

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HAYS of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read two short paragraphs from yesterday's Washington Post, quoting a teacher in the District of Columbia schools:

"There is not a week goes by that I don't find 5 to 10 children in need of shoes," she says. "Each week, we feed lunch and milk to countless numbers. It may seem strange but many of our families can't afford the luxury of milk, even under the school's penny milk program."

"This talk of a mild recession usually is thought of in terms of a slight decline in business, not in terms of human beings in need. I have been a principal for several years and emergency needs today are more widespread than I have ever seen them."

This is in face of the fact that we are supposed to have a surplus of milk and dairy products. The reason we have a surplus is because we do not have the proper way to get these products into the hands of the people who need them and at a price they can afford to pay.

CLAIMS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE—VETO MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 334)

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is further consideration of the veto message of the President on the bill (H. R. 395) to confer jurisdiction upon the United States Court of Claims with respect to claims against the United States of certain employees of the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice.

The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. REED].

Mr. REED of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the bill and message be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

FOR THE RELIEF OF MRS. ANNA HOLDER—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 335)

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

To the House of Representatives:

I return herewith H. R. 3733, for the relief of Mrs. Anna Holder.

This measure, in directing the payment to Mrs. Anna Holder of the sum of \$10,000, would provide a special legislative settlement of her claim that she is entitled to that amount from the Government as the beneficiary named in two \$5,000 policies of National Service Life Insurance.

These policies matured in May 1945. Mrs. Holder, the sole surviving designated beneficiary, thereupon claimed the proceeds. She established that the

deceased serviceman, an orphan, had been reared from early childhood by her parents, and that she occupied a de facto relationship of sister for many years. The Veterans' Administration denied her claim, ruling that she did not come within the permitted classes of beneficiaries prescribed in the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940, as amended. The correctness of the ruling of the Veterans' Administration under the applicable law is not disputed.

The Congress imposed specific limitations on the classes of beneficiaries permitted to be named under National Service Life Insurance maturing before August 1, 1946. Similarly, the Congress did not vest in the Veterans' Administration authority to grant exceptions from the general rule.

Therefore, it seems to me irrelevant and unwise to accept as justification for this bill, the fact that Mrs. Holder could now qualify as a beneficiary under existing law, which was not made retroactive.

On the other hand, I believe that it is relevant to take fully into account several other factors of great importance in connection with the national service life insurance program as it existed up to 1946. The insurance was issued at peacetime rates which it was recognized would provide but a small fraction of the cost of the program if the United States should become involved in a war. Consequently, provision was made that all benefits payable because of deaths due to the extra hazard of military service would, in effect, be paid from appropriated funds. This was done by reimbursing the trust fund for such costs. Under these circumstances, it was considered desirable to restrict those eligible for benefits to the categories of persons to whose support the veteran might be obligated to contribute.

Finally, I cannot overlook considerations of equity to all beneficiaries as contrasted with the individual case in which the deceased veteran named an ineligible person as the beneficiary of his insurance. I have expressed the view, on other occasions, that uniformity and equality of treatment to all who are similarly situated must be the steadfast rule if the Federal programs for veterans and their beneficiaries are to be operated successfully. Otherwise, inequities are compounded, as is fully revealed by statistics reported by the Veterans' Administration. More than 3,200 claims of designated beneficiaries for the proceeds of national service life insurance have been denied because they were not within the prescribed classes of beneficiaries. A great number of them involved relationships which appear to have been just as close and as real as that claimed by Mrs. Holder.

In my judgment, this is not a case in which the circumstances are so unique or exceptional as to justify a waiver of the law. I, therefore, withhold my approval from the bill.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 23, 1954.

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 printed.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION FROM COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication, which was read by the Clerk:

FEBRUARY 18, 1954.

Hon. JOSEPH W. MARTIN,
Member of Congress, Speaker of the House of Representatives, United States Capitol Building, Washington, D. C.

My DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I herewith tender my resignation as a member of the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

With kind personal regards, I am,
Very sincerely,

N. M. MASON.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION BILL, 1954

Mr. TABER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H. R. 7996) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1954, and for other purposes.

Pending that motion, I ask unanimous consent that general debate be limited to 30 minutes, one-half to be controlled by the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. CANNON] and one-half by myself.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, that is entirely satisfactory on this side.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill H. R. 7996, with Mr. NELSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

By unanimous consent, the first reading of the bill was dispensed with.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the consent agreement general debate will continue not to exceed 30 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Missouri.

The gentleman from New York is recognized.

Mr. TABER. Mr. Chairman, this bill carries appropriations totaling \$25,785,000. Of the total involved \$5,500,000 is for judgments and adjudicated claims. We are anxious to get this through because it stops the flow of interest out of the Treasury on these claims.

Four million eight hundred thousand dollars is for the Treasury, and there is a transfer provision involving \$7,620,000 out of Air Force funds to be used by the