

DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT RECORDS

Mr. BARKLEY. Mr. President, from the Committee on the Library I report favorably without amendment a small bill authorizing the disposition of certain papers by the Archivist. I ask unanimous consent that it may now be considered.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The bill will be stated by title for the information of the Senate.

The LEGISLATIVE CLERK. A bill, H. R. 2943, to provide for the disposal of certain records of the United States Government.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the bill was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

BILLS INTRODUCED

Bills were introduced, read the first time, and, by unanimous consent, the second time, and referred as follows:

By Mr. SCRUGHAM:

S. 1296. A bill relating to the application of the excess-profits tax to certain production bonus payments; to the Committee on Finance.

(Mr. LANGER introduced Senate bill 1297, which was referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, and appears under a separate heading.)

By Mr. MAYBANK:

S. 1298. A bill to authorize the appointment of honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces to positions in the Government service without regard to the civil service laws; to the Committee on Civil Service.

CONNECTION OF INTER-AMERICAN AND ALASKAN HIGHWAYS

Mr. LANGER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to introduce a bill to provide for a defense highway in the United States to serve as a link to connect the Inter-American Highway with the Alaskan Highway, and for other purposes. I may say that when the Alaskan Highway was constructed I objected to the way it was being paid for. I objected to the United States Government furnishing all the money to build that highway, which was nearly 1,695 miles long. I object again to the promise made by our Government to Canada that for 2 years after the war we shall maintain this highway without a single dollar of cost to the Dominion of Canada. Inasmuch, however, as the Alaskan Highway has been built, and another highway, the Inter-American Highway, has also been built, I believe that at the earliest possible moment we should connect the two highways by the route proposed in the bill I am introducing.

There being no objection, the bill (S. 1297) to provide for a defense highway in the United States to serve as a link in connecting the Inter-American Highway with the Alaskan Highway, and for other purposes, was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

FUND FOR ENTERTAINMENT OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS BY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. CONNALLY. Mr. President, I submit a Senate resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The resolution will be read.

The legislative clerk read the resolution (S. Res. 163), as follows:

Resolved, That the unexpended balance of the sum of \$1,000 made available for expenditure from the contingent fund of the Senate under the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 14, Seventy-eighth Congress (accepting an invitation to have delegations from the Senate and the House of Representatives attend a meeting held under the auspices of the Dominion of Canada Branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association), is hereby made available for expenditure during the remainder of the Seventy-eighth Congress for the purpose of enabling the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate to defray the expenses of entertaining as its guests distinguished foreign visitors to the United States. The expenses incurred for such purpose shall be payable upon the submission of vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the present consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the resolution was considered and agreed to.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACT

Mr. SHIPSTEAD submitted the following resolution (S. Res. 164), which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry:

Whereas the Rural Electrification Administration was given authority to administer the Rural Electrification Act; and

Whereas rural electrification has been extended rapidly throughout the country for the benefit of farmers; and

Whereas the success of the rural electrification program has been influenced by a policy of encouraging farmers to become members of cooperative groups which, in turn, should be and must be encouraged to become free from political or Government controls as rapidly as possible; and

Whereas Congress, in approving of the Rural Electrification Act, set forth its policy of protecting the Rural Electrification Administration from political influences and political controls; and

Whereas it is now reported that the Department of Agriculture has declared that Rural Electrification Administration cooperatives' funds were taken to promote and finance insurance companies and that this use of such funds is open to serious question; and

Whereas it is now contended, and evidence at hand supports the belief, that groups have been organized and supported from Government funds to engage in activities intended to influence the Congress and other Government agencies and which activities are declared to be in violation of the letter and spirit of the Rural Electrification Act: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Agriculture of the United States Senate, or any duly appointed subcommittee thereof, is authorized and instructed to inquire into the administration of the Rural Electrification Act and for the purpose of determining whether political groups or organizations have been created to influence the administration of

the Rural Electrification Act and if so, how they have been organized and how they have been financed, and what efforts they have made to influence the administration of the act, whether the administration of Rural Electrification Administration has not suffered since Rural Electrification Administration was made subject to the Department of Agriculture, and whether Rural Electrification Administration should not be restored to its original status as an independent agency responsible only to the Congress, and whatever other facts are helpful in determining a policy for Rural Electrification Administration which would carry out the original purposes of the Rural Electrification Act.

THE FOOD CRISIS

Mr. VANDENBERG. Mr. President, when the Commodity Credit Corporation bill was pending before the Senate yesterday I withheld any observations on the subject because of the pressure of time. I reluctantly voted against the conference report, despite my own belief that the so-called roll-back and price subsidy program are unsound, because I cannot approve, in this emergency, the total prohibition of any anti-inflation experiment unless and until we can produce a sure-fire substitute. I favored and supported the committee recommendation which would have permitted the completion of existing experiments, while restricting their expansion unless and until they prove their worth. No man can be dogmatic in this dilemma and say "This is the way." We must proceed by trial and error. Thus far we have had too much error. But it seems to me that we must all lift our sights to the broader vision of the total responsibility which the total government confronts, in behalf of the whole American people. Therefore, I feel it my duty to make this frank statement to the Senate in connection with the desperate situation which the country confronts in respect particularly to the food crisis. I am doing this as a prelude to asking for the publication in the RECORD of excerpts from an editorial printed in the New York Herald Tribune entitled "A Baruch Committee for Food."

Mr. President, I am profoundly disturbed by the situation which we and the country—and let us never forget the country in this respect—confront as a result of the existing situation. There is a food crisis in America, and it will become increasingly ominous. It can ruin the war effort at home and abroad. Farm production is as basic as munitions production. Food, in this war, is as essential as bullets. Meanwhile, there is also a price and wage crisis in America, and it will increasingly threaten suicidal inflation unless adequately managed.

Why we have been allowed to drift into this hazardous mess by the administration's management of our national economy is a matter of opinion and mostly a post mortem matter. In my own view it is a result, first, of a wrong basis of approach in the original price-control bill, and the failure effectively to gear prices and wages together; the result, second, of confusion and ineptitude and timidity and mismanagement of the system chosen to be pursued; and third,