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SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 286 }

CLARENCE J. BURRIS

FEBRUARY 24, 1932.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 791]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 791) for the relief of Clarence J. Burris, having considered the same report it back to the Senate and recommend that the bill do not pass.

The purpose of this bill is to give the benefits of \$10,000 war-risk insurance to a former soldier who never applied for insurance and never paid a premium. He is at present receiving \$25 per month as "automatic insurance," plus compensation for permanent total disability.

The report of the Veterans' Administration is as follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, January 16, 1932.

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

MY DEAR SENATOR SMOOT: This is in reply to your communication of December 29, 1931, with which you forwarded for report a copy of S. 791, Seventy-second Congress, a bill for the relief of Clarence J. Burris. It appears that this bill is identical with S. 4606, Seventieth Congress, and S. 2156, Seventy-first Congress, on which reports were made to your committee on January 22, 1929, and January 20, 1930, respectively.

The bill proposes to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to make payment of insurance to Clarence James Burris, C-302949, in the same manner as if he had had a \$10,000 war-risk term insurance policy in force on the date of the beginning of his total permanent disability.

The records of the Veterans' Administration show that Clarence James Burris enlisted in the naval service of the United States on April 5, 1917, with no defects noted. During service he was treated from February 12 to 16, 1918, for tonsillitis, follicular; February 20, 1918, to March 11, 1919, for pleurisy, suppurative. He was discharged following medical survey on March 11, 1919. This survey shows that the claimant had been in the hospital one year with suppurative pleurisy, complicated by moderate cardiac hypertrophy; dyspnoea, weakness, and tachycardia upon slight exertion.

On October 23, 1919, Mr. Burris filed claim for disability compensation benefits, alleging a disability of chronic myocarditis, which began in February, 1918, and was caused by empyema following influenza.

The disability from which the claimant is suffering has been rated as temporary total from date of separation from active service to September 12, 1924; temporary partial 50 per cent from September 12, 1924, to January 1, 1925, and permanent total from January 1, 1925. Compensation in accordance with this rating has been awarded to the claimant.

The records on file in the Veterans' Administration indicate that Mr. Bubbis did not apply for war-risk insurance while in the service. A careful search of the records fails to disclose an application for insurance executed by him while in the service; the Navy Department has reported that there is no record of insurance for this claimant on file in that department, and the record division of the General Accounting Office has reported that an examination of the pay rolls shows that his pay was not checked for insurance premiums. Accordingly no contract insurance benefits are payable in this case.

Since the prior reports were presented to your committee, automatic insurance benefits have been granted in this case. A rating of permanent and total disability for insurance purposes only, effective February 8, 1918, was made on July 28, 1931. This rating entitles the veteran to automatic insurance under section 402 of the war risk insurance act, and payments of \$25 per month, effective February 8, 1918, have been awarded. In view of this fact, it is presumed that the committee will take no further action on this proposed measure.

I wish to suggest, however, that if further consideration is given to the bill, it is my opinion that the claim for contract insurance in the amount of \$10,000 presents no greater merit than the many others in which men enlisted in the service and failed to avail themselves of the privilege of applying for insurance.

A copy of this letter is inclosed for your use.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*

