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A MAJOR SACRIFICE

The call-up of the Hawaii National Guard to active duty sent shock waves reverberating across Hawaii Nei and brought forth many shouts of "unfair" when it was found that 17% of the national call-up was allocated to the comparatively tiny State of Hawaii. Hawaii's members of Congress have taken exception to the percentage and are investigating the possibility of an adjustment.

Such a call-up is bound to result in dislocation of families, personal hardship and difficult situations for business and industry as well as for the individuals involved. However, such contingencies are constantly at the shoulder of the Guardsmen and their organizations. They are what the Guard is maintained for and are a basic part of its duties and responsibilities.

The Hawaii National Guard is an integral part of the Army's Selective Reserve Force and as such has always been on high priority in the event of Federal mobilization, as have other units in other areas of the nation. While Hawaii is called upon to shoulder an apparently disproportionate share of the burden, percentages in such an emergency must be calculated on a national basis, not upon a local basis. A similar incident made the news a few years ago when such a call-up cleaned out almost the entire adult male population of a small mainland town, including the only doctor and other professional people. However, the unit was part of the Federal plan and the town was forced to make other arrangements in order to survive.

Our sympathies go to the families of the bread-winners who are thus called to active service and whose incomes will be only a fraction of their present earnings. Many of them are young people, just starting with sizable financial obligations, mortgages, and with small children who will be left without a father for perhaps two years. The adjustment these wives and mothers must make is a tremendous one, a great sacrifice, a sacrifice as real for their country as the sacrifice being made by the men themselves.

Action is being taken at the moment to ease the financial problems of these families, especially in the area of large debts and mortgages. This is right, and should be done, thus spreading the inconvenience and sacrifice across a broader base of the community.

This sort of situation is easier to bear when the country is engaged in an all-out war. Our present war is a small, nasty and thankless one, but it is one that must be carried to successful conclusion. Meanwhile the major sacrifices necessary to that victory fall to only a few of us and it behooves the rest of us to help where we can.