

Calendar No. 1205

77TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 1168

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO GRANT EASEMENTS IN CERTAIN LANDS OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION FACILITY, MURFREESBORO, TENN.

MARCH 13 (legislative day, MARCH 5), 1942.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2356]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2356) authorizing the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant easements in certain lands of the Veterans' Administration facility, Murfreesboro, Tenn., to the city of Murfreesboro, State of Tennessee, to enable the city to construct and maintain a water-pumping station and pipe line, having considered the same, report favorably thereon and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is explained in a letter to the President of the Senate, under the date of March 4, 1942, from the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, appended hereto and made a part of this report.

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, March 4, 1942.

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 easements in certain lands of the Veterans' Administration facility, Murfreesboro, Tenn., to the city of Murfreesboro, State of Tennessee, to enable the city to construct and maintain a water-pumping station and pipe line." It is respectfully requested that this draft bill be referred to the appropriate committee of the 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 lands described in the bill in relation to the facility property.

It will be noted that Stone River is a natural watercourse forming the northeasterly boundary of the reservation, and it is indicated that the city has purchased an abandoned power dam which impounds water in the river at this location. This impounded water has been used by the Veterans' Administration as the source of an emergency water supply and it is desirable that it should remain available for this purpose. The facility manager has recommended that the proposed easements be granted with the thought that use of the river as a city water supply will result in maintenance of the dam and an available emergency water supply for the facility. The amount of land required for the pumping station is very small and in an unused portion of the reservation, and as the pipe line would be underground, it does not appear that the proposed structures would interfere with the operation

2 GRANT EASEMENTS IN CERTAIN LANDS, MURFREESBORO, TENN.

of the facility. The right of ingress and egress would be necessary to the city to permit repairs of the pipe line but it is unlikely that the right would be exercised often or would interfere with the facility's activities in any way.

The effluent from the Veterans' Administration sewage disposal plant is emptied into Stones River, and it is probable that in any event it will be necessary in the near future to provide for more complete treatment of sewage and for discharge of the effluent below the dam in the river. It appears probable that if permission to locate the pump house and pipe line on the reservation is refused, another site will be selected by the city which will involve the construction of a pipe line along the public highway in approximately the same location that is proposed for the future sewer line, and the cost of the sewer may be increased by the completion of structures that would be involved. It will be advantageous to the Veterans' Administration to have the city maintain the dam in Stones River and it appears that the proposed site for a pump house and pipe line on the reservation is the most desirable available location from the point of view of both the Veterans' Administration and the city.

The area required for a pump house site is approximately 22 by 35 feet and is partly in the river so that the area of the present reservation that will be fenced by the city is only 12 by 22 feet. The proposed access road is located along the river bank in the northeast corner of the reservation. Neither it nor the pipe line will be fenced and the depth of cover over the pipe will be sufficient so that there will be no interference with use of the land for farming activities.

A pole line to provide power for pumping equipment will be located on private lands on the opposite side of the river and the only pole to be located on the reservation will be inside the fenced pump-house site.

In view of the small area required for a pump house and the fact that the rest of the lands over which easements are desired will remain available for use by the facility, it is believed that the grant is warranted in return for the benefits to be derived.

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.*

○