

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR AND CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

AUGUST 14, 1958.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 11889]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11889) to permit articles imported from foreign countries for the purpose of exhibition at the Minnesota State Fair and Centennial Exposition to be held at St. Paul, Minn., to be admitted without payment of tariff, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

AMENDMENT

The amendment, which does not affect the purpose of the bill, would permit residents of the United States to bring into the United States for temporary periods automobiles rented abroad without being required to pay duty or to post a bond.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H. R. 11889 is to permit the entry, free of duty, of articles imported for exhibition at the Minnesota State Fair and Centennial Exposition to be held at St. Paul, Minn., from August 23, 1958, to September 1, 1958.

GENERAL STATEMENT

This bill follows the pattern of previous legislation enacted by the Congress in connection with various international exhibitions, expositions, and fairs held in the United States.

It has long been the policy of the Congress to facilitate participation of foreign countries in international expositions held in the United States by permitting articles intended for display at these expositions

to be entered free of import duties and charges under safeguarding regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Minnesota State Fair and Centennial Exposition is to be held at Saint Paul, Minn., from August 23 to September 1, 1958, inclusive, by the Minnesota State Fair and Centennial Exposition.

H. R. 11889 provides that the imported articles shall not be subject to marking requirements of the general tariff laws except when such articles are withdrawn for consumption or use in the United States. Articles admitted may be lawfully sold at any time during or within 3 months after the close of the exposition, subject to such regulations for the security of the revenue and for the collection of import duties as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe.

The amendment to the bill would permit residents to bring into the United States without payment of duty or posting of bond and for temporary periods only, automobiles rented abroad. Under present law residents on a short trip back into the United States from adjacent countries, with automobiles rented abroad, must either pay duty on the rented vehicle or place it under bond.

The amendment is based on a recommendation in the recent report to the President of the United States on international travel, by Hon. Clarence B. Randall, Special Assistant to the President. In his report, Mr. Randall stated:

Another irritant has been found in the requirement that Americans in Canada who hire Canadian automobiles for tourist purposes must pay duty on the automobile, or place it under bond, if an incidental swing is made back into the United States in the course of Canadian travel. The same situation obtains with respect to Mexico. A foreign resident bringing his car into this country for tourist purposes is, on the other hand, entitled to import the vehicle free of duty. This exemption is provided for by our own law and by international convention (Customs Convention on Temporary Importation of Road Vehicles of 1957). I see no reason for discriminating against our own people.

Favorable reports on the amendment were submitted by the Department of the Treasury, which noted, among other things, that "no unusual admission difficulties are anticipated"; and by the Department of State which noted that "foreign visitors to the United States are granted already by law the privilege of bringing their own cars into the United States duty free if the automobile does not remain here permanently, and request that a similar privilege be extended to United States residents."

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 4 of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

PARAGRAPH 1793 OF THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930, AS AMENDED

TITLE II—FREE LIST

SEC. 201. That on and after the day following the passage of this Act, except as otherwise specially provided for in this Act, the articles mentioned in the following paragraphs, when imported into the United States or into any of its possessions (except the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Wake Island, Midway Islands, Kingman Reef, Johnston Island, and the island of Guam), shall be exempt from duty:

* * * * *
PAR. 1798.

* * * * *
(h) Automobiles rented by any resident of the United States while abroad may be imported into the United States by or on behalf of such resident for the transportation of such resident, his family and guests, and such incidental carriage of articles as may be appropriate to his personal use of the automobile without payment of duty, for such temporary periods as the Secretary of the Treasury by regulation may prescribe. Any automobile exempted from duty under this subparagraph which is used otherwise than for a purpose herein expressed or is not returned abroad within the time and manner as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation, or the value of such automobile (to be recovered from the importer), shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States.

* * * * *

