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AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO GRANT AN EASEMENT IN CERTAIN LANDS OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION FACILITY, MURFREESBORO, TENN., TO RUTHERFORD COUNTY, TENN., FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES

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DECEMBER 12, 1941.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. CLARK of Missouri, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 2080]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2080) authorizing the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement in certain lands of the Veterans' Administration facility, Murfreesboro, Tenn., to Rutherford County, Tenn., for highway purposes, report back to the Senate and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purposes of the proposed legislation is fully explained in a letter addressed to the President of the Senate from the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

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NOVEMBER 8, 1941.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,  
*The Capitol, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: There is transmitted herewith the draft of a bill authorizing the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement in certain lands of the Veterans' Administration facility, Murfreesboro, Tenn., to Rutherford County, Tenn., for highway purposes, with the request that it be referred to the appropriate committee of the United States Senate, in order that it may be introduced and enacted into law. There is also enclosed a black-and-white print showing the location of the land described in the draft bill.

The county highway known as Compton Road is located along the southern boundary of the Veterans' Administration facility, Murfreesboro, Tenn., and improvement of the road is proposed by the Highway and Workhouse Commission of Rutherford County. The width of the road between fences is 26 feet, and it is proposed to widen the road by 12 feet on each side. It is indicated that the property owners on the south side are willing to donate a strip of land 12 feet wide for the project, and the chairman of the commission has requested a similar grant of Government property.

The Government property line is in the center of Compton Road and it is possible that the county may have acquired by prescription an easement in the existing road prior to the acquisition of the lands by the Government. To obtain

the factual information necessary to pass upon the legal phase of this matter, it would in all probability be troublesome and expensive, and further, in the opinion of the Veterans' Administration, it would be unwarranted, since the entire problem can be effectively solved by a grant on the part of the Government of an easement in a 25-foot strip, 13 feet being one-half of the existing road and 12 feet in addition.

It does not appear that this land will be required for other purposes in developing the facility and it is believed that the improvement of the road will be beneficial to the Veterans' Administration. The manager has reported that the proposed improvement would enhance the appearance of the reservation and that the improved highway would be far more beneficial to the facility than the strip of land which the county desires.

The Veterans' Administration has issued to the county a revocable license granting use of the land in question for highway purposes pending congressional authorization for the granting of an easement.

The property in question has been cleared for disposition as proposed by the Federal Works Agency pursuant to the provisions of the real-estate section of the regulations governing the operation of the Branch of Supply, Procurement Division, Treasury Department, approved by the President April 12, 1935. Information has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the presentation to the Congress of this proposed legislation.

Respectfully,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*

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