

Sarwate, Shri V. S.
 Savitry Nigam, Shrimati.
 Seeta Parmanand, Dr. Shrimati.
 Shah, Shri M. C.
 Sharda Bhargava, Shrimati.
 Sharma, Shri B. B.
 Shetty, Shri Basappa.
 Singh, Capt. A. P.
 Singh, Babu Gopinath.
 Singh, Shri Kartar.
 Singh, Shri R. K.
 Sinha, Shri R. B.
 Sinha, Shri R. P. N.
 Sobhani, Shri O.
 Srivastava, Dr. J. P.
 Sumat Prasad, Shri.
 Tamta, Shri R. P.
 Tankha, Pandit S. S. N.
 Tayyebulla, Maulana M.
 Thakur Das, Shri.
 Thanhlira, Shri R.
 Thimmabovi, Shri L. H.
 Vaidya, Shri Kanhaiyalal D.
 Valiulla, Shri M.
 Varma, Shri C. L.
 Vyas, Shri K.

NOES—23

Banerjee, Shri S.
 Bhanj Deo, Shri P. C.
 Deshmukh, Shri N. B.
 Dube, Shri B. N.
 George, Shri K. C.
 Ghose, Shri B. C.
 Ghosh, Principal Devaprasad.
 Gour, Dr. R. B.
 Gupta, Shri B.
 Imbichibava, Shri E. K.
 Kakkilaya, Shri B. V.
 Kishen Chand, Shri.
 Mahanty, Shri S.
 Mathur, Shri H. C.
 Mazumdar, Shri S. N.
 Misra, Shri C. G.
 Narasimham, Shri K. L.
 Narayana, Shri P. V.
 Ranawat, Shri M. S.
 Rath, Shri B.
 Reddy, Shri C. G. K.
 Sundarayya, Shri P.
 Suryanarayana, Shri K.

The motion was adopted.

THE RESERVE AND AUXILIARY AIR FORCES BILL, 1952

5 P. M.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar to move:

That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of certain Air Force Reserves and also an Auxiliary Air Force and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
(SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI): I beg to move:

That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of certain Air Force Reserves and also an Auxiliary Air Force and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

Sir, we have just finished what my hon. colleague called a great debate. I am now initiating a very small one. That great debate aroused a great deal of controversy. I do not think much dust is likely to be raised over the Bill I am just moving and if the House would only co-operate with me, it is quite possible to conclude this small debate within the one hour before us. That is entirely for the House to consider.

Sir, so far as this Bill is concerned it is a very simple and straightforward measure. The principles on which it is based have had quite a large amount of support from all sides of public opinion. The object of this measure is to create two Air Reserves and an Auxiliary Air Force. Now the Bill gives in different chapters the way in which these Reserves and Auxiliary Air Force are to be constituted. The two Air Reserves are the Regular Air Force Reserve and the Air Defence Reserve.

The Third set-up is what is called the Auxiliary Air Force. To the regular Air Force Reserve certain persons with specified qualifications are to be transferred. These categories are:

“(i) Any officer or airman of the Air Force who under the terms and conditions of his service is liable to serve in any Air Force Reserve if and when constituted;

(ii) any officer or airman of the Air Force whose commission or engagement in the Air Force has been terminated before the commencement of this Act and who under the terms of his commission or engagement was liable to serve in any Air Force Reserve if and when constituted;

(iii) any officer or airman who has served in the Air Force and has retired therefrom. To these three categories a fourth has been added. That of persons who being members of the Air Defence Reserve or the Auxiliary Air Force are appointed to the regular Air Force Reserve by competent authority."

Now, the period of service is provided for in clause 7 and the time at which his service in the Reserve is terminated is provided for in clause 8.

The Air Defence Reserve is a new organisation. First of all, a number of categories of persons who possess qualifications either with the Air Force or aviation or aerodromes, persons who have had a certain minimum qualification in flying or in other respects, persons who have had a certain minimum aviation experience, persons who had held a licence as a ground engineer and so on, these persons are called upon to fill in forms giving particulars of their qualifications and previous experience and submit them to a prescribed authority. The lists when received are scrutinised by the prescribed authority. Then that prescribed authority calls them up for an enquiry as to whether they could be considered fit for enrolment in this Reserve. When they come up for the enquiry and after the enquiry has been held, the competent authority decides about entering them in a register after medical examination, and when their names have been entered in this register, they could be called up for service. This calling up for service will be deemed to have the result of their being embodied in the Air Defence Reserve.

So far as the Auxiliary Air Force is concerned, it is a force akin to the Territorial Army on the Army side. The persons who volunteer for enrolment, if they satisfy the prescribed conditions, could be enrolled on such terms as may be prescribed. Now, with regard to the Air Defence Reserve, I must draw the attention of the

House to one matter, and that is, persons with certain qualifications have to send up their names and particulars. They are called up for enquiry. If the enquiry shows that they are fit to be enrolled, the competent authority says that they shall be enrolled in what may be called an enrolment register, and anybody in that enrolment register can be called up for service or training, and on being so called up he becomes embodied in the Air Force Defence Reserve, and becomes a member of that Reserve. To that small extent, there is a certain amount of compulsion. Now the liability and discipline of the members of the Reserve or Auxiliary Air Force are detailed in Chapter 5 of the Bill. Anybody either in the two Reserves or in the Auxiliary Force is liable to be called up for training for such a period as may be prescribed and for medical examination. They can be called up for service in aid of the civil power, they can be called up for Air Force service in India or abroad. I shall come to this particular clause a little later. The Air Force Act will apply to every member of any of these three categories of Forces whenever he is called up for training, for medical examination or for service. These Reserves consist of persons who can be called up from employment either under Government or under private employers. One difficulty which has confronted us in recruitment to these Forces is that formerly it was not very clear when they were so called up whether when their service or training ended and they had to go back, they would be reinstated in their previous employment. The second question was if their emoluments in civil Government employment or in private employment, when those emoluments were in excess of what they would get from Government during the period of training or service, whether the difference could or should be made up by somebody or other. Now with regard to these matters, hon. Members will remember that the Territorial Army Act provides for meeting the first contingency. That is to say, if a man is taken off private

[Shri N. Gopalaswami.]

employ and he is called up for training or service, when he goes back, the employer is charged with the liability of reinstating him in his former employment without reduction in his previous emoluments. As regards the second matter, it has been under the consideration of the Government for quite a considerable time and Government have recently taken the decision that if the man had been in civil Government employ previously and had to go for training or for service for a temporary period, the difference in emoluments between his civil post and the emoluments of the post in which he has to serve should be made up by the civil department concerned. They would also expect the private employers to do likewise. Now, as this Bill has just come up for consideration, the Joint Committee of the two Houses which examined the provisions in this Bill came to the conclusion that they should go one step further and statutorily charge the employer, whether it is Government or private employer, with the liability of making good this difference only for periods of training for which a member of any of these three different Forces is called up. That is provided for. The reinstatement is provided for in clause 27 and the payment of the difference by the employer for periods of training is provided for in clause 29.

I do not think I need refer to other details of the Bill. The Joint Select Committee which went into this question, examined the provisions very carefully and improved them in many respects. I would only draw the attention of the House to clause 33 of the Bill which gives general power to the Central Government to grant exemptions in individual cases. Clause 34 gives power to make rules. One important addition made in the original Bill in this clause is that all rules made under this section shall be laid for not less than seven days before Parliament as soon as possible after they are made.

There are only two or three aspects of this Bill to which I need draw attention. I have already referred to the small

amount of what you might call conscription which is provided for in that connection with the Air Defence Reserve. That Reserve will consist of persons with qualifications which are required for the personnel employed in the Air Force, whether it is flying qualifications or ground qualifications or technicians' qualifications and so on. No Air Reserve or for that matter, no Air Force can really be properly administered with flying qualifications alone, unless we provide them with all the assistance that ground staff and technical staff could give them, they simply cannot work, and these technicians and men with other experience connected with aviation in aerodromes are scattered about the country under different employers, may be under private airline companies, may be in other factories and workshops and so forth. So it is necessary that we should get into a reserve men with these qualifications and keep these qualifications up-to-date by annual training and so forth, in order that the Reserve might function properly whenever it is required. The compulsion affects only a very few or limited class of persons and during ordinary times it only entails a certain amount of annual training which is not expected to exceed a limit of three weeks or one month.

The next point I would like to refer is the question of the use to which you could put these Reserves and the Auxiliary Air Force. A great deal of objection has been taken to using them in aid of the civil power in the general terms given expression to in clause 25. Some objection has also been taken to the liability imposed on them to aid the civil power and for service abroad. I think, Sir, that Parliament has given a very clear indication that it wants all Armed Forces, to whichever Service they may belong to, Army, Navy or the Air Force, to be available to support the civil power whenever it may be needed. I believe the House passed the Criminal Law Amendment Act the other day which gave power to the authorities in charge of law and order to requisition the services of members of the three Services whichever was available, whichever was more convenient to come out and support the civil power.

I see an amendment put down by an hon. Member asking that this particular item (b) of clause 25 should be amended so as to take away from these Reserves the liability to be used in quelling disturbances or maintenance of law and order and confine them only to beneficent activities like floods, famines, and the like. As to that, when the amendment is moved I shall have more to say, but the same amendment was moved in the other House and was rejected.

As regards service abroad, the very character of the service which an Air Force can render prevents us from deleting the word "or abroad". Hon. Members will no doubt point out to me the fact that in the Indian Territorial Army Act this liability to service abroad is subjected to the condition of previous sanction from Government. In the nature of things, a condition of that sort is difficult to work out in case of the Air Force.

Sir, then, there is this question of the employers' liability. His liability to reinstate the person when he returns from service has been already authorised by Parliament in connection with the Indian Territorial Army. The real objection, therefore, relates to the payment of the difference in emoluments between civil employment and service in these three categories of Forces. Now, the Joint Committee, after a great deal of discussion thought that they would make a beginning in this respect by confining the liability only to the annual period of training which, I said, would extend to 3 weeks or a month. Now, the point for us to consider is simply this. It is obviously necessary that we should develop these Reserves and Auxiliary Forces in the country in the larger interests of serving not only as a second line of defence but also of being helpful in supporting the civil power whenever their services are needed. If that is to be done, we have got to train quite a large number of people. The liability for the cost of such raising, recruitment and training has to be shared between the three parties to it; firstly, the person himself who is called upon for training or service, secondly his original employer and

thirdly his employer during the period of his training or service, that is the Government. So far as the employee is concerned, I think his contribution is in the shape of service. As regards the Government, they pay emoluments during the period of training of the trainee according to the rates applicable to corresponding officers of the Air Force. The third party—the employer—does not contribute at present anything to what I would call this national service of training Reserves and raising an Auxiliary Air Force. What the Joint Committee thought was that in the first instance we should impose on the employer—whether it is Government or a mill-owner or a factory owner, anybody of that description—a liability for that brief period. As hon. Members are aware, the clause throws a liability on the employer to give leave of absence to his employee who is a member of one of these Reserves whenever he is called up for training or service. That leave being granted, the question is whether the employer should not also pay him for the period he has got to be absent on what one might call public national duty. On the whole we came to the conclusion that that liability should be thrown on the employer and that liability has been accepted by the other House. Sir, I do not think I would say more at this stage. I move, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of certain Air Force Reserves and also an Auxiliary Air Force and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

Hon. Members may now speak on the motion.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY (Mysore) : Sir, I want a clarification regarding clause 33 on exemptions. Would it also cover the exemption that may be given to employers from their obligation to pay this difference in emoluments and if so what is the relief that the Reserve Officers would get if such exemption is granted ?

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.)

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI : To which clause is the hon. Member referring?

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : I am referring to clause 33, under which the Central Government grants certain exemptions. There may be reasons for the Central Government to exempt an employer from his liability to pay the difference in emoluments during the training period. If such exemption is granted, what is the relief to the Reserve personnel in regard to the loss of emoluments? That is what I want to know.

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI : Before Government grant exemption they will certainly take every factor into consideration. Either the case will be treated as one where perhaps the employee need not be given that difference under the circumstances, or, it may be, Government might undertake the liability. ".....and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed....." they will have to take that into consideration.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Sir, before I go on to my minute of dissent, I have to give an explanation. It is, I think, in a way improper and certainly not according to convention that when a member of a Select Committee has not signed a particular note of dissent and has not dissented from a particular view, then—it is common practice—he should not say anything against it. But I plead that due to certain circumstances I was not able to sign, as I intended to, the minute of dissent regarding clause 25 (1)(b)—that is, in aid of the civil power. So, if the Chairman of the Select Committee and Leader of the House would permit me to associate myself with that dissent here in spite of the fact that I have not signed it—because that day I was to sign it, but the dissent was given before I could—I should like to say something about it before I go on to my own minute of dissent.

Sir, in regard to the question of aid to the civil power, I am afraid the hon.

the Leader of the House has not understood the reasons because of which we have opposed that particular sub-clause. I am aware when I say this that every civilian is obliged to go to the aid of the District Magistrate if he is called upon under the Criminal Procedure Code to assist him in restoring order or in other ways. But our contention was that that obligation should be confined to his being a civilian as he certainly is in spite of his being a member of the Auxiliary Reserve. Now, let us consider, for instance, a member of the Auxiliary Reserve Air Force. What is his usual avocation? Ordinarily he is in a civilian job. He lives with his fellow-citizens. He has good relations with them, and is in every way a civilian. He does not want—I know no civilian would like to—he does not want to get unpopular, may I say, by going to the aid of the civil authorities in suppressing a disorder. Of course the hon. the Leader of the House would say that that is an obligation under democracy. I am perfectly aware that we have certain obligations and certain responsibilities. If there is a breach of public order, even if the District Magistrate is not there, as civilians it is our obligation and our responsibility to see that that does not spread and that does not come to anything. But I am only suggesting the attitude with which the people of this country look upon the police, for instance. The hon. the Leader of the House may say that it is a wrong attitude. But that is an attitude that is a fact. So if the people look upon the police or District Magistrate as people who are oppressors, in times of communal disturbances, during disorders, if you make it liable in this manner for a citizen who follows a civilian avocation for almost the entire year except for week-ends when he is going to be trained and called for duty in the Auxiliary Air Force Reserve, then I think the purpose of the Bill would be defeated, because I feel that many citizens would not like to be associated with the authority, as is being looked upon by the civilians. I would again repeat, Sir, that we are perfectly aware that even as civilians we have certain obligations under the law. We have

obligations otherwise also. Even without the law, as citizens we have the responsibility of seeing that there is no disorder. But I am only trying to put before the House and the hon. the Defence Minister this aspect of the thing and I hope he will agree with me when I say that so long as the attitude at least in so far as the disturbances, are concerned and the authority steps in and asks the people to assist Government, then it becomes a different thing altogether. So far as the people are concerned, they would say they would not like to be associated in such duties. So if you make it liable for the Air Force Reserve personnel to come to the aid of the civilian power, then I think the recruitment to a certain extent would be retarded. Speaking for myself, although I am in full agreement and I have even in my Minute of Dissent congratulated the Defence Minister upon bringing forward a measure of this sort, I would hesitate to enrol myself as a member of the Auxiliary Air Force after looking at clause 25(b) whereby I would be called upon as any other regular personnel in aid of civil power. So my argument is that we have a Bill here, a very good Bill which I am sure every section of this House would welcome in principle, whereby we would be in a position to build up an Air Force Reserve rapidly and in a very short time during an emergency. If the purpose of the Bill is to attract more and more civilians to get trained in the Air Force so that they could defend our country, we must see that every impediment in that recruitment is removed. And I should like to say that this clause vitiates against rapid and easy recruitment of civilian personnel.

There is another argument which I am anticipating from the hon. the Defence Minister. He would say that the Air Force Act provides for such a thing and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act which we have passed and which both Houses have accepted would be put at naught if you except in this Bill the personnel of the Reserve Forces from the liability of going to the aid of civilian power. Now I am not

consistent, nor am I going against the principle of the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act whereby you made the naval and air force personnel to be clubbed in with the Army in the matter of the liability to come to the aid of civilian power is concerned. I would say that these forces that we are intending to create are special forces. I am aware that in so far as their duties in the air force itself are concerned, in so far as the defence of the country is concerned, in so far as the discipline of that body is concerned, we cannot except them from any of the rules or any of the provisions of the Air Force or any other Act. I concede that there should not be any difference in the discipline and duties and obligations and responsibilities and liabilities in so far as the specific purpose for which you are creating this Air Force is concerned, i.e. in so far as flying is concerned, in so far as fighting is concerned, in so far as other duties directly connected with the Air Force are concerned, I have nothing to say. I would not ask the hon. the Defence Minister to agree that because you have to get more people from the civilian walks of life, you should make the discipline less rigorous. I would not suggest it. I am only suggesting this because I do feel most strongly that, if after all the Air Force is going to the aid of the civil authority, it is not going to be an everyday affair for the Air Force personnel. It is not likely that in spite of the amendment of the Act, the Air Force or the Navy would be called out. We want enlightened people, the best of the people of this country, the best of the youth, to come into the Air Force as Reserve personnel. It is in the interests of the Air Force Reserve, and that is why I submit respectfully that this clause should be deleted. Of course, we are in an uncomfortable predicament. It always happens when a Bill has been passed by the House of the People and then comes here. There is always this discomfort or inconvenience, because the Government cannot accept any amendment. But if you accept my argument, that should not be a very

[Shri C. G. K. Reddy.]
big difficulty at all, because it is our duty to see that every Bill that we make into law is as perfect as possible. So, I most respectfully submit to the hon. the Defence Minister to examine this. I have anticipated his arguments but I am sure he is resourceful enough to have many more arguments in defence of the retention of this sub-clause, but if he thinks that there is any strength in my argument, I should like him please think that this is not a party question. So far as this Bill is concerned, so far as I am concerned, I do not think that this is an un-Socialistic measure or a Congress measure. It is a national measure in which I am as much interested as the hon. the Defence Minister.

Having said that, Sir, I will now go into the elaboration of the Minute of Dissent that I have submitted. Before I touch upon it, I should like to say that when I had raised this point, it was met half-way, shall I say, by making certain alterations or amendments in the Bill itself. As I have said in the Minute of Dissent, while accepting the principle, the Committee caricatured the basic principle on which I should have liked these Reserves to have been created, a principle that is accepted by the Air Forces in other countries and also by a section of the Forces in our own country. I would refer, in this connection, Sir, to our Navy. In the Navy, we have only three categories, one Regular Force and two Reserves. We have the I.N., the I.N.R. and the I.N.V.R. The Indian Navy Reserve is a more potent reserve, if I may say so, in the sense that the officers and men belonging to that Reserve are qualified people in that they have been to sea or they have qualified under civilian enactments to a certain extent. So far as the Volunteer Reserve is concerned, they are absolute civilians who know nothing about the sea or who have not known anything about the sea. They are recruited and given Commissions. I do not think we have a Volunteer

Reserve for other ranks in the Navy but so far as officers are concerned, they used to be recruited from civilian jobs, given ranks according to their ages and so many other conditions. So far as the Naval Reserve was concerned, the officer who was recruited and given a Reserve Commission was one who held a Competency Certificate issued by the Board of Trade and now, of course, by the Government of India that he was qualified to hold a certain position in a merchant ship. Now these officers who are taken in the Volunteer Reserve after a certain experience and service with the Naval Forces, can sit for the examination whereby they could be awarded a certificate of competency by the Government of India or at that time by the Board of Trade. As soon as they got that, nothing prevented him from becoming automatically a Naval Reserve Officer. I think it is a very good principle which has worked very well in the Navy and the same principle is accepted in the Air Forces of other countries. What I wanted was two Reserves, one Auxiliary Air Force Reserve where you took civilians to train, who knew nothing about flying and who had never probably seen an aerodrome and the other Reserve, composed of personnel who had flying experience or allied experience with aeroplanes so that you have no distinction between—not much distinction—the Regular Reserves and the Second Reserve—that is the qualified Reserve or quasi-qualified Reserve. There is a principle involved in the classification of the Reserves in that manner. It is this: between the Reserves or between the Officers there should be no feelings of inferiority or superiority. I would like to say this with due deference and I hope our fine officers—regular officers—will not misunderstand me or think me to be unkind but I say this because I have a certain amount of personal experience. There is a tendency—a natural tendency—for the regular officers to look down upon the Reserve Officers and those in the lower rung of the Reserve Officers still more. In the Navy, I remember, the Volunteer

Reserve Officers used to be called the Land Lubbers and the Pen Pushers—those who knew nothing about ships, who could push a pen and nothing else. But a very healthy principle was involved there whereby a Volunteer Reserve Officer as soon as he passed the B.O.T. examination became automatically a Naval Reserve Officer and the hon. Defence Minister knows that the Land Lubber and Pen Pusher who was recruited in 1939 into the Volunteer Reserve is now the senior-most officer in our Regular Navy.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU (Uttar Pradesh) : How many officers of the Naval Volunteer Reserve acquired that qualification ?

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : I have not the figures but many, I know. In my knowledge quite a number acquired the qualification during the war. Now if he had created such a Reserve, it would have been helpful. In those days if we had had reserves of this type—the Naval Reserve where the retired officer's of the Navy formed one exclusive set and you had another where the Merchant Navy Officers who were given naval training had another Reserve and again you had another Volunteer Reserve, the whole thing would have been spoilt between the retired officers and officers who had served in the Navy before and those who were probably more qualified than the Regular officers. There would have been a very unhealthy feeling and I am sure that this officer that I am talking about, who from a pen-pusher became the senior most officer in the Navy and a very fine officer at that, would never have ascended to that position if such Reserves had been created. Therefore, I say when you have this—shall I say—unscientific classification in our reserves, then the finest of our people would not be able to go from one reserve to the other or from that reserve ultimately to the regular Air Force. As I said, there is a tendency in the services as there is even in civil employment, for those who have served in that service from the beginning or who have regular commissions, to look down on the

other officers. I say also that this is a natural tendency and this tendency is not confined to our country. It is so everywhere. So what happens is there would be a tendency to look down and say that the man is not up to the mark, he is not of our class, he is not up to the standard; so much so that the finest people may not be able to come up. It is not as if a man staying in the regular force for ten years becomes automatically a demi-god. In fact there are even regulations of the forces to the effect that if a man does not travel from one rank or ascend to the other within a certain age-limit or after a certain number of years' experience, he is forcibly retired. The principle is that all the officers do not gain by experience, do not become very fine officers. So the regulations have worked out a device by which all superannuated officers, antiquated officers, shall I say, in that particular rank, would be retired. It has been accepted that just because a man has been in the regular forces for a longer period than others, he does not necessarily become the finest officer.

I am afraid, I am taking a lot of time, but I feel very strongly about it.

As I said it would be very difficult for our finest men, no matter to what branch of the service they belong, to come up. So I say to whatever reserve they belong there should be no impediment whatever for the finest to reach the topmost place. There should be no castes in the force itself. When I suggested this I also quoted the example from the Navy and also from the Air Forces of other countries and tried to press my case for the classification of the forces in such a manner, all these reserves in such a manner that health may be there, or shall I say, that the classification should be such that it would give the minimum number of impediments to the finest of our youths to come to the topmost in our fighting forces. Of course, with certain amendments, as hon. Members would notice, that point of view was met to an extent. They said hitherto Auxiliary Air Force Reserve officers or men

[Shri C. G. K. Reddy.]

could not be taken to the Air Defence Reserve or to the regular Air Force Reserve. But after some discussion, that was allowed with certain conditions. It would be possible for any person to be a member of our forces, to be absorbed from one reserve into another and from that into the other. I feel, however, that that is not what I wanted. What I wanted was a certain free mobility in our forces, so that there is no impediment, that there are healthy conditions, in our forces and there is no unhealthy competition. I want that principle to be accepted in toto. They accepted that principle as it was, but not the basic principle, and I think that by this hotch-potch whereby they tried to meet my principle, they have caricatured my basic principle more than accepted it. It may be that it is too late in the day to make any suggestions, and I do not like to put a spoke in the wheel of progress towards creating these Reserves which we would like to have almost immediately, but if possible, I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Defence Minister that as soon as possible, after the working of these Reserves or even before that, if he accepts the principle that I have tried to adumbrate now, then the same system of classification should also come about here. If he could give some such assurance, then I do not want to oppose this Bill. In fact, I am not going to oppose it at all, except that particular sub-clause 25(1) (b). But, so far as the Bill is concerned, I feel that we are not creating healthy Reserves.

There is one thing more, Sir, and then I will finish and that is, there is no provision—I don't know whether the other regulations govern it—whereby a Reserve Officer could be absorbed into the regular Air Force. There may be other regulations but I wish we had had some clause in the Bill itself whereby those who had joined the Air Force Reserve could also be got into the regular Air Force if he was found to be suitable. If these principles are accepted and if the hon. the Defence Minister would give us an

assurance that that principle would be incorporated in this Act as soon as possible then I fully support—as I have said, I congratulate the Defence Minister—this measure. Before I sit down I would say one other thing and that is that I had raised a query as to why only the Air Force was singled out for this favour. I say that it is not right that we should single out a particular branch of our fighting forces because, there again, you create a certain amount of unhealthy relations between one branch of the Services and another. In the Navy, for instance, we can create a Reserve almost immediately. We can say that all Merchant Navy Officers who are qualified should form part of the Reserve. In other countries, more by voluntary recruitment than by conscription—during the war definitely by conscription—the Merchant Navy Officers who are qualified automatically are Naval Reserve Officers. For instance, in the foreign service ships even plying in Indian waters, you will see the Captain, the First Officer, Second Officer, Third Officer all holding a Naval Reserve Commission. It would have been well if, along with this Bill, another Bill had been brought whereby reserves were sought to be created for the Naval Forces also so that we can move hand in hand and there would not have been such unhealthy competition, which I fear will be caused now.

May I refer to one thing more, Sir ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :
Yes, yes.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Regarding this small element of conscription that is supposed to be there, I am really a little annoyed with the hon. the Defence Minister. Why is he fighting shy of conscription ? Why does he go on apologising for it ? Are we going to have an Air Force Reserve or are we not going to have an Air Force Reserve ? If we are going to have an Air Force Reserve with qualified officers why should we not say that it is conscription and be done with it, if it is small, great or anything. We know the conditions

in the country and I don't think that this apology that he is trying to bring about was apparent in the Select Committee. I don't think so; so far as I remember, there was no criticism in so far as that part of the Bill was concerned.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE (Travancore-Cochin) : It is not correct.

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI : He has said it in his minute of dissent.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : In fact, my criticism was that we have had to go from clause to clause before we came to the clause where we know what it is. Why not clearly say "conscription" and be done with it. I don't think many would object. We want an Air Force Reserve and we want it very quickly. We want to have a second line of Air Force Reserve, as soon as possible. Let us have it. We will accept

that conscription. And what is the conscription that is contemplated here? Those pilots who are in civilian employment and those connected with the aerodromes or airways, will be liable to be registered or liable to be called up for service in an emergency. So far as the pilots are concerned, whether they fly in a Dakota or they fly in an Air Force plane, the risk is the same. Except in times of war, during the training period the risk is the same. There is nothing very extraordinary in calling upon our people who are qualified to come and train themselves so that in case of emergency the country could be protected. Sir, with these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned till 8.15 A.M. on 14th morning.

The Council then adjourned till a quarter past eight of the clock on Thursday, the 14th August 1952.