

AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT TO THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF NARCOTICS OF MONEYS EXPENDED FOR THE PURCHASE OF NARCOTICS

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

REPORT

(To accompany S. 2598)

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2598) to authorize reimbursement to the appropriations of the Bureau of Narcotics of moneys expended for the purchase of narcotics, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Enforcement agents of the Bureau of Narcotics often purchase narcotics and marihuana for use as evidence against suspected violators of the narcotics and marihuana laws. Many times the funds or part of the funds thus expended are recovered when the violator is apprehended. Under section 3617 of the Revised Statutes (U. S. C., title 31, sec. 484), it is necessary to deposit the moneys thus recovered into miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury since that section provides that the gross amount of all moneys received from whatever source shall be paid into the Treasury. The proposed legislation would authorize the reimbursement of the recovered moneys to the appropriation for the enforcement of the narcotic and marihuana laws current at the time of the deposit of the money.

Prior to the fiscal year 1947 the authority which would be granted by the proposed legislation was provided for in annual appropriation acts. (See act of April 24, 1945, 59 Stat. 63.) However, because of the sentiment prevailing in the Congress at the time that no substantive legislation be included in annual appropriation acts, the language was omitted from appropriation acts subsequent to 1947. The proposed legislation hence would grant permanent authority for a practice

previously provided for in annual appropriation acts. However, it should be noted that the legislation would not result in the creation of a continuing revolving fund since the appropriations that would be reimbursed would lapse at the end of the fiscal year as in the case of appropriations generally.

The Treasury Department advised the committee that this legislation would entail no additional cost and that the Bureau of the Budget had no objection to the enactment of this bill.

