

PROVIDING FOR THE FREE IMPORTATION OF EXPOSED X-RAY FILM

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4739]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4739) to amend paragraph 1629 of the Tariff Act of 1930 so as to provide for the free importation of exposed X-ray film, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The committee amendment inserts "(a)" after the word "That" in line 3 and inserts a new section (b) after line 7, as follows:

(b) This Act shall be effective as to merchandise entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on and after the 30th day after the enactment of this Act.

The amendment is for the purpose of allowing time for instructions to be circulated to customs officers respecting the treatment of imports of exposed X-ray film under the provisions of this bill.

GENERAL STATEMENT

This bill permits the free entry of exposed X-ray film, whether or not developed, under the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended. At present this film is classified as photographs under paragraph 1410 of the Tariff Act. The original duty was 25 percent ad valorem. The duty was reduced to 12½ percent ad valorem, effective January 1, 1948, pursuant to the Geneva trade agreement.

Exposed X-ray film is imported largely in the form of X-ray photographs for use in connection with medical treatment of patients from foreign countries and for other scientific purposes. The Tariff Commission states:

From the available information it appears that exposed X-ray films imported for scientific purposes, whether medical or otherwise, would not be handled in usual commercial channels, and their importation free of duty would not be detrimental to any domestic industry.

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Quantities of exposed X-ray film imported appear to be small and to have little or no commercial significance.

This bill does not affect exposed X-ray film imported as waste and dutiable under paragraph 1555 of the Tariff Act at 7½ percent ad valorem. Waste X-ray film would normally appear in negligible quantities, mixed in shipments of other dutiable waste film, and nothing would be gained by exempting it from duty.

No Government agencies or private interests have expressed opposition to this bill.

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