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REPORT
No. 1103.

TARIFF COMMISSION STUDIES ON METALS

SEPTEMBER 21, 1961.—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. Res. 206]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the resolution (S. Res. 206) directing the Tariff Commission to make further studies on lead, zinc, and certain other minerals and report to the Senate thereon, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the resolution as amended do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Senate Resolution 206 as amended by the committee is to direct the Tariff Commission to bring up to date investigations formerly made concerning the domestic fluorspar industry, the lead and zinc industry, and the mercury industry, respectively, and to initiate new investigations under section 332 of the Tariff Act of conditions in the industries producing manganese, cobalt, and beryllium, respectively, and to report to Congress the results of these studies. Under the amended resolution the supplemental reports on fluorspar, lead and zinc, and mercury are to be made not later than May 15, 1962, and the reports on manganese, cobalt, and beryllium are to be made not later than August 31, 1962.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The mining industries of the United States have a long chronology of appeals and studies aimed at improving and revitalizing their economies. Many mines have closed and the loss in constructive use of manpower and expensive equipment has been enormous, to say nothing of the loss in revenue to localities, States, and the Federal Government. The emergency conditions which developed suddenly when wars forced the country to call upon its every resource resulted

in the opening and operation of many new mines and not all of these would normally be classed as other than marginal in their operations.

It is important that the Congress be furnished with adequate information concerning general conditions in these vital industries. Should new emergencies arise and Congress be required to act quickly this up-to-date information would be most valuable.

Senate Resolution 206 directs the Tariff Commission to make the usual study under section 332 of the Tariff Act of 1930, including, among other facts, a description of the domestic industry, domestic production, foreign production, imports, consumption, channels and methods of distribution, U.S. exports, and other factors affecting competition between domestic and imported products. The committee, at the request of the Tariff Commission, omitted the requirement of the original resolution that the Commission furnish comparative costs of domestic and foreign production. The Commission pointed out that it was difficult if not impossible to obtain foreign costs of production in many cases and publication of domestic costs of production without publication of corresponding data for foreign producers would tend to place domestic producers at a competitive disadvantage.

The Tariff Commission is instructed to hold hearings and give adequate opportunity to interested parties to appear and be heard, except that in the case of supplemental reports on lead, zinc, mercury, and fluorspar, if the Tariff Commission feels that former hearings have been held so recently that no new material would likely be developed, new hearings might be dispensed with. New hearings on lead, zinc, mercury, and fluorspar are therefore left to the discretion of the Commission.

The resolution is one which requires the Tariff Commission to furnish general information to the Congress and it does not require any recommendations as to changes in dutiable status. The Finance Committee urges the adoption of Senate Resolution 206.

