

Calendar No. 983

73D CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 928

TO PERMIT ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR CENTURY OF PROGRESS EXPOSITION TO BE ADMITTED WITHOUT PAYMENT OF TARIFF

APRIL 26 (calendar day, MAY 9), 1934.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S.J.Res. 112]

The Committee on Finance, to which was referred the joint resolution (S.J.Res. 112) entitled "Joint resolution to permit articles imported from foreign countries for the purpose of exhibition at A Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, Ill., to be admitted without payment of tariff, and for other purposes", having had the same under consideration, report it to the Senate with amendment and recommend that the joint resolution, as amended, do pass.

The amendment is as follows: Strike out the preamble.

This joint resolution as amended by the committee is the same as House Joint Resolution 311, passed by the House of Representatives, and House Report No. 1396 thereon is set out herein as follows:

(H.Rept. No. 1396, 73d Cong., 2d sess.)

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H.J.Res. 311) entitled "Joint resolution to permit articles imported from foreign countries for the purpose of exhibition at A Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, Ill., to be admitted without payment of tariff, and for other purposes", having had the same under consideration, report it back to the House with an amendment, and recommend that the amendment be agreed to and the joint resolution as amended do pass, the amendment being as follows: Strike out the preamble.

GENERAL SCOPE OF THE RESOLUTION

House Joint Resolution 311, introduced by Representative Sabath, of Illinois, would continue in effect for another year Public Resolution No. 56, passed by the Seventy-second Congress and approved by the President, February 24, 1933.

Public Resolution No. 56, following the usual form for such resolutions, permitted foreign exhibitors at the Chicago World's Fair of 1933 to import materials for exhibition purposes only free of duty. The proposed resolution would extend the same privileges to foreign exhibitors at the 1934 Exposition, which is being held in response to a Nation-wide demand and with the announced approval of the President of the United States.

The proposed legislation involves no drain on the Treasury for all expenses of administration are borne by the Exposition. In 1933 duties were collected by the Government to the amount of \$98,492 on exhibit materials which were sold and thereby became assessable under the general tariff laws.

The proposed legislation is identical with the act passed 1 year ago except for minor changes suggested by the Bureau of Customs to make the act more workable. These changes include—

Provision to make the termination of the effective date of the act 3 months after the close of the exposition instead of 6 months as in the 1933 act;

Provision to prevent exhibit goods being taken off the exposition grounds for sale, such being possible under the old act and being regarded as undesirable by the Bureau of Customs;

Provision to make A Century of Progress the sole consignee of merchandise imported under the act, thereby protecting the Government in event any importer shall leave the country before making a full settlement of customs charges.

These provisions grant no new privileges to the Chicago Fair.

Several foreign countries and foreign commercial exhibitors now have goods in New York or en route to New York for showing at the fair opening May 26. Urgency therefore exists for the consideration of the legislation.

The proposed legislation has received the approval of the Treasury Department, as shown by the following letter:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D.C. April 19, 1934.

HON. ROBERT L. DOUGHTON,
Chairman Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am in receipt of your communication of April 4, 1934, requesting any comments or recommendations this Department may care to make on the merits of H.J. Res. 311, to permit articles imported for the purpose of exhibition at A Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, Ill., to be admitted without payment of tariff, and for other purposes.

The proposed legislation is similar in character to Public Resolution No. 82, of the Seventieth Congress (45 Stat. 1152), as amended by Public Resolution No. 56, of the Seventy-second Congress (47 Stat. 905), which authorized the entry, without the payment of duty, of articles imported for the exposition held by A Century of Progress in 1933. House Joint Resolution 311 differs from the previous legislation in the following particulars:

The period during which exhibits may be sold after the close of the exposition is reduced from 6 months to 3 months and the place of sale is limited, during and after the fair, to the area of the exposition. These limitations accord with the usual practice with respect to expositions prior to that held by A Century of Progress.

The transfer to A Century of Progress will be permitted in the case of any imported articles which are in customs custody unentered, entered under customs exhibition bonds, or held in customs custody in bonded warehouses. This will permit the entry under the new legislation of articles imported for the fair held in 1933 and not subsequently exported or entered for consumption in the United States.

The resolution provides that A Century of Progress shall be deemed, for customs purposes only, to be the sole consignee of all merchandise imported under the provisions of the resolution. This will simplify procedure for both the Customs Service and the exposition authorities. A similar provision appears in the act in favor of exhibitions at Rockefeller Center, Inc., in New York City, Public, No. 296, of the Seventy-second Congress (47 Stat. 705).

In other particulars the resolution does not differ in any substantial particular from the provisions of the legislation in favor of the exposition held in 1933, insofar as the functions of this Department are concerned. Provisions in the earlier legislation relating to patents and copyrights are omitted in the present legislation. If the resolution is enacted into law in its present form, I do not believe the Treasury Department will encounter any difficulties in its administration.

Very truly yours,

H. MORGENTHAU, Jr.,
Secretary of the Treasury.