

On December 22, 1944:

S. 1925. An act to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue to Charles F. White a patent in fee to certain land;

S. 1971. An act to provide for the disposal of certain mail matter condemned by the Director of Censorship;

S. 2026. An act authorizing the issuance of a patent in fee to Richard Pickett; and

S. 2208. An act providing for the transfer of certain property from the Home Owners' Loan Corporation to the United States for national-park purposes.

On December 23, 1944:

S. 1461. An act to amend further the Civil Service Retirement Act, approved May 29, 1930, as amended;

S. 1827. An act for the relief of Oliver N. Knight;

S. 1979. An act to regulate in the District of Columbia the transfer of shares of stock in corporations and to make uniform the law with reference thereto; and

S. 2071. An act to eliminate as uncollectible certain credits of the United States.

POCKET VETOED

On December 23, 1944:

S. 1602. An act authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Interior to issue to Winnie Left Her Behind, a patent in fee to certain land; and

S. 1746. An act authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Interior to issue to Peter A. Condelario, a patent in fee to certain land.

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I have withheld my approval from S. 1602, authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Interior to issue to Winnie Left Her Behind, a patent in fee to certain land.

The application for a patent in fee filed in 1943 by the restricted Indian named in this bill indicates that neither she nor her husband has had any practical business experience and that they are not capable of handling their affairs competently. The available evidence is to the effect that the granting of a patent in fee would tend to the dissipation of an asset which now is a source of permanent revenue, even though small, and which should be preserved for the benefit of the present owner and her heirs.

There is ample authority under existing law for the Secretary of the Interior to issue a patent in fee to the particular tract of land here involved. The Congress has authorized him to issue such patents when, in his judgment, the best interests of the Indian would be served by so doing. It has directed him not to issue such patents to an Indian whom he finds to be incompetent in business affairs. The only effect of this measure, therefore, would be to compel the Secretary to act contrary to his best judgment in a situation where his determination is amply supported by the facts.

Since it is evident that the action directed by S. 1602 would work to the disadvantage of the Indian concerned, I do not feel that I would be justified in giving my approval to this bill.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 23, 1944.

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I have withheld my approval from S. 1746, "Authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Interior to issue to Peter A.

Condelario a patent in fee to certain land."

The passage of this measure would appear to have been predicated on the assumption that the restricted Indian named in the bill is entitled to a patent in fee because of the expiration of the 25-year-trust period referred to in the trust patent under which he now holds his lands. This assumption overlooks the fact that the Congress has enacted general legislation extending all such trust periods until their termination is deemed justified.

It is the considered judgment of the Secretary of the Interior and of the officers of the local Indian Agency that the best interests of Mr. Condelario would not be served by the issuance of a patent in fee at the present time while Mr. Condelario is absent in military service. Should he still desire to dispose of his land when he returns, his application for a fee patent will be given every consideration.

There is ample authority under existing law for the Secretary of the Interior to issue a patent in fee to the particular tract of land here involved whenever he determines that the best interests of the Indian would be served by this action. The facts of the present case fail to reveal any reason for departing from the sound policy of the Congress to continue restrictions on Indian land until the owner is found competent to manage his affairs in accordance with the general procedure established for this purpose. Accordingly, I do not feel that I would be justified in giving my approval to S. 1746.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 23, 1944.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1944

The House met at 12 o'clock noon, and was called to order by Mr. Cox as Speaker pro tempore.

Rev. Bernard Braskamp, D. D., pastor of Gunton Temple Memorial Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C., offered the following prayer:

Infinite and eternal God, who art the inspiration and strength of heroic spirits in every age, we pray that in these dark and difficult days we may be numbered among those who walk courageously the path of high idealism which alone leads to noble achievement.

Grant unto us a clear and constant vision of the kingdom of righteousness and peace which nothing can dim and a determination to hasten its coming which nothing can daunt.

We pray that Thou wilt emancipate our souls from that low visibility which comes from self-seeking and spiritual cowardice. Give us the guiding and sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit, for we humbly confess that we are frequently so bewildered and we doubt our own best judgment.

When this Congress adjourns may all whom Thou hast entrusted with positions

of leadership and service in the life of our Republic receive Thy benediction, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." May the Christmas season be full of blessedness because the Christ of prophecy who became the Christ of history has become for all of us the Christ of experience. In His name we pray. Amen.

The Journal of the proceedings of yesterday was read and approved.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Frazier, its legislative clerk, announced that the Senate recedes from its amendment to the bill (H. R. 3429) entitled "An act to amend section 1 of an act entitled 'An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to employ engineers and economists for consultation purposes on important reclamation work,' approved February 28, 1929 (45 Stat. 1406), as amended by the act of April 22, 1940 (54 Stat. 148)."

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the reports of the committees of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to bills of the House of the following titles:

H. R. 2185. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in carrying out the purposes of the act of May 18, 1916 (39 Stat. 137), to purchase logs, lumber, and other forest products; and

H. R. 5587. An act making appropriations to supply deficiencies in certain appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, and for prior fiscal years, and to provide supplemental appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1945, and June 30, 1946, and for other purposes.

DECLARATION OF RECESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. RAMSPECK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order for the Speaker pro tempore to declare a recess at any time for the balance of this week, subject to the call of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

Mr. HOFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, will opportunity be given Members to speak during the day?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Ample opportunity will be given all Members to speak.

Mr. HOFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I prefer an unanimous-consent request at this time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As soon as the pending request is disposed of, the Chair will consider a request from the gentleman. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE

Mr. HOFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that upon conclusion of the legislative business for today, if any, and any other special orders, I may be permitted to proceed for 20 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.