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72D CONGRESS }
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SENATE

} REPORT
} No. 473

PURCHASE OF TOBACCO FOR INMATES OF VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION HOMES

MARCH 23 (calendar day, MARCH 24), 1932.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3886]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3886) to authorize the purchase of tobacco from funds heretofore or hereafter appropriated for the Veterans' Administration, having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass.

The reports of the Veterans' Administration are as follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, February 23, 1932.

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

MY DEAR SENATOR SMOOT: There is inclosed a draft of a proposed bill to authorize the purchase of tobacco from funds heretofore or hereafter appropriated for the Veterans' Administration.

The furnishing of tobacco to the inmates of Veterans' Administration homes is authorized under existing appropriations. However, upon the consolidation of the Bureau of Pensions, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, and the United States Veterans' Bureau, authorized by the act of July 3, 1930, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Marion, Ind., for example, became a Veterans' Administration hospital in view of the fact that that home had been used primarily for the care and treatment of neuropsychiatric cases. Under existing appropriation laws there is no authority for the furnishing of tobacco in Veterans' Administration hospitals.

In order that there may be a uniform provision the proposed bill is forwarded for introduction in such manner as you may deem appropriate.

A copy of this letter is inclosed for your use.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINES, Administrator

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, March 21, 1932.

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

MY DEAR SENATOR SMOOT: This is in reply to your letter of March 14, 1932, transmitting for investigation and report a copy of S. 3886, a bill to authorize the purchase of tobacco from funds heretofore or hereafter appropriated for the Veterans' Administration.

This bill would provide "That appropriations heretofore or hereafter made for hospital and domiciliary services under the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration shall be available for the purchase of tobacco to be furnished, subject to such regulations as the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs shall prescribe, to patients receiving hospital treatment in Veterans' Administration hospitals and members cared for in Veterans' Administration homes: *Provided*, That tobacco shall not be furnished those in receipt of monetary benefits."

The furnishing of tobacco to the inmates of Veterans' Administration homes is authorized under existing appropriations. However, upon the consolidation of the Bureau of Pensions, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, and the United States Veterans' Bureau, authorized by the act of July 3, 1930, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Marion, Ind., for example, became a Veterans' Administration hospital in view of the fact that that home had been used primarily for the care and treatment of neuropsychiatric cases. Under existing appropriation laws there is no authority for the furnishing of tobacco in Veterans' Administration hospitals.

In order that there may be uniform provisions of law covering this matter for Veterans' Administration homes and Veterans' Administration hospitals, I will recommend favorable consideration of the proposed bill providing the same is in accord with the financial program of the President.

The Director, Bureau of the Budget, is being furnished a report this date with the request that advice be given this administration as to whether the proposed legislation is in accord with the financial program of the President. Upon receipt of the report a supplemental communication will be dispatched to your committee in that connection.

A copy of this letter is inclosed for your use.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINEB, *Administrator.*

