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Administration statistics: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Montana, That the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana request the President of the United States to review the decision made by his Administrator of Veterans' Affairs in the closing of the Veterans' Administration facility at Miles City, Mont., and request the Congress of the United States to investigate this decision with the idea of canceling said order; be it further

Resolved, That the secretary of state be instructed to send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs of the United States, and to the Montana delegation of Congress.

"RAY J. WAYRYNEN,

"Speaker of the House.

"TED JAMES,

"President of the Senate".

By Mr. SALTONSTALL (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts):

Two resolutions of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare:

"RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO PREVENT THE CLOSING OF THE RUTLAND HEIGHTS HOSPITAL

"Whereas it has been brought to the attention of the Massachusetts House of Representatives that the medical-surgical facilities of the Veterans' Administration located at Rutland Heights in the Commonwealth will be closed effective June 30 of the current year; and

"Whereas the closing of this facility is in direct conflict with the general philosophy behind veterans' benefits in the United States as it has evolved over a long period of years and will result in derogation of veterans' benefits; and

"Whereas the removal of this hospital will work a particular hardship on the veterans of the Commonwealth and the present facilities should be retained to serve those who have served so well: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts House of Representatives urgently requests that the Congress of the United States take such action as may be necessary to prevent the closing of the veterans' facilities at Rutland Heights; and be it further

Resolved, That the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs of the United States rescind the order providing for the closing of the medical-surgical facilities located at Rutland Heights; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent forthwith by the secretary of the Commonwealth to the President of the United States, to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, the Surgeon General of the United States, to the Presiding Officer of each branch of Congress and to each Member thereof from this Commonwealth.

"House of representatives, adopted, January 20, 1965.

"WILLIAM C. MAIERS,

"Clerk.

"Attest:

"KEVIN H. WHITE,

"Secretary of the Commonwealth."

"RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE TO PREVENT THE CLOSING OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITAL IN THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT OF BOSTON

"Whereas it has been brought to the attention of the Massachusetts House of Repre-

sentatives that the U.S. Public Health Service hospital in the Brighton district of Boston will be closed; and

"Whereas more than 60,000 outpatients, many of whom are fishermen engaged in New England's oldest industry, are treated annually in this facility; and

"Whereas if the Rutland Heights Hospital of the Veterans' Administration is closed, the load on remaining U.S. hospitals for inpatient service will be increased: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts House of Representatives urgently requests that the Congress of the United States take such action as may be necessary to prevent the closing of the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in the Brighton district of Boston; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare of the United States rescind the order providing for the closing of said hospital; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent forthwith by the secretary of the Commonwealth to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, to the presiding officer of each branch of Congress and to each Member thereof from this Commonwealth.

"House of representatives, adopted, January 20, 1965.

"WILLIAM C. MAIERS,

"Clerk.

"Attest:

"KEVIN H. WHITE,

"Secretary of the Commonwealth."

BILLS INTRODUCED

Bills were introduced, read the first time, and, by unanimous consent, the second time, and referred as follows:

By Mr. DIRKSEN:

S. 892. A bill to repeal retailers excise taxes on jewelry, furs, toilet preparations, and luggage; to the Committee on Finance. (See the remarks of Mr. DIRKSEN when he introduced the above bill, which appeared under a separate heading.)

By Mr. MANSFIELD (for Mr. GRUENING and Mr. BARTLETT):

S. 893. A bill to amend the act of June 19, 1935 (49 Stat. 388), as amended, relating to the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

By Mr. MONDALE:

S. 894. A bill to facilitate the entry of alien skilled specialists and the spouse and children of such specialists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOUGLAS:

S. 895. A bill to amend section 4071 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INOUBE (by request):

S. 896. A bill to amend section 1485 of title 10, United States Code, relating to the transportation of remains of deceased dependents of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

(See the remarks of Mr. INOUBE when he introduced the above bill, which appear under a separate heading.)

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. MONDALE):

S. 897. A bill to provide for the establishment of the St. Croix National Scenic Waterway in the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

(See the remarks of Mr. NELSON when he introduced the above bill, which appear under a separate heading.)

REPEAL OF CERTAIN RETAIL EXCISE TAXES

Mr. DIRKSEN. Mr. President, in 1941, Congress levied a number of retail excise taxes on furs, jewelry, luggage, and cosmetics. These taxes had a two-fold purpose. Obviously, one purpose was to raise revenues to aid the war effort. The other was to discourage the purchase of such items so that the materials involved might be devoted to war purposes. That was 24 years ago; and at the time these taxes were approved, there was a pledge that they would be removed with the end of hostilities. That war ended 19 years ago. Still another conflict, sometimes referred to as World War II½, in Korea, came and went. Still another conflict, in Vietnam, came and is still here. So are the retail excise taxes. Like Tennyson's brook, once such levies are placed on the statute books, they go on forever and forever.

For the consumers of the Nation, these taxes are a direct burden on their purchasing power. For the retailers, they constitute an administrative burden, since forms must be filed, records must be kept, and remittances made to the Treasury Department.

Sporadic efforts have been made in Congress to have these taxes repealed, but without success. On January 23, 1964, I offered a series of amendments to a revenue measure then pending before the Committee on Finance to repeal these taxes, and every one of those amendments was approved by a vote of 2 to 1, or more.

At that point, I deemed it a good day's work for the consumers and retailers of the country. It would leave hundreds of millions of dollars in the hands of the consumers, to be spent as they saw fit, and would also energize business at every level. But I counted the chickens before they were hatched.

A few days after the Committee on Finance took this action, a motion to reconsider was made; and when the vote was counted, the repeal amendments, instead of carrying by votes of 2 to 1, were torpedoed by a vote of 9 to 8. I failed to reckon with the power of the "Texas twist." The same amendments were offered on the floor of the Senate, and when the smoke of battle cleared away, they had been defeated by a margin of three votes.

But I felt that the retailers and the consumers had a good case, and I was fully prepared to make a further effort in the present Congress to bring about a repeal of these onerous taxes. I was therefore quite delighted that the President, in the course of his state of the Union message, should say:

More money will be left in the hands of the consumers by a substantial cut in excise taxes.

I merely antedated the President by a number of months.

The Republican minority made this very point a year ago, but without success. Now, however, the President has