

TRANSFER OF STRIP OF LAND AT VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION FACILITY, COATESVILLE, PA.

JULY 25, 1939.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GEORGE, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2867]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2867), to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to transfer by quitclaim deed to the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. for right-of-way purposes a small strip of land at Veterans' Administration facility, Coatesville, Pa., having had the same under consideration, report it back to the Senate without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is fully explained in a letter addressed to the President of the Senate by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, which is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, July 10, 1939.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
The Capitol, Washington, D. C.

SIR: There is transmitted herewith a draft of a bill to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to transfer by quitclaim deed to the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. for right-of-way purposes a small strip of land at Veterans' Administration Facility, Coatesville, Pa., with the request that it be referred to the appropriate committee of the United States Senate in order that it may be introduced and pressed for passage at an early date.

Some time ago the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. expressed the desire of acquiring title from the United States of the strip of land described in the bill, as the main line of the railroad from New York to Pittsburgh is being electrified and it was necessary to increase the width of the right-of-way.

The strip of land to which the Pennsylvania Railroad desires title lies in the extreme southwest corner of the Veterans' Administration reservation and extends approximately one-third the width of the reservation. This parcel of ground is in the lowest part of the reservation; lies at the foot of the hill below the hospital; has not been used for any special purpose by the Veterans' Administration; is of no particular value to the Government, and contains approximately one-half acre ground.

The electrification of the line through Coatesville is beneficial to the Government in that it provides better and faster service and eliminates some of the inconvenience and danger experienced with coal-burning locomotives.

The Veterans' Administration has granted a permit to the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. to occupy and use the 40-foot strip of land in question pending the enactment of legislation authorizing transfer of title. The reservation fence previously extended around this strip of land, but it has been relocated by the railroad company with no expense to the Government.

The strip of land contains approximately one-half of an acre, and its actual value on an acreage basis is currently estimated at not more than \$30.

It is appropriate to state that the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. has been very cooperative in its dealings with the Veterans' Administration. Public No. 309, Seventy-fourth Congress, August 23, 1935 (49 Stat. 724) authorized the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to exchange certain property rights vested in the United States at Veterans' Administration Facility, Perry Point, Md., for certain property and rights of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. in that vicinity. Under that transaction the Veterans' Administration deeded to the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. a small tract of ground containing 0.384 acre so that the right-of-way of the railroad company might be enlarged to provide for a transformer station at Perryville in connection with the electrification of the Pennsylvania Railroad lines between New York and Washington. In exchange, the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. deeded to the Government a tract of ground containing 5.387 acres and granted the Government easement for the purpose of building, maintaining, and using a highway and landscaping same over a tract of land containing 1.182 acres. As a result of this transaction the Government received 6,569 acres of ground in exchange for 0.384 acre, a net gain of 6.185 acres in the Government's favor. Without this additional acreage it would have been impossible for the Veterans' Administration to have erected an appropriate entrance to the Perry Point Facility.

There is enclosed a copy of a black and white print of the Veterans' Administration Facility, Coatesville, Pa., showing the location of the strip of land described in the proposed bill.

The property in question has been cleared for disposition as proposed, submission having been made to the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to the provisions of the Real Estate Section of Regulations Governing the Operation of the Branch of Supply, Procurement Division, Treasury Department, approved by the President April 12, 1935. Information has been received from the Director, Bureau of the Budget, that there would be no objection to the presentation to the Congress of this proposed legislation.

Respectfully,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*

