Air Force. But it was surprised at the coincidental action taken by the National Executive Committee of the Reserve Officers’ Association of the United States. That was the unkindest cut of all.

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