sent any equitable consideration which warrants the direct gratuity award proposed. Unfortunately the procedural reversal by the circuit court of appeals has had no effect in this instance, the position which existed prior to the district court suit. The evidence in this case is complex and controversial. I believe, therefore, that in fairness to Mrs. Mary Prather, Mrs. Florence Prather, and Mrs. Rosaline Spagnola, the bill is entitled to a hearing in court for decision of her claim on its merits, and I would be willing to approve a jurisdictional enactment waiving the bar of any statute of limitations.

Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The White House, August 31, 1954.

S. H. Prather et al., H. R. 9337

H. R. 9337. I have withheld my approval from the bill (H. R. 9337) for the relief of S. H. Prather, Mrs. Florence Prather, and Mrs. Rosaline Spagnola.

The bill proposed to pay the sums of $5,000 to S. H. Prather, $2,000 to Mrs. Florence Prather, and $1,000 to S. H. Prather, Jr., for personal injuries and property damage sustained in an accident in which he, as a result of a collision of their family automobile with a car driven by one Howard Hart, an alleged bootlegger, was injured.

The committee report on this bill (H. R. 2881, 84th Congress, 1st Session) indicates that the collision occurred on August 6, 1935, when Hart was being pursued by an investigator of the Alcohol Tax Unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Treasury Department, who had been searching for the car containing a car bomb. The explanations of the circumstances of the collision are presented in the report from the Department of Justice, which states that Hart was being pursued by a bootlegger who had placed a bomb in his car, which was proceeding at a lawful rate of 20 to 25 miles per hour. Hart's car contained approximately 43 gallons of illicit whiskey at the time.

In this instance the officers were acting in the performance of their official duties in attempting to apprehend persons who were violating the law in their presence. The report of the special investigator of the Alcohol Tax Unit states that Mr. Prather conceded when interviewed that the officers were doing their duty and were without blame, "but that he felt someone should compensate him for the loss and suffering caused." The investigators who had caused the wreck had no duty and were without blame, "but that it might set in motion a chain of events which would create a dangerous precedent." The present enactment, however, fails to meet the needs of the area. This enrolled enactment would pay to the Government arising out of a death to Mrs. Rosaline Spagnola the sum of $675.50 as additional compensation on account of the accidental death of her.

Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The White House, August 31, 1954.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AREA TRANSPORTATION, H. R. 2236

H. R. 2236. I have withheld my approval from the bill (H. R. 2236) entitled "An act to provide for a Commission to regulate the public transportation of passengers by motor vehicle and street railroad within the metropolitan area of Washington, D. C., and to establish a Metropolitan Washington Commission." Title I of this enactment would establish a Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission to study, investigate, and make regulations concerning certain aspects of the Washington metropolitan area transportation problem.

The regulation of public transportation in the greater Washington area must contend with the growth of an integral economic community spreading far beyond the boundaries of the District of Columbia to include Montgomery and Prince Georges in Maryland and Prince George in Virginia. This community is divided by the Potomac River and the existing federal, state, county, and local regulations require a comprehensive plan for the development of public transportation throughout the area.

The present enactment, however, fails to meet the needs of the area. This enrolled enactment would pay to the Government arising out of a death to Mrs. Rosaline Spagnola the sum of $675.50 as additional compensation on account of the accidental death of her.