

S. 3652. An act for the relief of Francis Timothy Mary Hodgson (formerly Victor Charles Joyce).

On September 2, 1954:

S. 2316. An act for the relief of the Birmingham Iron Works, Inc.; and

S. 2618. An act for the relief of Ertogrul Osman.

On September 3, 1954:

S. 2862. An act to provide relief for the sheep-raising industry by making special nonquota immigrant visas available to certain skilled alien sheepherders.

DISAPPROVAL OF SENATE BILLS AFTER ADJOURNMENT

The message also announced that the President had disapproved bills of the Senate of the following titles:

On August 26, 1954:

GEORGE PANTELAS

S. 154. I am withholding my approval of S. 154, for the relief of George Pantelas.

The beneficiary of the bill is an alien who is deportable on the ground that at the time of his last entry he was not in possession of a valid immigration visa and because of his record of crimes involving moral turpitude.

The bill would authorize and direct the Attorney General to discontinue the pending deportation proceedings, cancel any outstanding order of deportation, warrant of arrest and bond which may have been issued, and would exempt the alien from deportation in the future by reason of the same facts upon which the current proceedings are based.

The alien was born in Greece on February 12, 1903. He originally entered the United States in 1921. On May 3, 1929, he was convicted in California of issuing checks without sufficient funds and sentenced to an indeterminate term of imprisonment for not more than 14 years. He was subsequently deported from the United States on June 18, 1931, because of his criminal record. Thereafter, the alien reentered the United States as a temporary visitor on May 28, 1940, under an assumed name. In proceedings before the Immigration and Naturalization Service he testified that in order to obtain a Greek passport in another individual's name he paid \$100 for a birth certificate and thereafter committed perjury and forgery in securing the necessary passport visa for his reentry.

While I am in sympathy with the evident purpose of this legislation to provide support for the family of the alien, the record of bad conduct presented in this case convinces me that the granting of the relief proposed would not be in the best interests of the United States.

Accordingly, I am withholding my approval from this bill.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

THE WHITE HOUSE, August 26, 1954.

ESTATE OF MARY BEATON DENNINGER

S. 3064. I have withheld my approval from S. 3064, 83d Congress, an act for the relief of the estate of Mary Beaton Denninger, deceased.

The bill would authorize and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to the estate of Mrs. Denninger the sum of

\$780.36 in full settlement of all claims of the estate against the United States for payment of certain installments of an indemnity under the Servicemen's Indemnity Act of 1951.

Robert William Denninger died in service on November 20, 1952. The proceeds of a policy of United States Government life insurance, \$2,443.27, were paid on behalf of Mary Beaton Denninger, the designated beneficiary. However, in order to determine whether she was also entitled as a widow to an indemnity of \$7,000 under the Servicemen's Indemnity Act of 1951, for which no beneficiary had been designated, it was necessary to obtain evidence of the interlocutory judgment of divorce which the serviceman had obtained from her effective March 12, 1952, as well as evidence pertaining to the dissolution of one of her prior marriages. Upon receipt of evidence establishing her eligibility, settlement was authorized on her behalf and, without knowledge that she had died 2 days previously, a check for \$780.36 representing 12 accrued installments of indemnity was mailed to a Veterans' Administration agency on October 27, 1953, for delivery to the payee. Because of the death the check was returned and canceled.

The law prohibited payment to Mrs. Denninger's estate, and thereafter the Veterans' Administration made settlement of the indemnity in favor of the serviceman's parents, the next entitled beneficiaries. This settlement included the installments totaling \$780.36 which had accrued during the lifetime of Mrs. Denninger. The bill proposes that, in addition, the Government pay \$780.36 to Mrs. Denninger's estate.

Favorable action by the committees which considered the bill appears to have been based upon the view that the installments which accrued prior to Mrs. Denninger's death became her property and, accordingly, should be paid to her estate. The specific language of the law clearly expresses a contrary intention on the part of the Congress. I cannot agree either that the mandatory provision of the law should be abrogated in this case to the exclusion of other similar cases, or that the Government should be subjected to double payment of those installments of indemnity which accrued during Mrs. Denninger's lifetime. To do so would obviously be discriminatory and precedential.

As I have previously stated, if the law is to be changed it should be changed for all. Uniformity and equality of treatment under general law applicable equally to all must be the steadfast rule if the Federal programs for veterans and their dependents are to be operated successfully. Heeding the special plea of individual cases would obviously destroy the effectiveness of these programs.

For the foregoing reasons, I am unable to justify approval of S. 3064.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

THE WHITE HOUSE, August 26, 1954.

On August 28, 1954:

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

S. 1706. I have withheld my approval from S. 1706, to provide for taxation by the State of Wyoming of certain property

located within the confines of Grand Teton National Park, and for other purposes.

The bill would permit the State of Wyoming and any taxing authority of the State to levy taxes on privately owned hotels or lodging facilities within Grand Teton National Park. It further provides that if the United States acquires such properties in the future, payments in lieu of taxes will be made by the United States in amounts equal to the last annual taxes assessed against the property by the State or locality when it was privately owned.

This legislation is unnecessary for two reasons: First, the State now has authority to tax privately owned hotel or lodging facilities in the park and has collected such taxes for some time. Second, there appears to be no disposition on the part of the United States to acquire any such property in Grand Teton National Park, either through purchase or donation. However, I am withholding my approval not only because the bill is unnecessary but also because of the precedent it might establish for piecemeal action in this field.

The present Congress approved my recommendation that a Commission on Intergovernmental Relations be established to study the means of achieving a sounder relationship between Federal, State, and local governments. I have requested that the Commission's report include recommendations as to how to solve the difficult problems which arise in the field of intergovernmental tax immunities. The Commission has a special study committee on in lieu payments and shared revenues. The Commission's report is expected in the near future, and it is anticipated that the administration will recommend legislation to accomplish its recommendations shortly thereafter.

I believe that questions of Federal tax immunity should be decided broadly and deliberately, rather than through a succession of piecemeal decisions and that this decision should await the recommendations of the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations on this question.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

THE WHITE HOUSE, August 28, 1954.

On August 31, 1954:

ESTATE OF CARLOS M. COCHRAN

S. 820. I have withheld my approval from S. 820, for the relief of the estate of Carlos M. Cochran.

This enrolled enactment would pay the sum of \$5,000 to the estate of Carlos M. Cochran, who was killed in line of duty when he was a member of the Armed Forces in 1942.

The soldier decedent was discovered lying beside a highway just outside the entrance to the military installation where he was stationed. Although he appears to have been temporarily of unsound mind at the time, the sentry at the gate to the installation who discovered him and took him into custody was not aware of this fact. While the sentry was telephoning for military policemen to come to the gatehouse for the decedent, he attempted to escape. He failed to obey the sentry's three shouted