

2 CERTAIN ARMY EQUIPMENT TO POSTS OF AMERICAN LEGION

1933, with a request for information and the views of the Department relative thereto.

There is no existing law applicable to the subject.

The rifles loaned to posts of the American Legion under authority of the act approved February 10, 1920 (41 Stat. 977), are all of an obsolete type and have no further military value. While the slings and cartridge belts are of standard issue types, the quantities affected by the proposed legislation are relatively insignificant and would in no way prejudice the needs of the military service.

In view of the foregoing circumstances, the War Department has no objection to the enactment of the bill.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. H. Dern, Secretary of War.



73^d Congress } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES } REPORT
2^d Session } } No. 1451

BOUNDARIES OF NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION IN NEW MEXICO

MAY 3, 1934.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mrs. GREENWAY, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 8982]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 8982) to define the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

Page 7, line 4, after the word "Indians", substitute a comma for the period and insert the following:

except sections 3 to 10, both inclusive in township 11 north, range 10 west; section 2 of township 11 north, range 20 west; section 2 of fractional township 11 north, range 21 west, New Mexico principal meridian, which lands are hereby added to the Zuni Indian Reservation: *Provided*, That this section in order to exclude the town of Ramah shall not apply to sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, and 14, township 10 north, range 16 west, New Mexico principal meridian.

This measure is requested by the Department. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs and other representatives appeared before the committee and explained the reasons for the enactment of this legislation, as follows:

Section 1 establishes certain definite lines as the exterior boundary of the Navajo Indian Reservation within the State of New Mexico. Those lines would add certain areas to the present reservation on the east and south, and also define four small outside areas for different Navajo Bands living therein. The lands involved are thickly populated with Navajo Indians and have practically been used by them exclusively for grazing purposes for years. The areas include public lands interspersed with tracts purchased for the Indians with their own tribal funds, also lands consolidated in the Government for their benefit pursuant to the act of March 3, 1921 (41 Stat. 1225-1239). Provision is made in this section that all prior valid rights and claims shall not be affected by the proposed legislation. Ten and one half townships of national-forest land will be eliminated, for the benefit of the Indians, from the Cibola National Forest, pursuant to section 1.

This elimination of forest land has had the approval of the local forestry representatives.

Section 2 would grant the State of New Mexico the right to relinquish to the Government for the Indians such tracts of school or other State-owned lands within the proposed boundaries, and to make lieu selections of equal value from the available vacant public domain within the State.

Section 3 is for the purpose of clarifying the Indian title to lands already consolidated for Indian purposes, pursuant to the act of March 3, 1921, supra. This section also extends the provisions of said act to three other counties and also provides that no further allotments or Indian homesteads on the public domain shall be made to Navajo Indians within the counties involved. This is agreeable to this Department for the reason that we are, in effect, trading this right of the Indians in order to get solid areas which can be developed for them. The Indians will, however, be able to obtain homesteads as citizens on the public domain by paying the usual fees or commissions and receiving a fee patent for the land selected, which automatically would make the land taxable.

This proposed boundary extension represents the ultimate line to which the Indians can hope to expand their reservation. This fact is realized by the Indians themselves, as evidenced at their tribal council at Tuba City last November. They are aware that they must reduce the number of their sheep and goats to prevent overgrazing; that erosion and range control must be conducted continuously if they are to survive and make substantial progress.

The proposed boundary extension actually will not add any large blocked out areas of public land to the present reservation. Approximately a total of 340,000 acres of public domain are involved, but it should be borne in mind that this acreage is largely within areas consolidated or purchased for the Indians, or else is within an area heavily allotted to individual Indians.

Section 4 provides for the acquisition, through purchase, of certain privately owned lands located within the proposed reservation boundary, together with the improvements thereon, and also provides in addition to purchasing the surface of the land only, that the improvements on leased State school land within the boundary may be purchased under certain conditions set out in said section. Section 4 also contains an authorization for the appropriation of \$482,136.22 to purchase these privately owned lands, which are located not only within the boundaries, as described in section 1 of this bill, but also within the area in southeastern Utah referred to by the act of March 1, 1933 (47 Stat. 1418). The amount mentioned indicates the money actually needed, based upon careful field examination and report by one of our field agents. Purchase of these privately owned lands, coupled with the boundary extension, will end a long drawn out range conflict.

During the past 2 years, representatives of the Indian Office held meetings with various groups of local interested persons, and insofar as the boundary lines set out in the bill are concerned, it may be said that except for factional and minority differences of opinion, what opposition there was at first has now largely disappeared.

This proposed legislation, which is related to H.R. 8927, Seventy-third Congress, second session, is indeed an emergency measure, as the future livelihood of these Indians depends on favorable action being taken. It not only is an emergency measure in regard to the Indians but also to the Federal Government, for the reason that, if enacted, proper range management and control of soil erosion now in progress on the reservation, will be continued, and unless this work is continued in the Navajo country, which is tributary to the Colorado River, soil erosion within the area in question will increase tremendously within the next decade and result in heavy silt deposits within the Boulder Dam Reservoir, thus seriously damaging the future effectiveness of that project, together with the concurrent loss to the Government on its investment therein. There are enclosed maps with appropriate coloring and legend showing the status and areas of the lands involved.

In appearing before the committee the Commissioner of Indian Affairs submitted a memorandum from the President personally endorsing this legislation.

73D CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2d Session } { No. 1452

BRIDGE ACROSS THE TENNESSEE RIVER BETWEEN
SHEFFIELD AND FLORENCE, ALA.

MAY 3, 1934.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. HUDDLESTON, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign
Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 9141]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 9141) granting the consent of Congress to the State of Alabama, its agent or agencies, and to Colbert County and to Lauderdale County in the State of Alabama, and to the city of Sheffield, Colbert County, Ala., and to the city of Florence, Lauderdale County, Ala., or to any two of them, or to either of them, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge, and approaches thereto, across the Tennessee River at a point between the city of Sheffield, Ala., and the city of Florence, Ala., suitable to the interests of navigation, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it pass.

The bill has the approval of the War and Agriculture Departments, as will appear by the letters attached.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 20, 1934.

Respectfully returned to the Chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives.

So far as the interests committed to this Department are concerned, I know of no objection to the favorable consideration of the accompanying bill, H.R. 9141, Seventy-third Congress, second session, granting the consent of Congress to the State of Alabama, its agent or agencies, and to Colbert County and to Lauderdale County in the State of Alabama, and to the city of Sheffield, Colbert County, Ala., and to the city of Florence, Lauderdale County, Ala., or to any two of them, or to either of them, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge, and approaches thereto, across the Tennessee River at a point between the city of Sheffield, Ala., and the city of Florence, Ala., suitable to the interests of navigation.

GEO. H. DERN, Secretary of War.

Serial 9776