

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON CERTAIN ISTLE OR TAMPICO FIBER

APRIL 14, 1960.—Ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 9861]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 9861) to continue for a temporary period the existing suspension of duty on certain istle or Tampico fiber, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 9861 is to continue until September 5, 1963, the existing suspension of duty on dressed or manufactured istle or Tampico fiber.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Istle or Tampico fiber, not dressed or manufactured, has been duty free since 1930 under paragraph 1684 of the Tariff Act. The dressed or manufactured fiber was dutiable under a catchall provision in paragraph 1558. Sections 1 and 2 of Public Law 85-284, approved September 4, 1957, transferred the dressed or manufactured fiber to paragraph 1684 for a 3-year period, which expires at the close of September 4, 1960. The bill would continue this suspension of duty for a further period of 3 years.

Istle or Tampico fiber is derived from several species of the Agave plant which is indigenous to Mexico. It is one of the best known and most widely used of all vegetable brush fibers. Its principal use in the United States is in the manufacture of brushes.

The situation at the time of enactment of Public Law 85-284 was that there was no domestic production of the raw fiber and an insignificant production of the dressed fiber from imported raw fiber; that good grades of raw fiber were in short supply; and that the brush industry and other importers indicated that the prices of dressed fiber

2 SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON CERTAIN ISTLE OR TAMPICO FIBER

had risen, with resulting increases in the cost of production and in the price of the finished product. The purpose of the suspension was to reduce the burden of the higher prices on domestic users of the fibers.

The U.S. Tariff Commission report on the bill indicated no substantial changes in the conditions under which the earlier suspension was granted. Reports made by the Departments of State, Treasury, and Commerce indicated no objection to enactment of this bill.

No objection to the extension of the suspension of the import duty on dressed or manufactured istle or Tampico fiber has been received by the Committee on Finance.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 4 of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

THE FIRST SECTION AND SECTION 2 OF THE ACT OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1957

(71 Stat. 609; Public Law 85-284)

AN ACT To amend paragraph 1684 of the Tariff Act of 1930 with respect to istle or Tampico fiber, to admit free of duty a beta-ray spectrometer for use at Stanford University, Stanford, California, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That paragraph 1684 of section 201 of the Tariff Act of 1930 is amended as follows: (1) After the paragraph number insert "(a)"; (2) strike out "istle or Tampico fiber,"; and (3) add a new subparagraph as follows:

"(b) Istle or Tampico fiber, whether or not dressed or manufactured."

SEC. 2. The amendments made by the first section of this Act shall apply only in the case of articles entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, [during the three-year period beginning on the day following the date of the enactment of this Act] after September 4, 1957, and before September 5, 1963.

