

INCREASE OF PENSIONS TO MAIMED VETERANS

JANUARY 6, 1927.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

MR. SWOPE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 13451]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 13451) granting increase of pensions to certain maimed veterans who have lost limbs or have been totally disabled in the same, in line of duty, in the military or naval service of the United States; and to amend section 4788 of the Revised Statutes of the United States by increasing the rates therein for artificial limbs, having duly considered the same, hereby make report of it to the House with unanimous recommendation that the bill do pass.

Section 1 provides an increase of \$15 per month for the loss of a leg or an arm, or a foot or hand. The present allowance is \$65 per month for the loss of a foot or hand and \$75 per month for the loss of a leg or an arm.

Section 2 proposes an allowance of \$100 made once every three years for the purpose of an artificial arm and \$125 for an artificial leg, which is the minimum purchase price quoted by the standard artificial limb manufacturers of the United States. It amends the law of 1876 which allows only \$50 for an artificial arm and \$75 for an artificial leg, which are greatly inadequate under present conditions. The cost of keeping the limbs in repair is also considerable, being subject to frequently getting out of order, and this expense is borne by the veterans themselves. In addition it compels them to contribute \$50 or more from their personal funds in order to obtain a suitable artificial limb.

This legislation would affect 1,097 pensioners, and to increase these to the rates specified in the bill would involve an additional annual cost for 1928 of approximately \$173,000. The attention of the

House of Representatives is invited to the following letter written by the Hon. Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 5, 1927.

Hon. RICHARD N. ELLIOTT,
*Acting Chairman Committee on Invalid Pensions,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. ELLIOTT: I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th instant inclosing a copy of bill (H. R. 13451) to increase the pensions of certain maimed veterans, etc., concerning which you ask an estimate of the cost.

It is found that this legislation would affect 1,097 pensioners, and to increase these to the rates specified in the bill would involve an additional annual cost for 1928 of approximately \$173,000.

A copy of this report was furnished the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, who, under date of the 22d instant, advises that the proposed report, which simply estimates \$173,000 as the additional annual cost for 1928 of the proposed legislation, so far as it relates to pensions to maimed veterans, and which makes no recommendation for or against the bill, is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.