

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1954

More Trained Military Manpower Needed Despite Atomic Developments

Needed Despite At

A SSISTANT Secretary of Defense Carmistae to call the new military reserve program, which was unveiled Saturday, a 'modified UNIT.' He is so right. He and other administration leaders have sought strenously to keep the UMT label from attaching to their reserve proposals. So far have they gone that the proposed program scarcely resembles a minimal reserve setup, let alone universal military training.

On top of this, Defens Secretary Wilson announced yesterday that the armed forces will be reduced by more than 400,000, down to 2.815,000, by June, 1956.

UMT proposals have had 'a dismal history. Former Presidents Roossevell and Truman urged legislation setting up UMT. So did the House Select Committee on Postwar Military Policy, in July, 1945. Hearings on UMT were held in 1946. The issue was dropped so as not to jeopardize Selective Service legislation, and to keep UMT from being an issue in the election. In 1947 a commission headed by Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, urged immediate enactment of UMT. Hearings were held on a 'bill providing six months of training for all men between 18 and 20. No action was taken.

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providing six months of training for all men between 18 and 20. No action was taken.

UMT was sidetracked in favor of Selective Service in 1948, and no congressional action was taken on UMT in 1949. After the Korean War broke out President Truman asked Congress to delay its consideration of a bill providing for six months of compulsory training for all healthy youths between 17 and 20. Reason for the delay was the urgency of other military matters. A special Senate committee, however, did recommend in 1950 that Congress pass UMT the next year.

IM 1951 Congress did pass, and the President signed, a law setting up UMT procedure. All able-bodied men between 18 1/2 and wive A National Security Training Commission was directed to excline operation of the program. But in March, 1952, the House shelved UMT enabling legislation.

That same month Gen. Eisenbower repeated his oft-expressed endorsement of UMT. It is a necessity, he said, "so long as any major threat to peace remains in the world." But that fall, during the campaign, he retreated, stating that

ing the campaign, he retreated, stating that

It seems clear that so long as we are forced to employ the draft, because of actual combat requirements, we cannot at the same time establish any form of training for our young men.

The Korean War—the chief obstacle to UMT because of its demands for draftees—was ended, and so another commission looked into military manpower, this one headed by Maj Gen. Julius Ochs Adler, general manager of the New Younk Times It proposed, just a year ago, that beginning next year 100,000 men go into a training corps annually, for six months' training. Then they would be transferred to the Ready Reserve, where they would serve for seven and one-half years. The draft would operate concurrently, with all fit men of 18 drawing lost osee if they would serve two years in the regulars, or six months in the training corps and then in the Ready Reserve.

The next proposal came in August of this year. An administration official revealed another plan that, it was said

at the time, was to be suggested to Congress next year. It embraced five military manpower pools. One would be composed of the regulars, three million of them. A similar number would be in a Ready Reserve. available immediately upon call. A third group would consist of 750,000 men who had served active duty and Ready Reserve tours. The fourth group, in training would consist of volunters along with draftees. If the enlistment rate did not run at a rate of 25000 a month. The first category would consist of volunters along with First had been always to all-up and training. The Army and Air for the construction of the con

one-half years reserve duty.

IT APPEARS, from this brief history of Imilitary manower pronosals, that The Pentagon and leaders of both parties have recognised the urrency of a more insulate program. But these are not sure histories program. But the are not sure histories are watering down their proposals military training, administration leaders are watering down their proposals more and more Furthermore, during recent years attemnts have been made to sue or the UMT pill by proposing "stateside duty only" character guidance," fried in time and the cream "gimmicks. The trainee will then, it is averred, return home still a sweet and wholesome boy, albeit possible unready for combat.

The administration is understandably troubled too by the unknown nature of possible future war. If it is fought with adomic weapons, as most military men hold, manower may not be so immortant as brainpower and dispersal of forces. But as considerable an authority as Gen. Matt Hidgway, Army chief of staff believes that atomic warfare would recuite more troops: than "conventional" warfare, because of longer supply lines and more casualties.

Whether or not a possible future war is fought with atomic weapons a much larver single of trained menower than now exists will be needed. Troops will be needed sooner than the were in World World in the world affairs still indicates a need for UMT, and the administration ought to impress this need upon the Congress and citizenry.

Wanted: An Antibiotic For The Slum

would make an urban redevelopment program in North Carolina worksible at last.

Time is short The General Assembly opens Jan. 5. Councilmen have scheduled a meeting with Meeklenburg legislators Dec. 28 to discuss local bills to be sought during the 1935 session. The suggested urban redevelopment amendment of the control of the council and cannot control of the council and control of the council and control of the council and control of the council as yet taken no official position on this one either; the urban redevelopment amendment is particularly important to the success of an effective planning program in Mecklenburg. The legislation—providing for condemnation of land in bilighted areas—was defeated during the last session of the General Assembly after cries of "socialismi" went up. Later, the city's redevelopment commission resigned in a body because systematic slum clearance was virtually impossible under the old enabling act.

Urging a revival of the movement in Charlotte, Vice Chairman W. W. Hanks of the City-County Planning Commission

There's always free cheese in a mouse trap, but you never saw a happy mouse there.—Savannah (Ga.) Monning News.

Britain's Intellectuals Still View America With Alarm

By REGINALD REYNOLDS

ST. NICK

WHAT WITH Billy Graham has ing been right there is near land and with Il bomb just around the corner, there's not a Heary Dabb in this country who can fore the well are into the detail deficients in the waiting rooms of the well are intellectual. Somewhere in the mutual in the waiting rooms of the well are intellectual. Somewhere in the mutual intellectual in the waiting rooms of the well are intellectual. Somewhere in the mutual intellectual intellectual

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sometimes described as "Contra nist" (a grim joke, to those us who know the timid old we en who run them and write them) will carry an outspot attack on anything American. LITTLE KNOWLEDGE.

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Horrified Admiration

Behind The Bamboo Curtain

By JOSEPH ALSOP

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

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People's Platform

Please keep letters brief, and give name and address. Names may be withheld. The News reserves the right to condense.

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It's More Like 2,300

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U. S. 'Gesture Of Good Faith' Failed

WASHINGTON
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