DIG UNDER THE SURFACE

not generalities obscuring the facts behind a pretext that "security" precludes full discussion.

The entire National Guard is in Ready Reserve status; only parts of the USAR are in such status. The law defines the Guard as being the first-line reserve component. We've been told, time and again, that the Guard--not just certain "elite" parts of it--must be ready to promptly mobilize and deploy. We've been told that the thought of giving up a civil defense or home guard role is unacceptable.

Against this background, how come the thinking seems to be that only a few Divs are needed promptly? Who's going to do the fighting while the Replacement Training and Maneuver Area and presumably other Station Complement-type outfits, are processing new fillers and new organizations? How does one suppress the growing feeling that a future war will be sudden, short, and unprecedented violence?

Or is the high priority a guise for a quick shift of the RTCs and MACs to a combat role, ready-made for Regulars to take over, while leaving Guard out high and dry?

The subcommittee might well ask why the Army policy is to push the Guard down to 400,000 strength while trying to pull the Reserve up to 300,000.

It might demand detailed, comparative facts on the assigned participating strength of the Guard's 21 Inf and 7 Armd Divs, and its own professional organizations, as against the USAR's counterparts--and make sure the Army doesn't try to push the "obligors" assigned in the latter to the latter's own assignments of professional qualifications, Service school attendance, extension course participation, armory and field training inspection ratings, degree of self-sufficiency without Active Army "outboard" support in Military District Hq, USAF Training Centers, and field training sites.

Getting right down to the heart of the matter, it might inquire why the Army is trying to reinforce weakness rather than strength; why it is trying to down-grade the one vital, organized, self-sustained force in being. Could it be that despite its prowess proclaimers, what the Army really wants is to be rid of a National Guard that speaks its mind freely, in order to concentrate on a wholly Federal force which it can control absolutely?

If the Army ever does get its foot way in the unimpeded juggling of its Reserve Forces, from that day you can start measuring the decline of the citizen soldier and a fatal weakening of this Nation's defenses.