AN ACT

To provide for the maintenance of production of tungsten, asbestos, fluorspar, and columbium-tantalum in the United States, its Territories, and possessions, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Domestic Tungsten, Asbestos, Fluorspar, and Columbium-Tantalum Production and Purchase Act of 1956".

SEC. 2. The Department of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to establish and maintain—

(a) a program to purchase, f. o. b. carriers' conveyance, milling point, no more than one million two hundred and fifty thousand short ton units of tungsten trioxide ($WO_3$) contained in tungsten concentrates produced from ores mined in the United States, its Territories, and possessions, meeting the same specifications and under the regulations in effect on January 1, 1956, for purchases of this material by the General Services Administration under the authority of the Domestic Minerals Program Extension Act of 1953 (Public Law 206, Eighty-third Congress), at a base price of $55 per short ton unit; Provided, That the Department of the Interior shall not accept offers for delivery in any one calendar month, from any one producer, in excess of five thousand short ton units originating in any one mining district from properties controlled by such producer. For the purposes of the foregoing proviso, tungsten concentrates produced from ores sold to a mill or processing plant in accordance with regulations issued by the Department of the Interior shall not be considered as the production of the owner(s) of the mill or processing plant but shall be considered as the production of the producer of the ores.

(b) a program to purchase nonferrous chrysotile asbestos produced from ores mined in the United States, its Territories, and possessions, meeting the same specifications and under the same regulations and at prices in effect on January 1, 1956, for purchases of this material by the General Services Administration under the authority of the Domestic Minerals Program Extension Act of 1953 (Public Law 206, Eighty-third Congress) in the amount of not to exceed two thousand tons of Crude No. 1 and Crude No. 2 combined, and not to exceed two thousand tons of Crude No. 3, excepting that Crude No. 3 may be purchased only when offered with Crude No. 1 or Crude No. 2, or both, at a ratio of not in excess of one ton of Crude No. 3 to one ton of Crude No. 1 or Crude No. 2, or both.

(c) a program to purchase no more than two hundred and fifty thousand short tons of newly mined acid grade fluorspar produced from ores mined in the United States, its Territories, and possessions. Fluorspar purchased pursuant to this Act shall meet chemical and physical requirements which are not less favorable to producers than those set forth in the National Stockpile Material Purchase Specifications P-69a dated February 13, 1952. Purchases shall be made under the program at a base price of $53 per short dry ton f. o. b. carriers' conveyance at producers' milling point for base quality fluorspar containing 97% calcium fluoride and 1% silica on a dry weight basis. The base price shall be adjusted by premiums and/or penalties on quality which are not less favorable to producers than the following:

1. The price shall be increased 1.1% for each 1% calcium fluoride above 97%, fractions pro rata, and/or
2. The price shall be increased 4.2% for each 1% silica below 1%, fractions pro rata, and/or
3. The price shall be decreased 1.1% for each 1% calcium fluoride below 97%, fractions pro rata, and/or
4. The price shall be decreased 4.2% for each 1% silica above 1%, fractions pro rata.

As used in this section the term "short dry ton" shall mean a short ton of 2000 pounds with 1% allowable moisture. All moisture in excess of 1% shall be deducted from the delivery weight (out-turn U. S. Railroad Scale Weights) of the material accepted to determine the weight on which payment will be based. Adjustment of weight for moisture shall be accomplished by first deducting all moisture, as specified in Government analysis certificates, and then increasing the dry weight by one percentum.

(d) a program to purchase columbium-tantalum-bearing ores or concentrates produced from ores mined in the United States, its Territories, and possessions, meeting the same specifications and under the regulations, and at prices in effect on December 1, 1955, for purchases of this material by the General Services Administration under the authority of the Domestic Minerals Program Extension Act of 1953 (Public Law 206, Eighty-third Congress) in the amount of not to exceed two hundred and fifty thousand pounds of contained combined pentoxide (CbO₂ plus Ta₂O₅).

Sec. 3. All materials purchased pursuant to the authority of this Act shall be held by the Department of the Interior to be made available to the strategic stockpile or to be turned over to the supplemental stockpile created for strategic and critical materials in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 10, 1954 (Public Law 480, Eighty-third Congress (68 Stat. 454)), as amended, as determined by the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to establish and promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, and may delegate any of the functions authorized by this Act to the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 5. The programs established pursuant to the authority of this Act shall terminate on December 31, 1958.

Sec. 6. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Appended July 19, 1956.