The States Follow Through

A friend of mine had a favorite expression which he used whenever he handed out a particularly difficult job to his subordinates. He would end his instructions by saying, “You have a large tree to cut down. You’d better get chopping.”

One of the most encouraging results of our Mid-Winter Meeting, in late January, is the large number of reports received at your National Association office about the number that have removed their axes from their sheaths and are wielding them vigorously to remove the obstacles to our recruiting and retention problems. These reports indicate a determined effort to follow through on the suggested programs outlined at our meeting.

Already some States have had seminars and workshops and meetings to devise plans and programs to fit their local needs. Many people are working long hours to get meaningful programs under way. They have accepted the general procedures and format suggested at our conference and, as was hoped, they are modifying them for application within their States and local areas.

As these programs are developed and implemented in every State, in every City and community surrounding the broad-based National Guard units, we will begin to see favorable results. National Guardsmen always have been equal to any task given them.

Here in the Nation’s Capital you headquarter staff already has made one important appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee in support of the extension of the Draft Law. That presentation drew much praise from the Committee members. Testimony in support of our other legislative proposals, which we need to provide the incentives for service, is being prepared now in anticipation of Congressional hearings.

Our success in these efforts is dependent entirely on the support of every National Guardman. It is most encouraging to see the number who have their axes out and are swinging good licks.