

# The President's Page

## PROBLEMS

LAST month my distinguished colleague, Major General Jim Dan Hill, held forth on this page in his inimitable way and indications are that his wit and humor were appreciated from coast to coast.

For this issue, Ye Editor served notice that it was high time the "old man" was getting back into circulation and expressed the pious wish that he might come up with something entirely new or at least constructive, and that imposes a bit of problem.

Somehow it seems that problems multiply and become increasingly complicated. The problems incident to a total mobilization are comparatively minor when contrasted with those incident to a partial mobilization, and the reactions thereto border on the chain variety.

On the Washington scene, as this is written, the matter of the extension of the Selective Service System, and Universal Military Training and Service, have taken the center of the stage. For a time the issue appeared to be in doubt and it was contended that the so-called Barden Amendment which would extend Selective Service and relegate the UMT feature to exterior darkness would prevail. Yesterday, the House Armed Services Committee adopted the so-called Vinson Amendments which will be argued in the House today, and from this point of view it appears they will carry, and as a result the principle of UMT will be established after long last. While the new version of the Bill may not be all that is desired, it marks a great forward step and all the proponents may well feel a justifiable pride of accomplishment. Verily, as one distinguished Statesman observed, "It is indeed difficult to save the country in spite of itself."

Unfortunately, however, as the result of the partial mobilization, the Reserves in general and the States and the Army and Air National Guard in particular are besieged with innumerable problems which would require the wisdom of a Solomon to solve.

Those States with two-thirds or more of their units in the active military service of the United States are, and have been, facing a serious problem of internal security. True it is that the 81st Congress authorized the organization of State military forces to replace the Army National Guard when in the active military service of the United States, but to date the Department of the Army has refused to implement this legislation. The Adjutants General of the States concerned considered this matter at length as recently as April 7, and have expressed the opinion that a solution might be found by allocating to the States, on a purely temporary basis, 21 Military Police and/or light infantry battalions. This would involve a temporary increase in the existing Troop Basis of the Army National Guard but the cost of maintaining such units would present no grave problem.

The States, too, are confronted with the problem relating to units and organizations of the Army National Guard when the personnel thereof is released at the end of 21 months. They realize that

it will be extremely difficult to reorganize these elements in light of conditions which will, no doubt, exist at that time. So the question is imposed: shall the designations and colors of such elements remain in the active military service of the United States for a period of time, probably four or five years or maybe more? Who knows? One solution would be to reorganize at the end of 21 months, but that not only injects grave personnel problems but would involve a substantial increase in the existing Troop Basis with resultant increased costs. Certain it is, the States affected require some sort of a unit or units to contain the personnel which will be returned to State control, and it is equally important that there be a vehicle for the reception of UMT-Trainees in the event a system of UMT is established.

From the field come indications of personnel problems, notably in the Air National Guard. States have been pressured to organize additional Air units, notably service squadrons, and in some instances such organizations were brought into being within a period of 26 days and yet 18 days after the effective date of the "Order" these units were broken up and the personnel scattered. Such procedures do not seem to make sense. In other instances, personnel has been transferred without regard to T/O&E positions, which adversely affects morale. It is recognized, of course, that after entering active service a given number of personnel transfers are necessary and notably in the matter of overseas replacements. The National Guard, however, cannot go along with any proposition which ignores the maintenance of the integrity of units. Perhaps most vexing and most destructive of morale is the matter of the effective date of rank, which appears to be discriminatory. Maybe some day it will be realized by those sitting in the seats of the mighty that building up cannot be achieved by tearing down.

Others, too, have their problems—the Congress and the Pentagon, to mention only two; but we have a notion that some of our organizations in the field have their share and especially those divisions of ours, the 40th of California and the 45th of Oklahoma, now enroute to Japan. The Press of this date indicates that four divisions have been selected tentatively for Western Europe and that two of them will be the 28th of Pennsylvania and the 43d of Connecticut-Rhode Island-Vermont. It is intimated that these divisions will go over late this Summer. What the future holds for these divisions is obscure; but here are four grand organizations commanded by able men, and we know they will acquit themselves with credit. We wish them all the luck there is and will follow their activities with keen interest.

*E. Walsh*

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*Dear Guardsmen;*

Remember our plea to Uncle Sugar last month to lay off the 260th AAA for a while because the staff has been hit so repeatedly by mobilization? Well, the April issue hadn't even got into the mails before the "alert" came for the 260th—and the latest acquisition to our staff, Cpl. Walter Cooksey.

Now we lose a "charter member:" Lt. Col. Charles H. Kenworthy, our Production Editor. A guiding spirit in putting together the experimental "Preview" Edition of March, 1947, he has ridden through our ups and downs since then.

It's Ken's third hitch. He's a Purple Heart veteran dough-boy of the first go-round, entered Pennsylvania's 104th Cavalry in the 1921 reorganization and stayed with it into World War II. An avid radio "ham," he found his niche at the Ft. Monmouth, N. J., Training Center as Director of Training, earning a War Department commendation for his services.

This is the last issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN he will have put together, until who knows when. He'll be gone long before your copy gets to you.

We're going to miss him—plenty.

Had a letter from the wife of a medic—not originally a Guardsman—who is "taking up residence" in Japan. She wondered if it would be possible for her to subscribe to THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN "in order that I may keep informed on National Guard activities," adding: "I would be very grateful if you would look favorably upon this request." To which we might reply: "That's one request we'll always look favorably upon."

It brings to the fore the point that the families of all Guardsmen have an interest in National Guard activities that can be satisfied through reading THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN every month.

You can order a subscription for them for the Serviceman's \$2.50 annual rate by filling out and mailing the subscription order coupon on Page 19.

*The Staff*

### OUR COVER

Normally, our cover depicts some one National Guard activity that has unusual action, human interest, pictorial quality. In the spirit of approaching "Armed Forces Day" on the 19th of May, we chose for this issue to dramatize the variety of Arms and Services, Army and Air, that complement each other to make the National Guard one mighty component of the Armed Forces Team.

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