SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL DENTAL CONGRESS

APRIL 13, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. Fairchild, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 209]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to which was referred House Joint Resolution 209 (being a reintroduction of H. J. Res. 170), requesting the President of the United States to invite foreign governments to participate in the seventh international dental congress to be held at Philadelphia, Pa., August 23 to 28, 1926, having given careful consideration to the resolution, reports thereon with the recommendation that the resolution do pass with the following amendments:

Page 1, line 8, change the period to a semicolon and insert the following:

and for the purpose of meeting the expenses which may be actually and necessarily incurred by the Government of the United States by reason of such invitation in the observance of appropriate courtesies the appropriation of the sum of $5,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized, notwithstanding the provisions of any other act.

Page 2, line 2, after the word "congress" change the semicolon to a period and strike out all the language on lines 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Letters from Secretary Kellogg dated March 11, 1926, and March 27, 1926, are appended hereto and made part of this report.

The first international dental congress was held in Paris, France, in 1889, at which the international congress was organized. The second congress was held in Chicago in 1893 and was designated as the "World Columbian Dental Congress." The third congress was held in Paris in 1900. The fourth congress was held in St. Louis in 1914 in connection with the international exposition. The fifth congress was held in Berlin in 1909. The sixth congress was held in England in 1914, but this congress was cut short on account of the European war. The seventh congress is to be held in Philadelphia in 1926.
The United States Government participated in these previous congresses, but without the need of express legislative authority. In the last previous congress held in the United States in 1904 the Hon. John Hay, Secretary of State, sent through the foreign ambassadors invitations on behalf of the United States to all the governments with which the United States was in diplomatic relations to send delegates to the congress.

The necessity for express legislative authority at the present time arises from the following statutory requirement:

Hereafter the Executive shall not extend or accept any invitation to participate in any international congress, conference, or like event, without his having specific authority of law to do so.

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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE,**

Washington, March 11, 1926.

Hon. Stephen G. Porter,
Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 22, 1926, inclosing a copy of House Joint Resolution 170, requesting the President to invite foreign governments to participate in the seventh international dental congress to be held at Philadelphia, August 23 to 28, 1926, in conjunction with the sesquicentennial celebration of American Independence. It is observed that it is provided in the joint resolution "That no appropriation shall be granted at any time hereafter in connection with said congress."

Complying with your request that your committee may receive a report or recommendation from the Department of State on the joint resolution, I beg to state as follows:

The extension by the President of an invitation to foreign governments in pursuance of legislative action by Congress, gives to the event, in the minds of foreign governments, an official status which places upon the Executive responsibility for the proper conduct of the event and appropriate treatment of the foreign delegates. For this reason the Department of State is not inclined to favor legislation as is proposed in this joint resolution unless provision be made therein for representation by the Government of the United States itself and an appropriation be provided that will enable the Executive to observe the courtesies which are customary and expected on such occasions.

Unless these provisions be made, the department would much prefer that the invitations be extended by the American directors of the dental congress directly to foreign governments. These could be forwarded to the Department of State, which would authorize the appropriate diplomatic officers to deliver them to the invited governments on behalf of the invites. The matter would then be understood by the governments, and no responsibility be placed upon the executive branch of this Government.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

Joseph C. Grew,
Acting Secretary of State.

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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE,**

Washington, March 27, 1926.

Hon. Stephen G. Porter,
Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 23, 1926, inclosing a copy of House Joint Resolution 209, requesting the President of the United States to invite foreign governments to participate in the seventh international dental congress to be held at Philadelphia, Pa., August 23–28, 1926.

Complying with your request to receive for your committee's use any comment the Department of State has to make in reference to the resolution, I beg to state that the resolution is similar to House Joint Resolution 170, with certain additions to meet the objections set forth to that resolution in the department's letter to you of March 11, 1926.
The resolution which you now inclose, House Joint Resolution 209, is, in effect, the same as a draft prepared in the Department of State in conference with Senator Shipstead and two members of the dental organization, with the exception of the omission from the resolution as introduced of the provisions "including subsistence (notwithstanding the provision of any other act)."
The department considers the inclusion of this provision as important, and would see no objection to your committee reporting House Joint Resolution 209 favorably if it be amended by the insertion in line 2 of the second page of the print after the word "expenses" and before the word "which," of the words "including subsistence (notwithstanding the provision of any other act)."

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

FRANK B. KELLOGG.
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