Mr. WOLVERTON, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 15252]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 15252) entitled "A bill to provide relief for certain natives of Borongan, Samar, Philippine Islands, for rental of houses occupied by the United States Army during the years 1900 to 1903," 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 chairman Committee on War Claims, under date of December 7, 1926, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 7, 1926.

Hon. JAMES G. STRONG,
Chairman Committee on War Claims,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. STRONG: I submit the following draft of a bill which I request be introduced in the House of Representatives and enacted into law:

A BILL To provide relief for certain natives of Borongan, Samar, Philippine Islands, for rental of houses occupied by the United States Army during the years 1900 to 1903

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Comptroller General of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to adjust and settle the following listed claims for rental of buildings occupied by the military forces of the United States in Borongan, Samar, Philippine Islands, during the years 1900 to 1903, and to certify same to Congress for an appropriation: Felice Cultura, $91.00; Andres Hipa, $90.00; Ordinito Capito, $60.66; Manuel Cardona, $6.00; Bregido Basado, $112.23; Lino Legion, $61.66; Paulina Asis, $12.53; Daniel Bugtas, $27.60; Dionicia Alegre, $11.33; Felipe Aledo, $5.83; Benbinuto Aligibe, $86.33; Lorenzo de la Cruz, $18.40; Valverde Cardona, $18.40; Teresa Bacola,
$12.83; Emperatriz Basada, $6.20; Lucia Basada, $3.13; Francisco Osido, $18.40; Salas Alegre, $30.67; Esteban Amores, $6.20; Juan Capones, $4.13; Pedro Discar, $6.20; Augustin Carra, $4.13; Geronimo Discar, $4.96; Mateo Banal, $5.80; Felipe Amoyo, $6.13; Jose Badillo, $11.13; Manuel Basada, $10.16; Feliciana Fitong, $27.60; Melchor Barrid, $27.60; Juan Portun, $16.34; Antonio Voloso, $7.67; Mariano Castillano, $14.10; Teresa Bagtong, $0.24; Lucas Britas, $0.20; Guillermo Bugtas, $0.20; Bernardo Galope, $0.20; Estefanio Aporra, $0.23; Magno Abenes, $240.50; Magno Abenes, $411.00; Tin Suna, $244.50; in all, $1,722.42.

The proposed legislation should be enacted into law for the following reasons:

The town of Borongan, Samar, P. I., was garrisoned for many months by the United States Army during the years 1900 to 1903, at which time the houses and property of the natives were occupied for military purposes, for which certain rents were agreed upon but never paid. The matter was considered and investigated by two boards of officers, the first on August 29, 1902, and the second on April 28, 1903. Both boards recommended that the rents be paid to the claimants, as listed in the proposed legislation, and in the sums specified, as all were found to be loyal to the United States and justly entitled to reimbursement.

Upon consideration of the claims by the Judge Advocate General it was stated under date of February 28, 1906, that the claims were considered meritorious, but it was the opinion that the question of loyalty of the native owners should be determined positively prior to payment and recommended that the claims be presented to Congress for consideration.

Under date of March 10, 1906, the War Department submitted to Congress an estimate to cover these claims which amounted to $1,722.42, same being incorporated in House Document No. 617, Fifty-ninth Congress, first session, but final action was not taken thereon. The amount was also submitted with the annual estimates for the fiscal year 1917, but no appropriation was provided therefor.

If any additional information from the War Department is desired, I shall be pleased to furnish it.

If the Committee on Claims wishes to have hearings upon the proposed legislation, the following-named officer has been designated to appear before your Committee: Maj. Thomas S. Pugh, Finance Department.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget has been consulted and advises that the proposed legislation is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

A similar letter has been addressed to the chairman, Committee on Claims, United States Senate.

Sincerely yours,

Dwight F. Davis, Secretary of War.