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72D CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

} REPORT
No. 491

AMENDING THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT AS APPLIED TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

MARCH 23 (calendar day, MARCH 31), 1932.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3950]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3950) to amend section 21 of the act approved June 5, 1920, entitled "An act to provide for the promotion and maintenance of the American merchant marine, to repeal certain emergency legislation, and provide for the disposition, regulation, and use of property acquired thereunder, and for other purposes," as applied to the Virgin Islands of the United States, have considered the same and report thereon with an amendment, and as so amended, recommend that the bill do pass.

The bill thus amended has the approval of the United States Shipping Board, as will appear by the annexed communication, the amendment referred to therein having been incorporated in the bill as reported, and which is as follows:

Line 11, after the words, "United States," strike out the period and quotation marks, and add the following:

until the President of the United States after a full investigation of the local needs and conditions shall, by proclamation, declare that an adequate shipping service has been established to such islands and fix a date for going into effect of the same.

UNITED STATES SHIPPING BOARD,
Washington, March 25, 1932.

Hon. HIRAM W. JOHNSON,
*Chairman Committee on Commerce,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR JOHNSON: Referring further to your letter of March 5, 1932, with which you transmitted a copy of S. 3950, a bill to amend section 21 of the merchant marine act, 1920, involving the coastwise laws, as applied to the Virgin Islands, and requested that we furnish the Committee on Commerce with such

suggestions as we might deem proper touching the merits of the bill and the propriety of its passage:

I now beg to advise you that the Shipping Board recommends amendment of the bill by an additional provision which would, in effect, place the Virgin Islands in the same situation as the Philippine Islands with respect to the coastwise laws as set forth in the last paragraph of section 21 of the merchant marine act of 1920. That is, that section 21 be amended by adding thereto the following proviso:

"And provided further, that the coastwise laws of the United States shall not extend to the Virgin Islands of the United States until the President of the United States after a full investigation of the local needs and conditions shall, by proclamation, declare that an adequate shipping service has been established to such islands and fix a date for going into effect of the same."

The italicized language above is additional to that in the proposed bill. It is the same language adopted by the Senate in the recent bill to provide a government for American Samoa (S. 417).

There is attached hereto a copy of the bill incorporating the amendment suggested by the board.

Very respectfully,

T. V. O'CONNOR, Chairman.

