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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

Messrs. MASON, MARSHALL, and GROSS objected.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS OF THE CROW TRIBE

The Clerk called the bill (S. 3698) to amend the act of June 4, 1920, as amended, providing for allotment of lands of the Crow Tribe, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

Messrs. MASON, HAYS of Ohio, and PHILLIPS objected.

CLAIMS OF NAVAHO AND HOPI INDIANS

The Clerk called the bill (S. 4086) to provide that the United States hold in trust for the Indians entitled to the use thereof the lands described in the Executive order of December 16, 1882, and for adjudicating the conflicting claims thereto of the Navaho and Hopi Indians, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

Messrs. HAYS of Ohio, SHUFORD, and ROGERS of Texas objected.

PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

The Clerk called the bill (S. 2074) to extend for an additional 5 years the provisions of the act of September 30, 1950, entitled "An act to promote the development of improved transport aircraft by providing for the operation, testing, and modification thereof."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

Mr. CELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that this bill be passed over without prejudice.

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

There was no objection.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 8353) to further the economic and efficient operation of the business of the Post Office Department by the expansion of the existing research and development program of such Department and the establishment of a postal service automatic equipment program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That this act may be cited as the "Postal Service Automatic Equipment Act."

Sec. 2. In order to expedite the policy and purpose of endeavoring to achieve greater economy and efficiency in the operation of the business of the Post Office Department through the establishment in such department of a research and development pro-

gram under authority of the act, entitled "an act to provide for a research and development program in the Post Office Department", approved August 16, 1949 (69 Stat. 608; Public Law 231, 81st Congress; 39 U. S. C., secs. 847, 847a), the Postmaster General is authorized and directed—

(1) in general, to increase, expand, accelerate, and intensify the investigations, studies, and other activities of the Post Office Department authorized by such act of August 16, 1949, in connection with such research and development program; and

(2) specifically, to establish, administer, and maintain in the Post Office Department, on a continuing basis, in conformity with this act, such act of August 16, 1949, and other applicable law, a special program of research, development, improvement, experimental use and operation, and practical utilization, with respect to automatic machines, automatic equipment, and other automatic devices for the postal service and postal operations (hereinafter referred to as the "postal service automatic equipment program" and more particularly described and set forth in section 3 of this act).

Sec. 3. (a) The immediate purpose of the postal service automatic equipment program shall be to provide, to the greatest extent practicable within the limits of appropriations and other funds available for such purpose, new, improved, and up-to-date automatic machines, automatic equipment, and other automatic devices for United States post offices having appreciable need therefor in the light of (1) volume of mail, (2) conditions of operation, and (3) other conditions and factors pertaining to efficiency and economy with respect to the postal service and postal operations.

(b) In the administration and maintenance of the postal service automatic equipment program, the Postmaster General shall, among other actions, within 180 days after the date of enactment of this act, select and designate a representative number of United States post offices in which automatic machines, automatic equipment, and other automatic devices will be utilized. Within a period of not more than 2 years following each such selection and designation, there shall be installed in such post office so selected and designated, to the greatest extent practicable, such automatic machines, automatic equipment, and other automatic devices which, on the basis of comprehensive research and engineering studies, are suitable for the efficient and economical operation of such post office. The installation, operation, and maintenance of such automatic machines, automatic equipment, and other automatic devices may be on an experimental or permanent basis, according to applicable conditions and factors which accurately reflect the needs and problems of the postal service and postal operations in such post offices and elsewhere in the postal establishment.

(c) The Postmaster General shall keep accurate and comprehensive records of the utilization, under the postal service automatic equipment program, of automatic machines, automatic equipment, and other automatic devices in United States post offices, including—

(1) the costs thereof;

(2) the savings therefrom;

(3) the effect on the postal service and postal operations;

(4) appropriate comparisons of costs with costs of operation in United States post offices in which automatic machines, automatic equipment, and other automatic devices are not utilized;

(5) the extent to which the utilization of such machines, equipment, and devices is accomplishing the policies and purposes specified or referred to in this act; and

(6) such other information as may be necessary to ascertain with reasonable ac-

curacy the results of postal operations from the standpoint of (A) public service, (B) revenues earned, (C) costs of operation, and (D) overall economy and efficiency in the postal service.

(d) The Postmaster General shall submit to the President, for transmittal to the Congress, an annual report of the operation of this act containing information provided by the records under subsection (c) of this section, together with such other information, and such recommendations, as he deems advisable or appropriate.

SEC. 4. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions and accomplish the policies and purposes of this act.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to further the economic and efficient operation of the business of the Post Office Department by the establishment of a postal service automatic equipment program, and for other purposes."

With the following committee amendments:

On page 2, line 6, strike out line 6 to line 22 inclusive and insert: "General is specifically authorized and directed to establish, administer, and maintain in the Post Office Department, on a continuing basis, in conformity with this act, such act of August 16, 1949, and other applicable law, a special program of research, development, improvement, experimental use and operation, and practical utilization, with respect to automatic machines, automatic equipment, and other automatic devices for the postal service and postal operation (hereinafter referred to as the 'postal service automatic equipment program' and more particularly described and set forth in section 3 of this act)."

On page 3, line 14, after "United States", strike out "post offices" and insert "postal installations."

On page 3, line 15, after "therefor", strike out "in the light of (1) volume of mail, (2) conditions of operation, and (3) other conditions and factors pertaining to efficiency and economy with respect to the postal service and postal operations."

On page 3, line 25, after "such", strike out "post offices" and insert "postal installations."

Page 4, line 2, after "utilized", insert ", to the extent available."

On page 4, line 10, strike out "post office" and insert "postal installations."

On page 4, line 8, after "are", insert "available and."

On page 4, line 16, after "such", strike out "post offices" and insert "postal installation."

On page 4, line 22, after "United States", strike out "post offices" and insert "postal installations."

On page 5, line 4, strike out "post offices" and insert "postal installations."

On page 6, line 10, after "Sec.", strike out "4" and insert "5."

On page 5, line 22, insert the following: "Sec. 4. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as authorizing, requiring, or permitting—

"(1) the separation or furlough of any employee in the postal field service, in any part, division, or service thereof, or in any classification or category of such employees, or."

The committee amendments were agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to further the economic and efficient operation of the business of the Post Office Department by the establishment of a postal service automatic