

REPORT ON DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE PAPERS

Mr. JOHNSTON of South Carolina, from the Joint Select Committee on the Disposition of Papers in the Executive Departments, to which was referred for examination and recommendation a list of records transmitted to the Senate by the Archivist of the United States that appeared to have no permanent value or historical interest, submitted a report thereon, pursuant to law.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF A COMMITTEE

As in executive session, The following favorable reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MAGNUSON, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce: Sigurd Anderson, of South Dakota, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner;

Edwin R. Butler, of Illinois, to be Assistant Director of Locomotive Inspection; and Meinrade H. Schilly, and Charles W. Mathisson, for permanent appointment as ensigns in the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

BILLS INTRODUCED

Bills were introduced, read the first time, and, by unanimous consent, the second time, and referred as follows:

By Mr. McNAMARA:

S. 2418. A bill for the relief of Junko Hosaka Jordan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JAVITS:

S. 2419. A bill for the relief of Inez Gonzales Abilez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEUBERGER:

S. 2420. A bill to provide that the Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a study to determine the practicability and desirability of the adoption by the United States of the metric system of weights and measures; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

(See the remarks of Mr. NEUBERGER when he introduced the above bill, which appear under a separate heading.)

By Mr. NEUBERGER (by request):

S. 2421. A bill to amend the Klamath Termination Act; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

(See the remarks of Mr. NEUBERGER when he introduced the above bill, which appear under a separate heading.)

By Mr. HUMPHREY:

S. 2422. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of special pension payable to certain persons awarded the Medal of Honor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2423. A bill for the relief of Remedios Villanueva; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(See the remarks of Mr. HUMPHREY when he introduced the first above-mentioned bill, which appear under a separate heading.)

By Mr. PASTORE:

S. 2424. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to provide that the equal-time provisions with respect to candidates for public office shall not apply to news and other similar programs; placed on the calendar.

(See the remarks of Mr. PASTORE when he reported the above bill, which appear under the heading "Reports of Committees.")

JOHN C. MATLON—REFERENCE OF BILL TO COURT OF CLAIMS

Mr. HUMPHREY submitted the following resolution (S. Res. 148), which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Resolved, That the bill (S. 1483) entitled "A bill for the relief of John C. Matlon," now pending in the Senate, together with all accompanying papers, is hereby referred to the Court of Claims; and the court shall proceed with the same in accordance with the provisions of sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28 of the United States Code and report to the Senate, at the earliest practicable date, giving such findings of fact and conclusions thereon as shall be sufficient to inform the Congress of the nature and character of the demand as a claim, legal or equitable, against the United States and the amount, if any, legally or equitably due from the United States to the claimant.

METRIC SYSTEM STUDY WOULD SUPPLY BASIS FOR ADOPTION CONSIDERATION

Mr. NEUBERGER. Mr. President, I introduce, for appropriate reference, a bill to provide for a study by the Department of Commerce of the practicability and desirability of adoption by the United States of the metric system of weights and measures.

Under provisions of my measure, the Secretary of Commerce would be directed to undertake a 3-year investigation of the metric system to determine:

First. Standards and comparative advantages of weights and measures presently used in science, engineering, manufacturing, commerce, and education in this country.

Second. Benefits which the United States might derive from general adoption of the metric system or application of such a system in specific fields, including consideration of the effect such a change would have on U.S. international relations, world trade, and military activities.

Third. Practical difficulties which might be involved in achieving adoption of the metric system for use generally or in specific fields in the United States.

The study would cover 3 years, a length of time considered minimum to accomplish this task. Annual progress reports would be submitted prior to presentation to Congress of the final report and recommendations of the Secretary.

Mr. President, adoption of the metric system by the United States has long been the subject of vigorous, if largely academic, discussion in this country. The metric system was declared a lawful system of measure by Congress in 1866. Additional congressional action would be needed for this country to adopt the system for standard measure, however.

Proponents of changing our Nation's measurements and weights to the metric system point out that such a move would result in a great saving of time through simplification, elimination of difficulties created by the fact that in this country fields such as engineering and science utilize different standards, and ending

of mathematical conversion problems in dealing with peoples of nations which use the far more widespread metric system.

Realization of these advantages would be of tremendous significance to all fields of endeavor in this country.

Teaching of mathematics—a subject of increasing importance in an age of science—would be vastly simplified.

Technological and commercial dealings with other countries would be facilitated, since only the United States, Britain, and the commonwealth countries still base their measuring and weighing on the inch and the ounce.

Production efficiency would be increased because of time saved in calculations and easier exchange of information between various fields.

Mr. President, the principal argument advanced against adoption of the metric system historically has been cost and difficulty of implementation. In this connection, I think it is pertinent to point out that within the last year both Japan and India have adopted the metric system of weights and measures.

The comprehensive study which this bill authorizes would allow us to place the facts on record and evaluate the benefits to be gained against the costs involved. I hope that this proposal, together with similar legislation introduced in the House of Representatives, will receive serious consideration by Congress.

I ask unanimous consent that recent articles from the Machinist and the Washington Post & Times Herald on the subject of the metric system be printed at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred; and, without objection, the articles will be printed in the RECORD.

The bill (S. 2420) to provide that the Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a study to determine the practicability and desirability of the adoption by the United States of the metric system of weights and measures, introduced by Mr. NEUBERGER, was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

The articles presented by Mr. NEUBERGER are as follows:

[From the Machinist, July 9, 1959]

MACHINIST'S TOOL BOX—MORE ON THE METRIC SYSTEM

Another attempt to change the country's measurements from inches, feet, and yards to millimeters, centimeters, and meters appears to be in the making. The Machinist learned reliably last week that the National Bureau of Standards will soon appoint a committee to consider the practical problems of changing to the metric system. The American Association for the Advancement of Science already has established a committee for the same purpose.

The metric system was authorized by law in the United States in 1866. Section 204 of the United States Code declares, "It shall be lawful throughout the United States of America to employ the weights and measures of the metric system. . . ." This means, IAM lawyers explained, that anyone wishing to use the metric system can legally do so. Whether the country adopts this system for