The President's Page

MONTGOMERY

The Call for the 71st General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States at Montgomery, Ala., 24-27 Oct., has been transmitted to the Adjutants General. The number of authorized Delegates has increased from 807, authorized for 1948, to 718 due to the National Guard's all-time high aggregate strength of more than 350,000.

It is anticipated that a considerable number of other Guard officers and warrant officers also will attend, since any member of the Association is entitled to participate. Indications point to a record attendance. Arrangements have been made to house up to 400 officers at Maxwell Field if necessary. It is advisable that hotel reservations be made at the earliest possible date, for it will be a case of first come first served. Instructions relating to the handling of reservations have been transmitted to the States.

It is essential that the States forward to the Washington Office of the Association, as soon as possible, their list of Delegates and others who will attend, copies of resolutions which they desire to have considered, list of assignments to the Conference Committee General, and other matters which they wish to have discussed. Resolutions must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the Conference.

THE Conference will open at 10 A.M., 24 Oct., in the Civic Auditorium, which will accommodate approximately 4,600 persons, and which can be expanded within five minutes with adjacent rooms of hotels. The Conference will be honored by the presence of a number of officials, Federal and State officials, and high officials of the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air. The Alabama officers and their aides will be hosts at a military ball on 25 Oct. We hope to have the Honorable Louis A. Johnson, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable James E. Fisk, Governor, and other notable guests as our guests at the annual banquet, 26 Oct. No reservations will be necessary for the military ball, but banquet tickets must be purchased at time of registration. There will be no admission without a ticket.

The Conference will be confronted with matters involving decisions of far-reaching importance to the Association. In addition to matters of broad, general policy, the Association will be concerned with matters affecting personnel, administration, training and supply. Majore General James S. Saliba, the Adjutant General of Alabama, and his Committee on General Management are preparing no epoch-making reports to make the Conference outstanding. We hold our 57th General Conference at Montgomery in 1897 and now, after a lapse of 12 years, with a world war intervening, we are indeed happy to return to Montgomery with its charm and wealth of history.

I t is to be hoped that when the Conference gets under way, the officers and warrant officers of the National Guard will be enroled 100%. A magnificent start has been made. Already Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota are practically 100%. It can be done!

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESERVE COMPONENTS

In May, Chairman Carl Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee, appointed the Special Committee on Reserve Components, with the Honorable Louis A. Johnson, Secretary of Defense, appointed an Ad Hoc Committee of some 23 members to advise him in connection with the establishment of his office of a high-level group to be known as the Civilian Components Policy Board, which, it now appears, is ready to function.

PENDING the establishment and functioning of the Board, the Special Committee has held no sessions.

On 29 July, Mr. Short advised the President of the National Guard Association that the Committee would hold its initial meeting on 17 August. He indicated that the Committee would lay plans for its activities during the next (Fall) session of Congress or, during the period between sessions, if circumstances in the Department of Defense should indicate a need thereof. Mr. Short further indicated his opinion that the Committee should act upon the action until January in order to afford the Board an opportunity to perform.

The Chairman also observed that he believes the board should submit monthly reports to the Special Committee so that, while Congress is not in session, the Committee can keep up to date and more promptly into a full-scale investigation of the civilian components program, if a substantial number of the Committee believe that such action is warranted. The Chairman in complete accord with Mr. Short's views. Periodic reports will do as much for the Board as which all too often has characterized proceedings of past boards and committees which have dealt with matters pertaining to the reserve components.

THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN

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Dear Guardsmen,

Clippings of stories concerning National Guard activities find their way to our offices from newspapers in all sections of the United States.

And of course it passes us when clippings reflect some- thing that originated in the NATIONAL GUARDSMAN. Take our "As We See It" editorial last June. It asked, "Does Your State Have a Guard?" and it was a plea for military leave for Guardsmen.

Recently, every unit commander—quite a few of them, judging from the number of clippings we received—didn't like the action we took. They were flattered that they did it, and delighted that their guardsmen took an interest in their service. Probably for no better reason than that those of you who didn't try that approach might not be a bad idea to put a copy of the message in the "snescnse" file until a month or so before next camp rolls around, and sort it in. If it contributes toward getting even one man released from his job in camp, it will be worth it.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and if that's true, we've devoted more than 30,000 words in this issue to the picture story of the National Guard in its 1949 field training. For selecting the pictures, there's a lot more than meets the eye. For the 450 that are used, at least five others have had to be laid aside. We've shuffled, and re-shuffled, through hundreds of photos sent in from all sections of the United States. Some were, photographically, sub- table: too fuzzy, underexposed, overexposed, the wrong angle, not enough of the good stuff. We couldn't print anything even of the good shots.

When you spoke of the more than 5,000 National Guard outfits, you can't get more than an average of the pictures that come in. And when we get dozens of late-arriving, the shot that you would have thought of. We don't have to make a choice of the picture to be printed, we have to make a choice of the picture not to be printed.

We don't mean to be "blown up," some had to be reduced; all had to be "cropped" to different proportions so that they'd fit in a layout like the pieces of a Chinese puzzle. It save the busy engravers this mess of the lot dropped in their laps. By the time they made it to us, as they always do.

The Guardsmen have a fit, too, when we see our en- graving bill. But then again, if he likes the layout well enough, he'll forgive us.

Our COVER Quadrangle 50th on the Cover - and split their bulletin at a sleeve target (out of camera range) spearing behind a National Guard Racing Band. The Band is made up of Maj. Gen. W. E. Dillingham, A. W. B. Hentschel, and Maj. Robert S. Wyllie, all Regular Army officers. Regular Army's 167th Bde. Photo Co. also captured the quintessence in his camera lens.

OCTOBER
"As We See It"
"We're Back in Action" Flown in General's Speech
"On the Road Again" Other Events
"Times Have Changed" Change in Guardsmen's Life
"The 1949 Guard in Action" Life in the Guard
"Guardsmen's Corner" Your Corner
"Until We Meet Again" Farewell to The Staff

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 8, 1949

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