

HOSPITALIZATION AT LIBERTY, N. Y., OF CERTAIN BENEFICIARIES OF THE VETERANS' BUREAU

FEBRUARY 28, 1927.—Ordered to be printed

MR. WADSWORTH, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 5624]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 5624) to provide for continued hospitalization at Liberty, N. Y., of certain beneficiaries of the Veterans' Bureau, having had the same under consideration, report it back to the Senate without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The following is a letter signed by Frank T. Hines, Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau, dated February 25, 1927, in relation to the bill:

UNITED STATES VETERANS' BUREAU,
Washington, February 25, 1927.

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

MY DEAR SENATOR SMOOT: Further reference is made to your communication of February 8, 1927, transmitting copy of S. 5624, "A bill to provide for continued hospitalization at Liberty, N. Y., of certain beneficiaries of the Veterans' Bureau," and requesting a report as to the merit of this bill.

This bill authorizes and directs the director to continue the contracts for medical, surgical, and hospital services at Saranac Lake, N. Y., and Liberty, N. Y., notwithstanding the availability of governmental hospital facilities for beneficiaries who may be hospitalized in these two institutions.

The committee is advised that I am not prepared to recommend the enactment of this legislation. It is probably unnecessary to invite the committee's attention to the present authority in the statute permitting the utilization of such contract facilities as these in the event governmental facilities are inadequate. For your information, however, you are advised that the contracts with the hospitalization centers at Saranac and Liberty were originally entered into to provide sanatorium care for veterans before Government hospital beds were available in sufficient numbers to care for the entire load. At these particular centers veterans are hospitalized in so-called nursing cottages with from 3 to 15

HOSPITALIZATION AT LIBERTY, N. Y.

patients in a cottage. They are provided with board and room and ordinary care, the bureau supplying the medical service. During the past three years the number of patients has been materially reduced because of the fact that no new admissions have been made at either center, the intention being to close out the centers as rapidly as could be arranged, having in mind the transfer of those patients where it could be effected without jeopardizing their health. The policy has been to transfer no patients whose condition would be materially affected by transfer.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T HINES, *Director*,

