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A Condensation of the National Guard Association's Formal Presentation to the Brooks Sub-
Committee of the House Armed Services Committee, on Problems of the Civilian Components.

IT IS timely that there has been brought into being by the House of Representatives a Special Committee to deal with matters pertaining to the Reserve, because there has been much doubt in the minds of the personnel of the National Guard, and certainly by a substantial segment of the people, as to just what is the mission of the National Guard and of the other Reserve Components, and to what extent and in what manner they are to be utilized. As a result of the establishment of this Committee and hearings now in progress, the representatives of the National Guard will be able to tell a story which will thoroughly acquaint this Committee, the Congress and the American people of the composition, organizational and training status of the National Guard and Air National Guard of the United States, its readiness and willingness for service pursuant to the will of Congress or of the President, and the problems which it is encountering. It is unfortunate, but nonetheless true, that the States and the personnel of the National Guard have not been sufficiently informed of this, and it is equally unfortunate that much of this confused thinking is traceable to the individual expressing opinions relative to the mission and effectiveness of the Reserve Components when the very nature of their writings disclose an almost complete ignorance of these Components and their missions.

The Selective Service Act of 1948 the Congress declared: "The Congress further declares, in accordance with the national security as expressed in the National Defense Act of 1946, as amended, that the strength and organization of the National Guard, both Ground and Air, is an integral part of the first line of defense of this Nation, be at all times maintained and assured. To this end, it is the intent of Congress that whenever the Congress shall determine that units and organizations shall be called for the national security in excess of those of the Regular Components of the Ground Forces and Air Force and those in active service under this title, the National Guard of the United States, both Ground and Air, or either of them, may be necessary, together with such units of the Reserve Components of the Ground Forces and Air Force and those in active service under this title, the National Guard of the United States, both Ground and Air, and the additional force may be called for the active Federal service and continued therein so long as such necessity exists."

The National Guard Association of the United States, by its 61st Congress, in this Section provides: "Section 21. Until July 9, 1951, and subject to the limitations imposed by Section 22 of the Selective Service Act of 1948, as amended, the President shall be authorized to order into the active military or naval service of the United States for a period of the President's declaration of a national emergency or for a period of one year, with or without their consent, any or all members and units of any or all Reserve Components of the Army and Air Force of the United States and retired personnel of the Regular Army and Air Force."

It would appear that the foregoing provision was addressed to the Congress at a time when the situation in Korea was at its peak, and that it was not directed to the Congress, but in a period of normalcy and as a result it was adopted hurriedly and under duress of the times. Representatives of the States and the National Guard Association were not given an opportunity to be heard. Had that opportunity been afforded, they would have pointed out to the Armed Services Committees that if this provision was enacted into law and was implemented, the National Guard and the Class "A" units of the Organized Reserve would, in short order, cease to exist for the reason that they could be induced into the active military service of the United States as individuals and not as units. Since the Selective Service Act will expire on July 9, it is presumptuous that it will have to be extended and probably amended in other particulars. In that connection, the National Guard Association recommends to the Selective Service Committees that if Section 21 is retained, it be amended to conform to the Congressional Statement of Policy.

The attention of this Committee is invited to the fact that under the Selective Service Act there are three categories of exemptions authorized for the National Guard as follows:

1. Those who served in the Armed Forces for a period in excess of 90 days between Sept. 16, 1940, and Sept. 2, 1945.
2. Persons who, on the effective date of the title, were members of the Federally recognized National Guard.
3. Those who enlisted in the National Guard prior to reaching the age of 18 years and 6 months, based on a proclamation issued by the Governor of the State concerned in order to maintain the strength of the State National Guard and to authorize the Governor of the State concerned in order to maintain the strength of the State National Guard and the Congress held with the representations of the National Guard Association and with the Congressional Statement of Policy, and (Please turn to page 3)