Calendar No. 1646

69TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1639

AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS FOR MAINTAINING ALIEN CREWS

FEBRUARY 26, 1927.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BAYARD, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7081]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7081) to authorize reimbursement of the government of the Philippine Islands for maintaining alien crews prior to April 6, 1917, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 354, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

[House Report No. 354, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7081) entitled "A bill to authorize reimbursement of the government of the Philippine Islands for maintaining alien crews prior to April 6, 1917," having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 1571, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

[House Report No. 1571, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session]

The Committee on War Claims to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10474) to authorize reimbursement of the government of the Philippine Islands for maintaining alien crews prior to April 6, 1917, having considered the same report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in a letter from the Secretary of War addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives under date of April 25, 1924, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

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APRIL 25, 1924.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: Shortly before the declaration of war in 1917 between the United States and Germany the Philippine authorities learned that the crews of certain German merchant vessels in Philippine harbors were damaging their ships, and in order to prevent damage to the harbors and other shipping, the Governor General of the Philippine Islands removed these crews to shore on February 5, 1917. This action was taken after cable communication with the Secretary of War, who advised the Governor General that if in his judgment evidence was clear of intention to destroy or sink ships he should take the necessary steps to prevent it.

The Governor of the Philippine Islands incurred an expense of $62,310.65 in maintaining these crews, and a claim for this amount was submitted to the Comptroller General for settlement, who allowed the sum of $50,909.84 for expenses incurred on and after April 6, 1917, and certified this amount to Congress as a certified claim, for which an appropriation was made in the first deficiency act, fiscal year 1924, approved April 2, 1924 (Public, No. 66, 68th Cong.). The balance, $11,400.81, representing expenditures incurred prior to April 6, 1917, was disallowed by the Comptroller General for the reason that there is no provision in law for the payment of any sum expended for interning aliens prior to April 6, 1917.

Since the action taken by the Philippine authorities in interning these alien crews was in the interest and on behalf of the Federal Government, the expenses incurred prior to April 6, 1917, as well as subsequent to that date, are properly chargeable to the United States, and should be reimbursed to the government of the Philippine Islands. In order that legislative authority may be given for such action a draft of legislation is transmitted herewith and its enactment is recommended.

This proposed legislation has been submitted to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, as required by Circular No. 49 of that bureau, who advises that the same is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*

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