

FURNISHING OF VETERANS' BENEFITS TO FORMER
MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES OF ALLIED NATIONS

JANUARY 18, 1945.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 294]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 294) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to furnish certain benefits, services, and supplies to discharged members of the military or naval forces of any nation allied or associated with the United States in World War II, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The bill would authorize the furnishing of certain veterans' benefits to former members of the armed forces of any nation allied or associated with the United States in the present war. Such benefits would be furnished only upon request of the Government of such nation and upon its agreement to reimburse the United States for any expenses incurred by it in furnishing such benefits.

The purposes of the bill are outlined in further detail in the following letter from the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs:

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D. C., December 6, 1944.

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

SIR: There are forwarded herewith two copies of a draft of a proposed bill entitled "A bill to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to furnish certain benefits, services, and supplies to discharged members of the military or naval forces of any nation allied or associated with the United States in World War II, and for other purposes," with the request that same be introduced and referred to the appropriate committee for consideration.

The proposed legislation would authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, upon request of the proper official of the government of any nation allied or associated with the United States in the present war, to furnish, in his discretion, to discharged members of the military or naval forces of any such government at such rates and under such regulations as the Administrator may prescribe, medical, surgical, and dental treatment; hospital care; transportation and traveling expenses; prosthetic appliances; education; training, or other similar benefits; and to make medical examinations, social investigations, and other reports pertaining to such persons. Under the bill any agreement entered into pursuant to

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this authority shall provide that such services shall be paid for by the government of the nation requesting the same and that any amount received by the Veterans Administration as reimbursement for such services shall be credited to the appropriate appropriation of the Veterans Administration for the fiscal year during which expenditures were made pursuant to this act.

Under section 202 (14), World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, the Veterans Administration is authorized to furnish transportation, medical, surgical, and hospital services and supplies and appliances to discharged members of the military or naval forces of those governments which were associated with the United States in World War I and who come within the provisions of laws of such governments similar to those of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, and to utilize similar services, supplies, and appliances provided for discharged members of the military or naval forces of those governments in furnishing such benefits to the discharged members of the military or naval forces of the United States living within the territorial limits of such governments and entitled to benefits under the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, under regulations prescribed by the Administrator. Following enactment of Public Law 2, Seventy-third Congress, March 20, 1933, and the veterans regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, as amended, this authority was modified by a provision contained in paragraph VI, Veterans Regulation No. 6 (a), as amended by Public Law 866, Seventy-sixth Congress, October 17, 1940, limiting the furnishing of hospitalization and medical treatment in foreign countries to veterans who are citizens of the United States and who are temporarily sojourning or residing abroad for disabilities due to war service in the armed forces of the United States. Similarly, under title III, Public Law 346, Seventy-eighth Congress, June 22, 1944, loans may not be guaranteed for veterans residing outside the United States, nor are unemployment allowances under title V thereof payable except to veterans residing in the United States.

Subject to this limitation on the furnishing of hospitalization and medical treatment, guaranty of loans, or unemployment allowances to veterans of the armed forces of the United States while residing in foreign countries, there is sufficient authority under laws administered by the Veterans Administration to contract for furnishing any of the services or benefits provided thereunder to such beneficiaries of the Veterans Administration. However, there is no authority similar to that provided in section 202 (14), World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, for furnishing similar services or benefits to discharged members of the military or naval forces of nations allied or associated with the United States in World War II. The proposed legislation would grant such authority and permit the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to furnish to discharged members of the military or naval forces of nations allied or associated with the United States in the present war, who may be residing in the United States, certain services and benefits at the expense of the government of such nation requesting the same.

The legislation herein proposed by the Veterans Administration is deemed desirable and its consideration at an early date is recommended.

Request for reciprocal agreements with respect to veterans' benefits has been made by the Dominion of Canada which has recently established under the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act of October 18, 1944, a Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Minister of which is empowered thereunder, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, to make regulations with respect to reciprocal or other arrangements with the government of any country for furnishing similar benefits, services and supplies to persons who served in the naval, military, or air forces of any such government.

Advice has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection by that office to the submission of this proposed legislation to the Congress for its consideration.

Respectfully,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*

