To be brigadier generals


MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Carroll, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills and joint resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. R. 8787. An act to provide for a pro-rated stationary allowance in the case of a Member of the House of Representatives elected for a portion of a term;

H. R. 9796. An act to increase the amount of telephone and telegraph service furnished to Members of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes;

H. J. Res. 455. Joint resolution relating to tobacco acreage allotments and marketing quotas;

H. J. Res. 518. Joint resolution relating to staple and other staple crops;

H. J. Res. 521. Joint resolution relating to tobacco acreage allotments and marketing quotas;

H. J. Res. 522. Joint resolution relating to tobacco acreage allotments and marketing quotas;

H. J. Res. 526. Joint resolution to amend the joint resolution of March 25, 1953, relating to electrical and mechanical office equipment for Members, officers, and committees of the House of Representatives, to remove officers and committees from certain limitations, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title:

S. Con. Res. 64. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint committee to arrange for the inauguration of the President-elect of the United States, January 20, 1957.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3053. An act to extend the time within which the District of Columbia Auditorium Commission may submit its report and recommendations with respect to the civic auditorium to be constructed in the District of Columbia, and to provide that such Commission shall continue in existence until the construction of such auditorium shall have been completed; and

S. Con. Res. 55. Concurrent resolution to print for the use of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary copies of certain hearings and reports of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate.

AMENDING NATURAL GAS ACT— VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 342)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House:

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

To the House of Representatives:

I am unable to approve H. R. 6645, to amend the Natural Gas Act, as amended. This I regret because I am in accord with its basic objectives.

Since the passage of this bill, a body of evidence has accumulated indicating that private persons, apparently representing only a very small segment of a great and vital industry, have been seeking to further their own interests by highly questionable activities. These investigations indicate that I deemed to be so arrogant and so much in defiance of acceptable standards of propriety as to risk creating doubt among the American people concerning the integrity of governmental processes.

Legitimately constituted agencies of Government are now engaged in investigating this situation. These investigations conclude before the expiration of the 10-day period within which the President must act upon the legislation under the Constitution.

I believe I would not be discharging my own duty were I to approve this legislation before the activities in question have been fully investigated by the Congress and the Department of Justice. To do so under such conditions could
Mr. CELLER. Mr. Speaker, I believe the administration is worthy of condign criticism for lifting the embargo on the shipment of arms to Saudi Arabia. Was the administration right when it first suspended the shipment of arms it regarded as preposterous, or is it a question of who gets the President's ear last. The President deplores the arms race in the Middle East. He said defensive arms to Israel, surrounded by enemies, would be an exorbitant race, but arms to Saudi Arabia, a member of the Arab League bent upon Israel's annihilation, would not be contributing to the arms race.

That is like feeding beefsteaks to a tiger in the hope of making the tiger a vegetarian. Assuredly our State Department has blundered stupidly in the handling of these shipments. The administration can only exculpate itself by granting defensive arms to the little State of Israel. Yesterday, the New York Times, editorially said:

There is just one kind of adjective for the project revealed and interrupted early Friday morning to send 18 United States tanks to Saudi Arabia to the word preposterous. Somebody blundered in sanctioning this arrangement. Somebody blundered in the apparent belief that the tanks had already been shipped. Somebody blundered even more egregiously in keeping the whole matter secret until it was to be exposed. Senator Goss suggests an investigation—"it seems a good idea."

It is not that there is anything illegal in getting rid of surplus military equipment. It is ingenious rather than sinful to steady the ship. But the only excuse I can see for the blunder is the kind of befuddlement in our Near Eastern foreign policy. We have been hesitating to send arms or money for arms to the little State of Israel, whose government must fight for the survival of the State of Israel, while the Soviet Union and the Communist governments threaten it from south and east. The military strength of a country without friends when that power is fortified by a battle of the Meuse-Argonne.

Of course, it is not the kind of arms race, but certainly we do not improve this situation when we increase the military strength of a country that usually threatens Israel from the east as Egypt threatens it from south and east.

The only excuse I can see for the bungling of the State Department lies in a quotation from John Morley: "A government must contain a ballast of mediocrity to steady the ship."

WICKERSHAM OF WASHITA

Mr. TRIMBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

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

There was no objection.

EMBARGO ON SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. CELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend my remarks.

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

There was no objection.