

authorizations multiplied to the point where he felt compelled to exercise his veto. The same pattern recurred in the administrations of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. In view of this historical pattern, which by now has become so clear, I think that it is both wiser and fairer to make known my views on this subject at the outset. I therefore regretfully withhold my approval of S. 987.

As has been suggested in the past, it seems to me wholly appropriate that anniversaries like this one, which the Congress deems it desirable to commemorate, should be recognized by bills authorizing the Treasury to provide suitable commemorative medals at cost.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 1954.

COINAGE OF 50-CENT PIECES TO COMMEMORATE THE TERCENTENNIAL OF FOUNDATION OF CITY OF NEW YORK—VETO MESSAGE (S. DOC. NO. 94)

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, which was read, and, with the accompanying bill, ordered to lie on the table:

To the United States Senate:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, S. 2474, "to authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces to commemorate the tercentennial of the foundation of the city of New York."

The proposed legislation would authorize the coinage of not to exceed 5 million silver 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the tercentennial of the founding of the city of New York.

The principal objection to commemorative coins is that they detract from the fundamental function of the coinage as a medium of exchange. Multiplicity of designs on United States coins would tend to create confusion among the public, and to facilitate counterfeiting. The Congress recognized the necessity for limiting the designs of coins by section 3510 of the Revised Statutes which provides that "no change in the design or die of any coin shall be made oftener than once in 25 years from and including the year of the first adoption of the design, model, die, or hub for the same coin."

I am further advised by the Treasury Department that in the past in many instances the public interest in these special coins has been so short lived that their sales for the purposes intended have lagged with the result that large quantities have remained unsold and have been returned to the mints for melting.

I fully recognize the importance to the country of the event which this coin would commemorate. I recognize, too, that the authorization of 1 or 2 or 3 of such issues of coins would not do major harm. However, experience has demonstrated that the authorization of even a single commemorative issue brings forth a flood of other authorizations to commemorate events or anniversaries of local or national importance. In the administration of President Hoover, these authorizations multiplied to the

point where he felt compelled to exercise his veto. The same pattern recurred in the administrations of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. In view of this historical pattern, which by now has become so clear, I think that it is both wiser and fairer to make known my views on this subject at the outset. I therefore regretfully withhold my approval of S. 2474.

As has been suggested in the past, it seems to me wholly appropriate that anniversaries like this one, which the Congress deems it desirable to commemorate, should be recognized by bills authorizing the Treasury to provide suitable commemorative medals at cost.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 1954.

RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 2175) to amend title VI of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, with respect to the retirement of employees in the legislative branch, which was to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That title VI of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

"Sec. 603. (a) Section 4 of the Civil Service Retirement Act of May 29, 1930, as amended, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(g) Any officer or employee in the legislative branch of the Government within the classes of officers and employees made eligible for the benefits of this act by the act of July 13, 1937, or the act of June 21, 1947, retiring under this act on or after the date of enactment of this subsection and after having rendered at least 6 years of service as such an officer or employee shall, if he so elects at the time of retirement, be paid, in lieu of an annuity computed under subsection (a), a life annuity equal to the sum of the following:

"(A) 2½ percent of the average salary, pay, or compensation received by him during any five consecutive years of allowable service at his option multiplied by the sum of his years of service as an employee described in this subsection and the years of his allowable military or naval service; and

"(B) 1½ percent of such average salary, pay, or compensation multiplied by the years of his allowable service other than service referred to in clause (A).

"In no case shall an annuity computed under this subsection exceed an amount equal to 75 percent of the highest average annual salary, pay, or compensation received by the officer or employee during any 5 consecutive years of allowable service. No officer or employee shall be entitled to the benefits of this subsection unless there shall have been deducted and withheld from his salary, pay, or compensation for the last 5 years of his service, or there shall have been deposited under section 9 with respect to such last 5 years of service, the amounts specified in section 9."

"(b) Section 3 (a) of such act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, any officer or employee in the legislative branch of the Government within the classes of officers or employees which were made eligible for the benefits of this

act by the act of July 13, 1937, or the act of June 21, 1947, serving in such position on the date of enactment of this paragraph, may give notice of his desire to come within the purview of this act at any time prior to the expiration of 6 months after such date of enactment."

"(c) Section 3A of such act is amended as follows:

"(1) Paragraph (3) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) No person shall be entitled to receive an annuity as provided in this section until he shall have become separated from the service after having had at least 6 years of service as a Member of Congress and have attained the age of 62 years or after having had at least 10 years of service as a Member of Congress and have attained the age of 60 years, except that (A) any such Member who shall have had at least 5 years of service as a Member of Congress, may, subject to the provisions of section 6 and of paragraph (4) of this section, be retired for disability, irrespective of age, and be paid an annuity computed in accordance with paragraph (5) of this section, and (B) any such Member who shall have become separated from the service after having had at least 10 years of service as a Member of Congress and have attained the age of 55 years may receive an annuity computed as provided in paragraph (5) of this section reduced by one-fourth of 1 percent for each full month he is under the age of 60 years."

"(2) Paragraph (5) is amended to read as follows:

"(5) Subject to the provisions of section 9 and of subsections (c) and (d) of section 4, the annuity of a Member of Congress shall be an amount equal to 2½ percent of the average annual basic salary, pay, or compensation received by him during any 5 consecutive years of allowable service as a Member of Congress at his option multiplied by the sum of his years of service as a Member of Congress and his years of active service performed as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States prior to his separation from service as a Member of Congress, but no such annuity shall exceed an amount equal to three-fourths of the basic salary, pay, or compensation that he is receiving at the time of such separation from service."

"(3) Paragraph (10) is amended by inserting before the period at the end thereof a semicolon and the following: "and the term 'basic salary, pay, or compensation' includes amounts received as expense allowance under section 601 (b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended; and the term 'active service performed as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States' means (A) active service performed as a member of such forces, during any war or national emergency proclaimed by the President or declared by the Congress, by a Member of Congress who left or leaves his office for the purpose of performing such service, and (B) any other periods of active service, not to exceed an aggregate of 5 years, performed as a member of such forces, but shall not include any such service for which credit is allowed for the purposes of retirement or retired pay under any other provision of law, including title II of the Army and Air Force Vitalization and Retirement Equalization Act of 1948."

"(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 (a) of the Act of February 28, 1948—

"(A) the last proviso in section 9 of the Civil Service Act of May 29, 1930, as amended, shall apply to Members of Congress; and

"(B) subsections (c) and (d) of section 12 of such act shall apply in the case of Members of Congress dying after the date of enactment of this section. Such subsections (c) and (d) shall apply to the widower of any such Member of Congress to the same extent and in the same manner as to the