19753
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

On September 24, 1959:


H.R. 6904. An act to establish an Advisory Commission on InterGovernmental Relations.

H.R. 4812. An act to amend the Federal air pollution control law, and

S. 5085. An act making appropriations for mutual security and related agencies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960, and for other purposes.

HOUSE BILLS DISAPPROVED AFTER
SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The message further announced that the President had disapproved the following bills of the House on the date indicated.

COAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

H.R. 6586. I am withholding my approval from H.R. 6586, a bill to encourage and stimulate the production and conservation of coal in the United States through research and development by creating a Coal Research and Development Commission, and for other purposes.

The Department of the Interior currently administers research and conservation programs for coal, as well as for other mineral resources. An additional agency for this purpose were now to be created, the Department of the Interior's established interest in such matters would be diluted and the result could only be a blurring of the lines of governmental responsibility in this important area of concern.

The first Hoover Commission recommended that the various functions of the Government be grouped into major departments and agencies on the basis of purpose. The creation of a new coal research agency by approving H.R. 6586 would be a step in the process that has been made in following the Hoover Commission recommendations for improving the organization of the Federal Government. The bill is also undesirable because it could serve as a precedent for the creation of other such special agencies.

One provision of H.R. 6586 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract for coal research. This feature of the bill is highly desirable and I urge the Congress to enact legislation granting such authority to the Secretary. H.R. 3375, or S. 1362, now pending in the Congress, would accomplish this purpose, and have been endorsed by the administration to stimulate research, as well as production and conservation of coal.

Dwight D. Eisenhower.


PEONY PARK, INC.

H.R. 3096. I am withholding my approval from H.R. 3096, entitled "An act for the relief of Peony Park, Inc., and others."

The bill would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay the total sum of $100,706.50 to nine operators of ballrooms in Nebraska in refund of cabaret taxes paid by the claimants during the period September 1948 through October 1949.

By judicial decision the cabaret tax here involved has been held to have been properly collected from the claimants during the period covered by the bill.

Until January 1951, however, interpretation and enforcement of the applicable statute by the Internal Revenue Service were not uniform throughout the United States. Accordingly, until the interpretation of the law was clarified by judicial decision, and until enforcement of the law became uniform throughout the United States after January 1951, similarly situated taxpayers in many States were not required to pay the tax. The cabaret tax, however, was uniformly enforced within the State of Nebraska and was paid by establishments within the competitive area of the claimants.

Moreover, during the years 1950, the tax was enforced in at least 17 jurisdictions, and during the major portion of the year 1951 was uniformly enforced throughout the United States against similarly situated taxpayers.

This bill not only would refund to the nine claimants a tax which was properly collected, but it would also discriminate against many other similarly situated taxpayers to whom no relief would be granted. Furthermore, the bill might unjustly enrich its beneficiaries by refunding the cabaret tax without regard to whether the ultimate burden of the tax was borne by the claimants or passed on to their patrons.

Under the circumstances, therefore, I am constrained to withhold my approval of the bill.

Dwight D. Eisenhower.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 21, 1959.

FEDERAL BOATING ACT OF 1958—TO EXTEND

H.R. 8728. I am withholding my approval from H.R. 8728, to amend the Federal Boating Act of 1958 to extend until April 1, 1961, the period when certain provisions of that act will take effect.

The Federal Boating Act of 1958 provides for the establishment of a new system of numbering small undocumented vessels. Under the act, the part of the new system to be administered by the U.S. Coast Guard is to go into effect on April 1, 1960, at which time the authority for the existing system would be repealed. The bill would extend this effective date from April 1, 1960, to April 1, 1961.

This legislation was originally considered necessary because it had not been possible to obtain a supplemental appropriation for the Coast Guard to administer the new system. Since Congress passed the bill, however, the funds required for the implementation of the Federal Boating Act have been included in the Mutual Security Appropriation Act, 1960. Consequently, the extension of time provided in the bill is no longer needed.

Dwight D. Eisenhower.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 21, 1959.