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MASS SPECTROMETERS, RHEOGONIOMETERS, AND CERTAIN STONE

JUNE 22, 1964.—Ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4364]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4364) to provide for the free entry of one mass spectrometer for the use of Oregon State University and one mass spectrometer for the use of Wayne State University, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

PURPOSE OF BILL AS AMENDED

As passed by the House, this bill would permit the free importation of one mass spectrometer for the use of Oregon State University and one mass spectrometer for the use of Wayne State University. These provisions have been approved without change by the Committee on Finance.

The committee amendments would (1) permit the free importation of two rheogoniometers, one for the use of the University of Tennessee and one for the use of Ohio State University, and (2) allow the free importation of stone for use in the construction of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery located at the University of Nebraska.

GENERAL EXPLANATION OF HOUSE BILL

Oregon State University has ordered from abroad a mass spectrometer for research and graduate instruction in the scientific departments of the university.

A mass spectrometer is a device used by chemists and chemical engineers to provide chemical analyses, measurements, and other research features. Your committee is advised that at the time Oregon State University placed its order, no domestic firm was

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offering to design or custom make an instrument with the specific scientific characteristics required by the university. Funds for acquisition of this equipment were granted to the university through the National Institutes of Health.

Section 2 of the bill provides for the duty-free entry of one mass spectrometer for the use of Wayne State University. The circumstances attending the order of this equipment from abroad by Wayne State University are similar to those related above. In this instance, as in the case of the purchase by Oregon State University, the Department of Commerce has advised your committee that it is of the opinion that at the time the university determined its requirements and specifications for a mass spectrometer, no equivalent instrument was available from domestic producers.

In these circumstances, your committee is of the opinion that this legislation is meritorious and is consistent with prior congressional enactments.

GENERAL EXPLANATION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Your committee has added to the House-passed bill provisions which would permit two rheogoniometers to be imported duty free, one for the use of the University of Tennessee, the other for the use of Ohio State University. This is consistent with previous acts which have allowed scientific equipment to come into this country without payment of import duties for the use of specified colleges and universities, particularly in those cases where the scientific apparatus involved was not manufactured domestically.

A rheogoniometer is an instrument capable of measuring liquids under either steady rate condition and/or fluctuating rates of flow. The completed instrument allows torsional testing in oscillation as well as in steady rotation and is capable of measuring not only viscosity but also elasticity, and all the other flow properties, such as dilatancy, thixatropy, relaxation, retardation, etc., over wide and exactly controlled ranges of temperatures and of rates of shear. The committee is advised that instruments possessing these qualities are not produced domestically.

For these reasons, the free entry treatment provided by this amendment is entirely appropriate.

A further amendment added to the bill by the committee would permit the free entry of all stone imported and used in the construction of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, located at the University of Nebraska.

The gallery is owned by the university and is located on campus. It displays a notable collection of American painting and sculpture, in a setting of architectural beauty, exclusively for the cultural and educational use of the public. The gallery constitutes a major cultural factor in the State and, of course, the university is a nonprofit institution.

Under this amendment, if the liquidation of the stone involved has become final, provision is made for reliquidation (and refund) in the same manner as if the liquidation were not final.