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SENATE

} REPORT
No. 296

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF INTEREST IN LANDS DEVISED TO THE UNITED STATES BY SOPHIE CHAN- QUET

FEBRUARY 24, 1932.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 694]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 694) to authorize the sale of interest in lands devised to the United States under the will of Sophie Chanquet, having considered the same, report it back to the Senate and recommend that the bill do pass.

The report of the Veterans' Administration is as follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, December 28, 1931.

HON. REED SMOOT,
Chairman Committee on Finance,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR SMOOT: This is in reply to your letter dated December 17, 1931, transmitting copy of S. 694, a bill to authorize the sale of interest in lands devised to the United States under the will of Sophie Chanquet.

I have the honor to advise that under the will of Sophie Chanquet, of Oakland, Calif., executed March 18, 1927, the United States Veterans' hospital at Livermore, Calif., was named one of several residuary legatees of an estate consisting of certain real and personal property. As the bureau hospital at Livermore, Calif., is not a corporate entity, but is an institution under the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration, which, in turn, is a branch of the Federal Government, such hospital is incapable of taking title to the bequest, as is likewise the Veterans' Administration. Title to the bequest is accordingly vested in the United States.

Payment in the amount of \$1,529.84, representing the share of the United States of the money in said estate, has been made by the executor and covered into the Treasury of the United States.

The devise is in the following language:

"I do hereby give, devise, and bequeath all the rest, remainder, and residue of my estate, share and share alike, unto the following organizations, namely: The Red Cross of America; The War Veterans' Hospital at Livermore, Calif., and au fon du docteur Roux de l'hospital, Cantonal de Lausanne, Switzerland,

"I further provide that in the event any portion or portions of the remainder of said estate shall fail for any legal or other cause, then any amount so failing shall be distributed collectively and in equal shares unto my said second cousins mentioned in paragraph third, subdivision g, herein."

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At the time of her death, Sophie Chanquet, according to the decree of settlement of final account and of distribution, had an undivided one-half interest in a parcel of land in the county of Alameda, Calif, and an undivided one-half and undivided one-quarter interest respectively in two separate parcels in the county of San Francisco, Calif. The interest acquired by the United States consists of an undivided one-third interest in the said Sophie Chanquet's interest.

In order for the United States to take advantage of this devise, it is necessary that a sale be authorized. An offer by one of the other parties in interest to buy the share of the United States for the sum of \$4,500 has been tentatively accepted by me, subject to the ratification of the Congress. An investigation by the Department of Justice has shown that this amount is all that may reasonably be expected at this time.

This administration is in favor of the proposed legislation contemplated by S. 694, which bill, it is believed, will serve the purpose.

A copy of this letter is inclosed for your use.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*

