

TRANSFER OF LAND TO TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

APRIL 17, 1951.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2685]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2685) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to reconvey to Tuskegee Institute a tract of land in Macon County, Ala., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The bill authorizes the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to transfer to Tuskegee Institute approximately 100 acres within the present boundaries of the Veterans' Administration hospital reservation in Macon County, Ala. The hospital is located on a tract of approximately 513 acres which adjoins the Tuskegee Institute.

A portion of the present Veterans' Administration reservation was donated to the United States by the institute in 1922. The 100 acres covered by this bill are part of the land donated and the return of this land is sought for the purpose of instructing students in occupational therapy. The tract is unimproved and in recent years only 14 acres of the tract have been used by the Veterans' Administration.

The land sought to be transferred has an estimated value of \$50 per acre or a total estimated value of \$5,000. The return of the land to the Tuskegee Institute will not interfere with the activities of the Veterans' Administration and apparently will prove useful to the institute. No additional appropriation will be required to complete this transfer.

The Veterans' Administration report recommending favorable consideration of this proposal follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D. C., March 29, 1951.

HON. WALTER F. GEORGE,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR GEORGE: This is the response to your request of March 26, 1951, for a report by the Veterans' Administration on H. R. 2685, Eighty-second Congress, an act to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to reconvey to Tuskegee Institute a tract of land in Macon County, Ala., which passed the House of Representatives on March 19, 1951.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to reconvey by quitclaim deed to Tuskegee Institute, formerly known as Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, without monetary consideration, 100 acres, more or less, of certain described land located within the present boundaries of the Veterans' Administration hospital reservation in Macon County, Ala.

The Veterans' Administration hospital, Tuskegee, Ala., is located on a tract of approximately 513 acres, which adjoins the Tuskegee Institute. A portion of the Veterans' Administration reservation was donated to the United States for this hospital by the institute in 1922. The 100 acres covered by the bill are part of the land donated at that time, and return of such acreage has been requested by the President of Tuskegee Institute for use in the instruction of students in occupational therapy. The tract in question is unimproved and densely wooded, and in recent years the Veterans' Administration has utilized only about 14 acres of such land for a hog range and general farm field crops. There is an abundant reserve of standing timber available elsewhere on the reservation, and there will remain, in the event the bill is enacted, adequate acreage for all present purposes and foreseeable expansion.

The tract of land proposed for transfer has an estimated value of \$50 per acre, or approximately \$5,000 for the entire tract. It is surrounded on three sides by land now owned by Tuskegee Institute, and is more than 1,000 feet distant from the nearest Veterans' Administration hospital building. The return of the land to the Tuskegee Institute will not interfere with the activities of the Veterans' Administration hospital, and apparently this additional land will prove useful to Tuskegee Institute. It is noted that, in view of section 2 of H. R. 2685, the Government is assured of the inclusion in the conveyance of provisions which will adequately protect its interests.

There is enclosed for the use of the committee a map of the Veterans' Administration hospital reservation, Tuskegee, Ala., which shows the land described in the bill.

The enactment of H. R. 2685 will not require an additional appropriation. For the reasons indicated, and also in view of the cordial relationship through the years between the Veterans' Administration hospital and the adjoining Tuskegee Institute, the Veterans' Administration recommends favorable consideration of the bill.

Advice was received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the presentation of a similar report to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Sincerely yours,

CARL R. GRAY, Jr., Administrator.

(For copy of map see House Veterans' Affairs Committee Report No. 238.)

