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ADALINE WHITE

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JUNE 9, 1926.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 254]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 254), for the relief of Adaline White, having considered the same, report it to the Senate with amendments and with the recommendation that the bill (H. R. 1671) now on the table be substituted for the bill S. 254, and that the House bill do pass without amendment.

Amend the bill as follows:

Line 6, page 1, strike out the words "September 2, 1914," and insert in lieu thereof the following: "October 6, 1917."

Line 8, page 1, strike out the word "said" and insert in lieu thereof the words "the Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau shall pay to."

Strike out section 3.

On February 6, 1918, James Ross Bryant took out \$10,000 insurance with the Government, and named at first no beneficiary, leaving that blank. He directed that the certificate of insurance be sent to Miss Mima Jacob Weaver, of Colorado Springs, Colo., who was a friend of his.

The soldier came from Scotland to the United States as an orphan boy when he was about 9 years of age. He had no father and no mother and no other relatives in Scotland that the record shows. After he joined the Army he was sent to Camp Doniphan, in Oklahoma. After his enlistment he met Miss Adaline White, a young lady from Fort Scott, Kans. Presently they became engaged to be married. He informed the department that he wanted her name inserted in the insurance policy. He wrote Miss Weaver at Colorado Springs to send the policy to Miss White, which Miss Weaver did, and Miss White still has the policy.

The Veterans' Bureau refused to pay her the money, and this bill was introduced in order to carry out the soldier's wish and direction. He died in France March 22, 1919. Five years have elapsed and there never has been any other claimant.

In a letter mailed July 20, 1918, by the soldier to Miss White, the following statement was made indicative of a desire on his part that Miss White receive the proceeds of the insurance:

I can't understand why my insurance was not transferred. Miss Weaver received my policy and I don't know what to do about it. You must have your father attend to it. I gave him power of attorney to act for me and he can send the policy to Washington and have it changed, as it belongs to you. I can't understand why it was not done at Camp Doniphan.

On March 17, 1918, the soldier wrote Miss White as follows:

I have taken two Liberty bonds out; also \$10,000 insurance for you.

And on April 7, 1918, the soldier wrote Miss White:

When I had my insurance made out I had the policy sent to the Springs. I do not know when it will reach Miss Weaver, but just as soon as she receives it she will send it to you. I have some other papers I will send to you just as soon as they come, as I am transferring everything to you.

Affidavits on file disclose the following quotations from letters written by Miss Weaver to the ex-service man:

Jim, your insurance papers have come to me. I am quite surprised, as I thought you told me you had notified the proper authorities to have them changed to Adaline. I remember that you asked me to send them to her. I understand that you had made the transfer, and since these have come here, I really don't know what to do. They have just come, so that I am writing you for instructions.

There also appears from affidavits on file the following quotation from a letter addressed by Miss Weaver to Miss White:

I am sending you Jim's insurance paper. It should have gone to you some time ago. When I saw the boys at Doniphan in April, Jim said he had had the transfer made to you; then when the policy came to me after Jim was overseas, I was quite surprised. I knew a mistake had been made, but had no idea what to do about it, so wrote Jim for advice.

This bill was first introduced in the Sixty-sixth Congress and has been delayed from time to time pending investigation, examination, and careful assimilation of all the evidence, and the committee on April 25, 1924, voted unanimously to recommend its passage.