Dear Guardman;

Well, it was kind of nice to get away from the Washington scene for a while, but it’s tough to try to catch up with two weeks’ accumulation of mail, with a deadline looming ever larger.

The editorial staff—100% of it—took off simultaneously last month. Ed Hogan found himself wearing a big fake beard, identifying himself as Carmen Sandiego. Keirsey Zim- mon (along with about 700 other guys) to observe Opera- tions in the Philippine Islands.

On 1 July 1948, the States had reported that 370 of these armories were in need of and capable of expansion, and that organization of additional units would bring the total requiring expansion up to 500. Approximately 400 of the armories would have to be replaced for various reasons, such as, temporary occupation, poor construction, or being inadequate and unsaltable. Approximately 1,000 armories will continue to be in their present form.

It is estimated that 3,000 armories will be required to adequately serve the National Guard of which 1,000 are now adequate; 900 require extensive alterations and additions, and leaving 1,000 to be built in a future armory construction program of which 1,000 are required immediately. As stated by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, before the Senate Army Conference on 23 March 1949, such a program would house approximately 1,400 units in single-unit armories, and some 200 units in two- unit structures.

Based on the foregoing, the N.G.A. has developed an Armory Construction Program substantially as follows:

- Alterations and Additions to 360 armories at $40,000 each $14,400,000
- 1,000 New Armories at $275,000 each $275,000,000
- Aluminum equipment, 1,800 armories at $10,000 each $18,000,000

Total $388,000,000

The Congress enacted an armory construction measure at this session based on a formula of the Federal Government contributing 75% and the States 25% of the cost for new construction and equipment, the Federal Government would contribute approximately $231,000,000 and the States $77,000,000. Cognizance should be taken of the fact that since the cessation of hostilities in World War II, 38 States have expended $35,000,000 on new armory construction or additions and alterations to existing structures. As of 25 February 1956, 29 States have available $38,747,013 for new armory construction which may be used to match any Federal funds available. It will be noted that the two Associations have recommended that $35,000,000 be available for armory construction for fiscal 1951, and every effort will be made to obtain this sum.

The Editors;