

**ENFORCEMENT OF NARCOTIC LAWS**

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JULY 29, 1955.—Ordered to be printed

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

**R E P O R T**

[To accompany H. R. 7018]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7018) to authorize subpoenas in connection with enforcement of the narcotic laws, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

By virtue of this act, the Committee on Finance accepts the report of the Committee on Ways and Means, which is as follows:

**PURPOSE**

H. R. 7018 relates to the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the enforcement of the laws of the United States pertaining to narcotic drugs and marihuana. H. R. 7018 would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any records which the Secretary finds necessary or relevant to an investigation in connection with the enforcement of such laws.

**GENERAL STATEMENT**

Present law provides no authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to subpoena witnesses or to require the production of records with respect to the enforcement of the laws of the United States relating to narcotic drugs and marihuana. It is presently necessary for the enforcement officers of the Treasury Department to obtain subpoenas through the Federal courts upon a showing of sufficient evidence to justify the issuance of the subpoenas.

H. R. 7018 would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to summon persons, papers, books, and records to assist in the enforcement of the Federal narcotic and marihuana laws. A provision is included in your committee's bill that would establish a contempt procedure before Federal district judges as a means of compelling compliance with any summons issued pursuant to the authority that would be established under H. R. 7018.

The Treasury Department expressed the following view in support of the enactment of H. R. 7018 in the departmental report which was submitted to your committee:

"It is generally recognized that the power to subpoena witnesses, and to require the production of records is a legitimate and effective aid to the administration of regulatory and penal statutes. The authority to be granted to the Secretary of

the Treasury by the bill would be an invaluable weapon in the enforcement of the laws relating to narcotic drugs and marihuana. In view of this, the Treasury recommends favorable consideration of the proposed legislation."

The Departments of Treasury and Justice submitted favorable reports on H. R. 7018. Your committee is unanimous in urging the enactment of this legislation.

