

**MRS. JOHN WILLIAM BRENNAN—
VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRES-
IDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H.
DOC. NO. 154)**

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. 1863, for the relief of Mrs. John William Brennan.

The bill proposes to consider that John William Brennan, Sr., had \$4,000 United States Government life insurance in effect at the time of his death on September 15, 1952, and to require the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to pay such insurance to the veteran's widow.

The insurance protection under the veteran's United States Government life insurance policies lapsed on December 1, 1933, because of the nonpayment of premiums. On April 25, 1951, Mr. Brennan visited the Veterans' Administration regional office, Jackson, Miss., to apply for \$4,000 insurance. An employee executed a portion of the insurance application but, because of the rush of business, Mr. Brennan was apparently advised to return home, have his private physician give him the necessary physical examination, and return the completed application to the Veterans' Administration. Mr. Brennan secured the examination the following morning and mailed the application.

Section 10 of the Insurance Act of 1951 provided, in part, that on and after the date of enactment (April 25, 1951) no United States Government life insurance could be granted unless an acceptable application accompanied by proper and valid premium remittance had been received by, or mailed to, the Veterans' Administration on or before that date. Since Mr. Brennan's application and premium remittance were not mailed on or before April 25, 1951, the Veterans' Administration advised him that the statutory requirements were not met and that that agency was precluded from issuing the insurance to him. Mr. Brennan died on September 15, 1952.

It appears from the committee reports on the bill that the correctness of the denial of Mr. Brennan's insurance application is conceded. Favorable action by the committee apparently was based on the belief that, as a matter of equity, the delay in filing the application should be waived since, if it had been filed 1 day earlier, it would have been accepted and the insurance issued.

It is clear that the Congress intended to terminate the granting of national service life insurance and United States Government life insurance on the date of enactment of the Servicemen's Indemnity Act. No provision was made for a processing period for additional applications or for advance notice to policyholders or former policyholders. The date of enactment depended entirely upon when the enrolled measure was actually signed by the President. This date could not have been precisely anticipated by the Congress, the interested public, or by Veterans' Administration employees processing insurance appli-

cations. Accordingly, whatever the medical facts of the case might have been, Mr. Brennan did not file his application in time to meet a deadline which the Congress intended to become effective without advance notice.

The committees' assumption that the insurance would have been issued if the application therefor had been timely filed is not supported by the record. To the contrary, the medical records indicate that Mr. Brennan suffered from increased blood pressure and pulse rate of long standing, to a degree, in several instances, greater than can be considered consistent with good health and beyond the acceptable limits for insurance purposes. In this connection, it is also pertinent to note that the Veterans' Administration on two previous occasions rejected applications by Mr. Brennan for United States Government life insurance because of high blood pressure and rapid pulse rate.

Under the circumstances, it is my opinion that this case does not warrant equitable relief or present a basis for exceptional or preferred treatment. Approval of the bill would be discriminatory and constitute a precedent which cannot be dismissed. In a Federal program as large as the United States Government life-insurance program, it is most important that the laws be administered uniformly and with special favor for none. Payment of a gratuity in the guise of insurance, as proposed by H. R. 1863, would not be in keeping with these principles.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 17, 1957.

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

There was no objection.

TUNGSTEN, A STRATEGIC METAL

Mr. DAWSON of Utah. 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAWSON of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is very easy in time of peace—however unstable—to forget what happens to this Nation and its needs for strategic metals in times of emergency. Tungsten is a good example and the recent history of our Nation's need of this vital metal points up the value of having a dependable domestic source available.

Surely, Members remember how this domestic tungsten program got started. It came with the Korean crisis when we found ourselves without tungsten and without any substantial domestic production upon which to draw.

This Nation went out onto the world market in a desperate effort to obtain tungsten and in so doing bid the price up to \$69 per unit—\$14 per unit more than the purchase program here under discussion proposes to pay our domestic

mines. We paid the high price for tungsten because we had no alternative. But the Nation at that time determined it would not be put in that spot again. As a result, the purchase-stockpiling program was adopted to encourage domestic exploration and development of tungsten.

The program—from a production standpoint—was an overwhelming success. This Nation is now self-sufficient in tungsten. But an uneasy peace has returned to the world and as a result the metal can again be obtained from foreign sources at a price cheaper than the domestic industry—which this Government called into being—can meet. Let us remember, however, that it is this very domestic production that has served to lower the world price of tungsten and let us remember that without this production we would again be dependent upon foreign sources whose slogan is "All the market will bear."

I think we all realize that stockpiling is a stopgap measure to be relied upon only until the administration's long-range minerals program can find a more stable and orderly solution. Unfortunately, the long-range program has yet to be submitted to Congress. As a result there is still a gap to be stopped and this program is designed to do that.

It is shortsighted economy, Mr. Speaker, to again make ourselves dependent upon foreign sources of a metal we must have for our defense. We should keep our domestic mines in operation as insurance—the best available—against price gouging in the world market place.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted as follows:

To Mr. COFFIN, for April 18 and April 29, on account of official business.

To Mrs. ST. GEORGE (at the request of Mr. ARENDS), for today, on account of illness in family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

Mr. BURNS of Hawaii, for 15 minutes, today.

Mr. COFFIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HENDERSON, for 30 minutes, tomorrow.

Mr. BAILEY, for 20 minutes, today.

Mr. THOMPSON of New Jersey, for 10 minutes, on today, and to include extraneous matter.

Mr. LONG, for 30 minutes, on today.

Mr. POWELL, for 20 minutes, on tomorrow.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to extend remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, or to revise and extend remarks, was granted to:

Mrs. SULLIVAN (at the request of Mr. ZABLOCKI) and to include extraneous matter.