

WILLIAM JOSEPH VINCENT

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M E S S A G E

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

WITHOUT APPROVAL THE BILL (H.R. 3498) FOR THE RELIEF OF  
WILLIAM JOSEPH VINCENT

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MAY 29, 1961.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be  
printed

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*To the House of Representatives:*

I am returning herewith, without my approval, H.R. 3498, for the relief of William Joseph Vincent.

This bill proposes that this veteran be relieved of an obligation to repay non-service-connected pension payments which he received while ineligible. Payments depended upon his annual compensation and he misinformed the Veterans' Administration of the amount of this compensation.

The facts were easily obtainable by the veteran. The overpayment and consequent repayment obligation resulting from the misinformation are, of course, unfortunate, but the fault was clearly that of the claimant and not of the Government.

Approval of this bill would adversely affect administration of the program of veteran benefits and seriously discriminate against thousands of other similarly situated veterans. It is important that all veterans and their dependents be similarly treated and that we preserve the integrity and impartiality which are essential. This we cannot do if we grant special privilege and favored treatment to one or a few or allow profit from misrepresentation.

JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 26, 1961.