H. R. 6452 AND H. R. 9119

Mr. SADLAK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend my remarks at this point in the Record.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The Speaker. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. SADLAK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend my remarks at this point in the Record.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. SADLAK. Mr. Speaker, on March 28 of this year, I introduced H. R. 6452 a bill to reform the income tax rate structure and provide substantial reductions to all income-tax payers over a 5-year period. I can tell you that the response to this bill has been most heartening. Taxpayers and their groups from all sections of the country have expressed their support for the legislation and hope for enactment. It is my firm belief that the central tax problem of our times is the excessive rates of income tax, both the individual rates which rise so rapidly through the middle brackets and the high combined corporate rate. This, especially, is the problem of the new, the small, the growing business, and of the ability of the economy as a whole to provide adequate savings out of current income to insure the capital for steady economic expansion and steady improvement in the standard of living for our citizens. The responses to my bill establish the correctness of this diagnosis. I am confident that the only answer to the problem is in this kind of legislation.

At the time I introduced H. R. 6452, the prevailing notion was that tax reductions grow on the building of huge surpluses in 1 year. My theory is that the way to plan for the full amount and right kind of tax reduction to think of more moderate, but repetitive surpluses year after year which can be applied to reducing the senseless rates. I do believe that this approach has received increasing understanding and support in the intervening months.

Mr. Speaker, the present situation has been built up over more than 2 decades, as we have ricocheted from crisis to crisis. I do not believe that any particular group or person in Government is responsible for the situation. But I do believe that we have come to recognize that all of us in Government have a heavy responsibility to get on with the program which we have before us and establish a tax system that provides a satisfactory solution within a reasonable time. We cannot get out of the situation by the tax reduction applicable to only 1 year, but in 1 year, we can plan and lay down a legislative program for its resolution over a period of time. That is the purpose of H. R. 6452.

Moreover, it certainly is better to plan for repetitive annual reductions in tax rates, out of increased revenue which comes from economic growth, than to make a tax reduction so large in 1 year that even temporary imbalance in the budget is caused or threatened.

We must recognize that we are dealing with a problem here for which there are no panaceas, but, in my opinion, there is a good and necessary movement to reform the tax system. By forward-scheduling of tax reduction, as provided in H. R. 6452, we do put ourselves, as the Government, in the position of having to justify—show the necessity—for bigger spending and continuation of existing tax rates through any year. This, I believe, will exert a very healthy restraining influence on both the administration and the Congress in foregoing the type of spending commitments which tend to usurp revenue growth dollars instead of making them available for tax reduction. At the same time, the legislation provides adequate safeguards in the form of postponement procedures which, if necessary, could be applied to avoid a renewal of deficit financing because of increased spending resulting from emergency conditions. In short, the legislation preempts a large part of expected revenue growth for return to the taxpayer, but at the same time, offers no threat to continuation of our economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H. R. 6452 in no spirit of partisanship; to the contrary, it was my hope that the existence and resulting discussion of this program will be the development of a sustained bipartisan movement to reform the income-tax rate structure and establish moderation in all rates as the core of Federal tax policy. I have been gratified and gratified that my good friend and esteemed colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Hertse), will become the cementing force most important, the gentlemen on the Ways and Means Committee and this Congress to move forward toward full consideration and enactment of this legislation.

As is well known, the Speaker, when I introduced H. R. 6452, I had high hopes that open hearings on tax reduction would be held by the Ways and Means Committee during this session of Congress and that such hearings might lead to enactment of this legislation this year. While this was not to be, I am happy that our revered and distinguished chairman, the Honorable James Oberstar, has scheduled hearings on a general tax revision to begin January 7, 1958.

These hearings will offer the opportunity which I know that taxpayers and tax groups have been asking for. It is inconceivable to me that they will not take full advantage of these hearings to document the cause of the harmful and blighting effect of the present income-tax system on the vitality and steady progress of our economy. I sincerely hope that these hearings will lead to enactment of the program laid down in H. R. 6452 and H. R. 9119 with the first scheduled reductions effective January 1, 1958.

WALTER H. BERRY—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 238)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:
I am returning herewith, without my approval, H. R. 6981, for the relief of Walter H. Berry.

The bill proposes payment of $1,097.30 to Mr. Berry for salary lost during his erroneous separation from the Federal
service from May 10, 1947, to September 2, 1947.

Mr. Berry's separation occurred before the act of June 10, 1948 (Public Law 658, 80th Cong., 1st sess.), which makes general provision for the payment of lost compensation to Federal personnel restored to duty following periods of unwarranted separation. Although this bill does not make the -cussion of law, for reasons of equity, I would be willing to approve a bill granting proper redress. The payment proposed by this bill, however, is inappropriate.

Mr. Berry, at the time of his erroneous separation, received a lump-sum cash payment for 477 hours of unused annual leave. Under existing law, other employees in such circumstances are required either to refund the lump-sum leave payment and have the leave recredited to them or, have the amount of the lump-sum payment deducted from the compensation paid for the period of separation. This employee should be accorded similar treatment.

I have, for this reason, felt obliged to withhold my approval from the bill in its present form.

Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The White House, August 19, 1957.

The SPEAKER. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal, and without objection the bill and message will be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

There was no objection.

Committee on the Judiciary

Mr. Celler. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary may have until midnight tonight to file certain reports.

The Speaker. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Consent Calendar

The Speaker. This is Consent Calendar. The Clerk will call the first bill on the Consent Calendar.

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Civil War

The Clerk called the resolution (H. J. Res. 253) to establish a commission to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Civil War, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Whereas the years 1861-65 will mark the centennial of the American Civil War, the supreme experience in our history as a nation; and

Whereas the sacrifice of our people in that great ordeal was severe in all sections of the land; and

Whereas the far-reaching events of the Civil War established that the United States would remain permanently one nation; and

Whereas, in the Civil War, the greatest internal crisis through which this Nation passed, forged the unity of this country and the sons of both North and South have subsequently fought side by side for human freedom, justice, and the dignity of the individual among people everywhere; and

Whereas the preservation of the national military and battlefield parks contemplates acquisition of the necessary lands and easements around these great battlefields and the furnishing of improvements to assure proper and adequate upkeep of these battlefields and American fields of valor and sacrifice; and

Whereas it is incumbent upon us as a nation to provide for the proper observances of this great and continuing force in our history: Therefore be it

Resolved, etc., That (a) in order to provide for appropriate and nationwide observances and the coordination of ceremonies, the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall establish a commission to be known as the Civil War Centennial Commission, hereafter in this act referred to as the Commission, which shall be composed of 20 members, as follows: (1) The President of the United States, (2) President of the Senate, (3) Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be ex officio members of the Commission; (2) Four Members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate; (3) Four Members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; (4) Eight members to be appointed by the President of the United States, and (5) One representative of each department of the Interior who shall be the Director of the National Park Service or his representative.

(b) The Director of the National Park Service shall call the first meeting of the Commission for the purpose of electing a Chairman. The Commission, at its discretion, may appoint honorary members to establish an advisory council to assist it in its work.

(c) Appointments provided for in this section, with the exception of honorary members, shall be made within 90 days from the date of enactment of this resolution. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Commission to prepare an overall program to include specific plans for commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Civil War. In preparing its plans and programs, the Commission shall give due consideration to any similar and related State, civic, patriotic, hereditary, and historical bodies, and may designate special committees with representation from such organizations to work with the Commission to plan and conduct specific ceremonies. The Commission may give suitable recognition to medals and certificates or by other appropriate means to persons and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in preserving and writing the history of the Civil War.

Sec. 3. In order to conduct effectively centennial observances on the Civil War battlefields and related historic sites included within the national park system, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, is authorized to undertake as part of the mission 66 program, the further preservation and development of such battlefield and related historic sites and in such manner as will assure that a fitting observance be held at each such battlefield or site as its centennial occurs during the period 1961-65.

Sec. 4. The President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue proclamations inviting the people of the United States to participate in and observe the centennial anniversaries of the nationally significant historic commemorations of which are provided for herein.

Sec. 5 (a) The Commission is authorized to accept donations of money, property, or personal services with State, civic, patriotic, hereditary, and historical groups and with institutions of learning: and to call upon other Federal departments or agencies for their advice and assistance in carrying out the purposes of this resolution. (b) The Commission, upon the request of the President, finds it to be necessary, may, without regard to the laws and procedures applicable to Federal agencies, acquire title to, or have the use of, real property, and make contracts, expend in furtherance of this resolution funds donated or funds received in pursuance of contracts hereunder, and may acquire such additional lands, buildings, or personal property that are necessary to enable it to carry out efficiently and in the public interest the purposes of this resolution.

(a) The National Park Service is designated to provide all general administrative services.

Sec. 6. (a) The Commission may employ, without regard to civil service laws or the Classification Act of 1949, an executive director, and such other employees as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

(b) Expenditures of the Commission shall be paid by the National Park Service as general administrative agent, which shall keep complete records of such expenditures and shall account also for all funds received by the Commission.

(c) A report shall be submitted to the Congress, pursuant to section 205 of the act of March 1, 1956. Thereafter, an annual report of the activities of the Commission, including an accounting of funds expended shall be furnished by the Commission to the Congress. A final report shall be made to the Congress no later than June 30, 1966, in which date the Commission shall terminate.

(d) Any property acquired by the Commission remaining upon the dissolution of the Commission shall be used by the Secretary of the Interior for purposes of the national park system or may be disposed of as surplus property. The net gains, after payment of costs and expenses, derived from Commission activities, shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States.

Sec. 7. (a) The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be furnished transportation and reimbursement at not to exceed $20 per diem, in lieu of subsistence, while engaged in the discharge of their duties provided for in this resolution.

(b) Service of an individual as a member of the Commission shall not be considered as an employment or period of service for purposes of section 337 of title 5, United States Code, or section 201, Revised Statutes (5 U. S. C. 99); nor shall any member of the Commission be eligible to serve as a Member or the Government with respect to the reports provided for in this act.

Sec. 8. Notwithstanding section 2, of the act of July 1, 1894 (28 Stat. 290), as amended (5 U. S. C. 62), or section 6 of the act of May 10, 1916 (39 Stat. 120), as amended (5 U. S. C. 56), the Chairman of the Commission may appoint to, and employ, in any civilian office or position in the Commission, any permanent or appointed officer, or retired warrant officer, of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and any permanent classified officer of a retired grade, or any retired commissioned officer, or any retired warrant officer, of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Survey, or any permanent classified officer of any grade, shall be in no way affected by reason of his service in, or acceptance or grade, as reasons, the right, privilege, or benefit incident to or by reason of service in, or acceptance or grade, of any member of the Commission, or in any manner, or by reason of service in, or acceptance or grade, of any civil officer or position in the Commission or in any other Federal department or agency. The following officers shall serve without compensation, but shall be furnished transportation and be reimbursed at not to exceed $20 per diem, in lieu of subsistence, while engaged in the discharge of their duties provided for in this resolution.