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Heavy Duty Bag



The Call-up

At this point, there are still more questions than answers about the call-up of U.S. military reserves, including the heavy proportion of the total from Hawaii.

Some of them are in the bigger picture. They include the relationship to the current maneuvering to get peace talks going on Vietnam.

Is it a calculated risk? Is it considered a firm sign that we intend to stand firm while talking? Have we indicated to Hanoi it is not a significant escalation in the sense of those in the past?

OBVIOUSLY, it must be considered necessary to take what is a politically unpopular step. This necessity may be both in terms of Vietnam and trouble now and anticipated this summer in the nation's cities.

The total figure is not a surprise, although it was almost lost among the spectacular surprises in President Johnson's historic Sunday speech.

Why Hawaii should be called on to

provide more than 17 per cent of the 24,500 national total is indeed a good question.

It would only make sense if local units are needed to replace troops at Schofield Barracks needed soon in Vietnam. If only for some unlikely emergency, Hawaii needs some available troops.

WOVEN IN all this are at least a couple of questions with moral overtones. Service in the National Guard or Reserve implies an obligation for active duty in time of need — and that means now. If that is in Mainland cities torn by violence, the obligation is to go there.

At the same time, it would be most unfortunate if Hawaii was, in effect, penalized for its own racial harmony and calm by having its men shipped off to help quell racial trouble on the Mainland.

Governor Burns will not have jurisdiction over the mobilized units, but it is possible to get some firm messages to Washington on the subject.