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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A SUBCOMMITTEE of the Committee on Policy of the Association of the United States has, at this writing, just completed another in a series of meetings over a period of six weeks, at which were considered many matters of pressing concern to the National Guard.

The results of their exhaustive deliberations and discussions will be presented in the form of recommendations to be presented for consideration by the 74th General Conference of the Association in Denver, Colo., 6-8 October.

One of the major problems is that of manpower procurement; for unless the National Guard can obtain the necessary manpower to maintain its organization and units at the strength authorized by Congress, we are indeed destined to wither.

We are told that the manpower pool will be insufficient to support the requirements of the active Armed Forces of 3,700,000 in the fiscal years 1954 and 1955, and that Congress may increase the requirements even further for the current year.

We are fully aware of the wholesale exemptions and deferments which have been granted to Labor, Agriculture, ROTC, and to those who have passed the applicable age limits; they loom huge in the aggregate.

I wish more particularly to invite attention to this fact that since September 1950, a total of 3,900,000 men have been ordered to report for preinduction physical examinations by Selective Service, and of this number, 1,500,000 have been rejected. I am not willing, however, to believe that other man in the United States, within the appropriate ages, is physically or mentally unfit, or both.

It must be quite apparent that there is something wrong with the system of military manpower procurement.

The solution lies, of course, in the physical and mental standards to a degree whereby a substantial number of the 1,500,000 "undraft" become liable for military service. The Navy and the Air Force accept noSelective; the Army accepts them for the simple reason of self-preservation. I submit that there is a simple lack of cream in the bottle of milk. Everybody drinks all the cream, others take the skim milk. The solution for this problem is to find the good milk bottles and fill them with real cream or milk, and place them in the hands of the military recruitment agency, which should be Selective Service; and all other recruiting services should be abolished forthwith.

It is estimated that the mental and physical standards were lowered to an extent where there would be a leaven of cream and milk, it is completely possible to salvage approximately 500,000 recruits. This number would be ample to meet the requirements of the Army and Air National Guard and other comparable Reserve Components. As matters stand, the Army and Air National Guard are restricted to the very narrow recruiting basis of the Selective Service Act within the 17-18 age bracket. This is not sufficient to maintain these elements at the strength preinduction standards, which condition can be corrected by a return to the provisions contained in the Selective Service Act of 1948 and, further, by the elimination of the provisions which contemplate the elimination of National Guardsmen and Reservists from induction through Selective Service, contained in Public Law 567.

If this matter of manpower for the National Guard is the indiscriminate recruiting of

dear guardsman:

Even harassed, buckled and hurried editors get breaks once in a while. We get one today, and we're losing no time in telling others about it—we're so pleased. We got a fine, tailor-made editorial, fresh from the hands of Uncle Sam's faithful mailman. All you have to do to confirm it, is to turn to the inside back cover, and read it.

There's more than one reason to be pleased. In the first place, we don't pretend to possess all seeing-knowledge and wisdom; we try to write about matters which we feel concern all Guardsmen, but we must certainly agree that it is important, and even crucial, to see a little of what is happening in the other units of the Guard. In the second place, we are—as noted before—harrassed, harassed and hurried and, we must add in all honesty—

The first reason cited is, by far, the more important. We've said before, and we say again: Articles, editorials, by folks you folks away out there, that matters that should interest Guardsmen everywhere, are what we earnestly want. For instance: our "guant" editorialist, Lt. Col. Charles W. Fernald of Arizona's "Bushmaners" (36th RCT, nuggets we run some "throwback at squad, squad and company level.

We'd be tickled to pieces to run them—if we could get them. With all the veterans the Guard has in its ranks, there must be oodles of raw material kicking around in said vet's memories, just waiting to be put on paper. Don't know whether the public is ready for a regular writer-sby, or what; you don't have to be an Ernest Hemingway to write a readable article—just set down on a sheet of paper what's on your mind, and throw it in a basket. Don't let literary style, polish, spelling or punctuation bother you—that's our Editor's (even a lazy one's) job.

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As We See It

Inside Back Cover

our cover

Obviously taking to heart the lessons in National defense that the Air Force and the Army are currently teaching: Stewart, Alabama firing range, Cpl. Harold L. Doess, loaded for action, watches attentively at the 36 cal. shells of his Florida National Guard unit, Btry. C, 280th AAA AAA, score repeatedly against radio-controlled airplane targets during annual field training. (Army Photo by Maj. John W. Dillin.)

October 1952