

VETERANS' BUREAU.

JANUARY 9 (calendar day, JANUARY 11), 1923.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3846.]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3846) to amend an act entitled "An act to establish a Veterans' Bureau and to improve the facilities and service of such bureau, and further to amend and modify the war risk insurance act," approved August 9, 1921, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The purpose of this bill is simply to permit Army and Navy officers to administer oaths in matters connected with the Veterans' Bureau. The reasons for the enactment of this legislation are set out in the following letter from the Director of the Veterans' Bureau:

UNITED STATES VETERANS' BUREAU,  
Washington, July 7, 1922.

Hon. P. J. McCUMBER,  
*Chairman Committee on Finance, United States Senate.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In securing the necessary evidence incident to the administration of the war risk insurance act, this bureau is frequently compelled to call on officers and enlisted men of the Army and Navy for information to be considered in the adjudication of claims. At the present time there appears to be no method by which such persons may make affidavit before Army officers or Navy officers, inasmuch as the officers of the Army and Navy are authorized to administer oaths only for purposes of the administration of military and naval justice and for other purposes of military and naval administration. It therefore becomes necessary for the persons from whom evidence is desired by this bureau to go before civil officers authorized to administer oaths before their statements can be considered.

Section 10 of the act of Congress approved August 9, 1921, establishing a Veterans' Bureau, provides that the director may detail certain employees of the bureau to certain duties, incident to which are the administration of oaths, the taking of affidavits, and the certifying to the correctness of statements and documents pertaining to the administration of the act. It seems highly desirable that the officers of the Army and Navy should be accorded the same power with respect to the war risk insurance act as that so delegated to employees of this bureau, particularly when it is considered that such officers have the authority to administer oaths in connection with military and naval administration.

I take this occasion, therefore, to submit a draft of a bill whereby it is proposed to amend section 10 of the act approved August 9, 1921, in a manner which will accomplish this purpose, and commend the same to your favorable consideration.

I am addressing a similar letter to the chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives.

Yours very truly,

L. B. ROGERS, *Acting Director.*