

TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENT OF SUGAR QUOTAS

JULY 1, 1960.—Ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

[To accompany S.J. Res. 217]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 217) to authorize the President to make certain adjustments in the sugar quotas for foreign countries, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

PURPOSE

This joint resolution would grant to the President the authority to determine the sugar quota for Cuba for the balance of the year 1960 in such amount or amounts as he finds in the national interest.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Finance Committee, realizing the extreme emergency with regard to sugar quotas, has approved this resolution to prevent possible catastrophe during the time Congress is in recess.

The Cuban sugar quota is well on its way to being filled for the current year, 1960. However, a considerable amount of sugar may still be shipped from Cuba under the 1960 quota arrangement. Much, if not all, of this could be landed on our shores during the month of July and before the Congress reconvenes in August.

The House-passed bill, H.R. 12311, has just been referred to the Finance Committee. It comes so late that there is no time for hearings and it is sufficiently controversial in nature that it would appear to be impossible to expect the Senate to act in the 1 day left before the recess begins.

The Congress is thereby faced with the problem of having no sugar legislation pass the Congress before returning in August. During this period Cuba, with a stepped up shipping program known to be under-

way, could complete its 1960 quota before Congress could act to institute any new regulations on imports regardless of how much such action might be in the national interest.

When Congress returns in August it may then give more attention to the House bill, H. R. 12311, and accept, amend, or revise the quotas which are a part of that bill. It is possible that the Congress, after full consideration of the possibilities, may reconsider the authority the resolution or the House-passed bill grants to the President and may revise, confirm, or improve it.

The resolution is simple. It would do no more than grant to the President the authority to adjust the Cuban quota for the year 1960. Under this authority the President, in order to assure an adequate supply at orderly prices, may cause or permit the sale or importation of sugar from other sources. Those sources may be domestic or foreign and would allow additional purchases from the Philippines even though the Philippine Trade Act of 1946 (Public Law 371, 79th Cong.) specifies a fixed quota. Thus, all sources, foreign and domestic, would be available for the President to obtain sugar if such was necessary to compensate for any reduction in the quota of Cuba.

The committee recognizes the urgency of the problem and urges that this temporary interim legislation be adopted.

