MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Carrell, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to a bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 3050. An act to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended.

CIVIL DEFENSE NEED

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to state that a Member of Congress had been at my side at 10 this morning, when the sirens sounded for the Washington area's A-raid drill in the schools.

I was in one of the fine schools of Maryland, where two of my boys are enrolled, when the drill began. At the principal's request, I walked the halls of the school to inspect the safety measures being taken.

In room after room, little children from 6 to 12 were on their knees, huddled under their classroom desks, their hands clasped about their heads for protection.

For 10 minutes, until the all-clear, they stayed in this position.

It was a saddening and also a chilling sight to watch.

The inadequacy of those tiny desks as protection for our children is symbolic to me of the deplorable and inexusable lag of our preparedness program on the home front.

We are not properly prepared, and all of us in the Government must share the awful responsibility for our unpreparedness.

In the name of God, Mr. Speaker, must we wait until A-bombs and H-bombs begin to fall, before providing adequate and safe emergency shelters for our children? It is shocking evidence of national complacency in a time of great world peril, that construction is not already completed in every target city of our Nation.

The time to act on this national need is not next week, or tomorrow, but today.

Tomorrow may be too late.

MRS. JOSETTE L. ST. MARIE—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 432)

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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. 6452, 83d Congress. "An act for the relief of Mrs. Josette L. St. Marie."

The bill proposes that Frank P. St. Marie's death in service on March 9, 1943, shall be held and considered to have been in line of duty.

Private St. Marie, then on active service in the United States Army, committed suicide on March 9, 1943, while in confinement because of excessive use of alcoholic beverages. The military department determined that his death was in line of duty, while mentally unsound, and not the result of his own misconduct.

The claim of Mrs. Josette L. St. Marie for death compensation as dependent mother was denied by the Veterans' Administration on the ground that death was due to the soldier's own misconduct.

It appears that favorable action by the committees which considered H. R. 6452 was based upon disagreement with the determination of the Veterans' Administration and a belief that the military department's determination is entitled to greater weight and should be controlling. The national policy involved in this case involves the adjudicative function of evaluation of evidence to determine whether the soldier's death was in line of duty and not due to his own misconduct.

The statutory duty of making such determinations is the sole responsibility of the Veterans' Administration. I am informed that the conclusion of the Veterans' Administration in the case is fully substantiated by the evidence of record, and in my judgment it is unwise to adjudicate individual cases by private legislation.

To prefer this case for special treatment to the exclusion of other similar cases would be unwarranted and discriminatory. In this regard, I am advised that during the past 6 years approximately 1,000 claims for service-connected death compensation in World War II cases alone have been denied on the ground that the veteran's death was due to his own voluntary misconduct. Furthermore, it is understood that there are no dependents of World War II veterans on the death compensation rolls as a consequence of enactment of a private law. Approval of H. R. 6452 could result in the placing of such a dependent on the mentioned rolls, and possibly retroactively for almost a 9-year period. Thus, its approval would constitute a far-reaching precedent which I am unable to accept.

I am opposed to setting aside the principle and rules of administration prescribed in the public laws governing veterans' benefit programs. Uniformity and equality of treatment to all who are similarly situated must be the steadfast rule if the Federal programs for veterans and their dependents are to be operated successfully. Approval of H. R. 6452 would not be in keeping with these principles.

Dwight D. Eisenhower,
The White House, June 14, 1954.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 printed.

There was no objection.

MRS. ROSE KACZMARCZYK—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 431)

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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. 898, 83d Congress. "An act for the relief of Mrs. Rose Kaczmarczyk."

The bill would authorize and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to Mrs. Rose Kaczmarczyk the sum of
$4,344, which represents the service-connected death compensation she would have received for the period June 23, 1944, the day following the date of death of her son, William F. Kaczmarczyk, through April 3, 1951, if claim for such compensation had been filed within 1 year after the death of her son and she had been found to be otherwise eligible.

The evidence discloses that William Paul Kaczmarczyk served in the Army of the United States from June 4, 1942, until his death on June 22, 1944. After receipt of notice from the Department of the Army of the death of the service man, the Veterans Administration, on August 25, 1944, mailed a letter to the mother of the deceased, Mrs. Rose Kaczmarczyk, expressing regret over the death of her son and enclosing an application form for death compensation, which gave instructions for its completion and return to the Veterans Administration. There was no response to the application, or to any correspondence on her behalf, until April 4, 1951, the date of receipt of an application by Mrs. Kaczmarczyk for death compensation. Thereafter, she was awarded death compensation at the rate of $60 per month effective April 4, 1951, the date of filing such claim with the Veterans Administration, which is the earliest date from which such benefits are payable under existing law. Payment of such compensation has continued to date.

It appears that favorable action by the committees which considered H. R. 898 was based on the belief that since the claimant could not read English and did not realize her rights, the delay in filing claim should be excused. It is pertinent to note in this connection that on August 11, 1944, the Veterans Administration sent Mrs. Kaczmarczyk a form for claiming her son's $10,000 national service life insurance, and that her completed claim for that insurance was returned to the Veterans Administration 3 days later. Mrs. Kaczmarczyk was thereafter awarded payments for life in the amount of $66.50 per month, beginning June 22, 1944.

Further, it is indicated in the committee reports that had Mrs. Kaczmarczyk filed a timely application for death compensation she would have been entitled to compensation in the sum stated in the bill for the period from June 23, 1944, through April 3, 1951. In order to have been eligible for compensation during the stated period, Mrs. Kaczmarczyk, in addition to filing a timely claim, would have had to establish that she was the dependent mother of the veteran during that period. I am informed that she has not submitted to the Veterans Administration evidence — and it is not known whether she is in a position to do so — to establish that during the almost 7-year period under consideration she was in dependent circumstances.

The report of the Senate committee also states their belief that the situation here involved is unique and would not constitute a precedent for future claims. To the contrary, I am informed that there are many other claimants for death compensation benefits who, like Mrs. Kaczmarczyk, by reason of inaction on their part within the period established by law, are not entitled to retroactive awards of death compensation. To prove this bill therefore would obviously be discriminatory. As I have stated in the past, it is unwise to set aside the principles and rules of administration prescribed in the general laws governing veterans' benefit programs. Uniformity and equality of treatment to all who are similarly situated must be the steadfast rule if the Federal programs for veterans and their dependents are to be operated successfully.

For the foregoing reasons, I am unable to approve H. R. 898, which would authorize payment of compensation from a date almost 7 years earlier than the date authorized by the general law and in a case where the evidence of record fails to establish that the claimant is otherwise eligible.

Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House, June 14, 1954.

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

There was no objection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is District of Columbia day. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. TALLE).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1953

Mr. TALLE. Mr. Speaker, I call up the bill (H. R. 9077) to amend section 405 of the District of Columbia Law Enforcement Act of 1953, to make available to the judges of such District the psychiatric and psychological services provided for in such section, and ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered in the House as in Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 405 of the act entitled "An act relating to banking, building and trust companies in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes," approved April 6, 1899 (12 Stat. 780), as amended by act of June 25, 1934 (48 Stat. 1152), is amended to read as follows:

"(1) Bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness of the United States, any State, Territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, of Canada, any Province of the Dominion of Canada, or of any administration, agency, or instrumentality of any of the political units enumerated; or obligations issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development." Sec. 2. Section 18 (1) of chapter II of the act of October 9, 1940 (54 Stat. 1072; D. C. Code, title 35, sec. 151 (1)), is amended to read as follows:

"(1) Bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of the United States, any State, Territory, or possession of the United States, or of the Dominion of Canada, or of any Province thereof; or obligations issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development." Payment was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PAYMENT OF CERTAIN TRUST ACCOUNTS TO BENEFICIARY ON DEATH OF TRUSTEE BY SAVINGS AND LOAN, AND SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. TALLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on the District of Columbia, I call up the bill (H. R. 9090) to permit the claim trust accounts to the beneficiary on the death of the trustee by savings and loan, and similar associations in the District of Columbia, and ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered in the House as in Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 4 of the act entitled "An act relating to banking, building and trust companies in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes," approved April 6, 1899 (12 Stat. 780), as amended by act of June 25, 1934 (48 Stat. 1152), is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 4. Whenever a deposit, savings account, or share account, which is in form trust for another, shall be made or held by any person in any bank, trust company, savings and loan association, building association, building and loan association, or savings and loan association, doing business in the District of Columbia, and no other or further notice of the existence and terms of a legal and valid trust shall have been given in writing to such bank, trust company, or other association, such deposit, savings accounts, or share account, or any part thereof, together with the dividends, or interest thereon, may, in the event of the death of the trustee, be paid to the person for whom such deposit, savings account, or share account was made or held, or to his legal representative."