
ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN ROTATING CHAIR FOR LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

OCTOBER 16, 1965.—Ordered to be printed
Filed under authority of the order of the Senate of October 15, 1965

Mr. LONG of Louisiana, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.P. 9588]

The Committee on Finance, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 9588) to provide for the free entry of an electrically driven rotating chair for the use of the Louisiana State University Medical Center, New Orleans, La., having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 9588 is to allow the Louisiana State University Medical Center to import free of duty a scientific instrument for its own use.

GENERAL STATEMENT

H.R. 9588 as reported would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to admit free of duty an electrically driven rotating chair (and its accompanying control unit and other equipment) for the use of the Louisiana State University Medical Center, New Orleans, La., and provides for the reliquidation of the customs entry and appropriate refund of duty in the event that liquidation of the entry has become final and duty paid.

The chair covered by the bill is known in the trade as "the Stille rotating chair RS-3." Your committee is informed that it is used for clinical practice, laboratory research, and for vestibular examination.

Your committee is advised that no comparable article produced in the United States is available. The Department of Commerce has stated with respect to this bill:

The Department is advised that the rotating chair required by the medical center is a highly specialized piece of equipment used in medical research and diagnosis with respect to lesions of the inner ear and to disturbances of the sense of equilibrium. We are further advised that it is essential to the medical center's purposes that the chair meet certain technical requirements. These requirements include electric drive, rapid switching from a chosen acceleration value (positive or negative) to exact zero acceleration at a constant angular velocity, rapid and smooth braking action, and distortion-free transmission of electrical signals from the revolving chair to measuring or recording instruments.

It is the understanding of this Department that at the time the Louisiana State Medical Center decided to purchase such equipment, the medical center invited seven domestic hospital supply firms to submit bids on the required equipment. All seven of these firms failed to submit bids. A. B. Stille-Werner, of Stockholm, Sweden, was the only manufacturer willing to offer an electrically driven rotating chair meeting the required technical specifications.

As a result of our investigation, this Department is of the opinion that at the time the medical center determined its requirements for an electrically driven rotating chair, no equipment of equivalent scientific value was available from domestic sources of this equipment.

In the circumstances, the Committee on Finance, like the Committee on Ways and Means of the House, is of the opinion that this legislation is meritorious and consistent with prior legislation of this nature, and recommends its enactment.

