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State-Army Joint Rule Bill Faces Mounting Opposition

By BEN AVERY

A LAST-MINUTE move was made yesterday to block senate passage of a bill to establish concurrent state-army jurisdiction over more than 3 million acres of military reservations in Arizona.

The bill—which also reserves the right of the state to tax on the reservations, and of state officers to serve papers—is scheduled for final action in the senate this morning.

The move to stop the bill and give the army exclusive jurisdiction was headed by Dan Moore, Bisbee attorney, who was accompanied to Phoenix Tuesday by a Colonel McElroy from Fort Huachuca. They visited Governor McFarland, but did not contact members of the senate.

MOORE last night said many Cochise County citizens oppose the bill because concurrent jurisdiction will increase state taxpayer's responsibility in governing a military reservation, especially in law enforcement matters.

Opponents of the bill also believe that joint jurisdiction will not enable the military to enforce security measures in he said.

Moore threat-

ened to upset the job done by Sen. Fred Dove (D-Cochise) in presumably composing differences over Fort Huachuca, and writing legislation that would meet the needs of the army signal corps.

SENATE leaders rallied around the Tombstone senator when word reached the upper chamber that dissatisfaction was expressed to the governor over the bill, apparently because it would reserve the right of the state to tax a civilian-operated concession on army posts.

Dove said other army personnel had called him protesting this feature of the bill.

The Cochise senator recalled a statement at a Feb. 12 meeting at which Col. J. Otis Brown, of the Sixth Army real estate division, suggested that the state reserve the right to tax on military reservations.

BROWN ALSO expressed a personal preference for concurrent jurisdiction and pointed out that most states grant only concurrent jurisdiction.

The army attorney made a point of the fact that military authorities do not try to tell the states what to do in such matters.

Senator Dove also had in his possession the transcript of another meeting in which Brig. Gen. Emil Lenzner, commanding officer at Fort Huachuca, told the Arizona Game and Fish Commission that exclusive jurisdiction was not needed by the signal corps.