EXTENDING THE TIME FOR FREE ENTRY OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IMPORTED TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL

JANUARY 31, 1949.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

To accompany H. J. Res. 881

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 88) extending the time for free entry of certain articles imported to promote international good will, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this resolution is to extend the time for free entry of certain articles imported to promote international good will. Under existing law (Public Law 769, 80th Cong., 2d sess.) any articles, including approximately 48 railroad cars and incidental equipment donated by the people or Government of the Republic of France for sale for charitable purposes in the United States or for presentation, in the case of railroad equipment, to noncommercial organizations in the United States, prior to January 1, 1949, might have been entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, free of customs duties, fees, or charges, internal-revenue taxes, and marking or other import requirements or restrictions. This resolution merely extends until June 30, 1949, the permissive free entry or withdrawal of such articles certified by the Secretary of State as being so donated by the French people or Government in promotion of international good will.

The people of France are sending to the 48 States of the United States and the District of Columbia a train of 49 freight cars as a gesture of gratitude for the American Freedom Train. These 49 cars will be filled with French merchandise, such as handbags, women's wear, hats, perfume, and other typical products of France. The plan is to deliver one car to the capital of each of the 48 States and the District of Columbia and to let local committees auction off the merchandise, the proceeds thereof to be used for the benefit of local charities. The freight cars will remain in the United States as a token gift to veterans' organizations.

Originally the gift of the people of France was scheduled to arrive in the latter part of 1948, but it has been delayed, and this resolution is necessary to continue in effect the policy heretofore unanimously approved by both Houses of Congress in the interest of international good will.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 2a of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill as introduced, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

ACT OF JUNE 25, 1948

(PUBLIC LAW 769-80TH CONG.)

[CH. 637-2D SESS.]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any articles, including approximately forty-eight railroad cars and incidental equipment, certified by the Secretary of State as being donated in promotion of international good will by the people or Government of the Republic of France for sale for charitable purposes in the United States or for presentation, in the case of railroad equipment, to noncommercial organizations in the United States may be entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption free of customs duties, fees, or charges, internal-revenue taxes, and marking or other import requirements or restrictions.

SEC. 2. This Act shall be effective as to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of its enactment and prior to the close of [December 31, 1948] June 30, 1949.