AUTHORIZING THE SHIPPING BOARD TO GIVE PREFERENTIAL RATE TO ALIEN VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

JUNE 16, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. Scott, from the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 12659]

The Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was referred H. R. 12659, having considered the same, report the bill to the House with the following amendments:
In line 4 strike out the words "and directed."

In line 5, after the word "upon," insert the word "such." In line 6, after the word "board," insert the following: "At such

times and for such voyages as that board may designate.

In line 11, after the word "and," strike out the balance of line 11 and strike out lines 12 and 13 and in lieu thereof insert the following: "The extent of the concessions may vary according to the vessel and the class or cabin by which the veteran, his wife or minor children, may elect to travel," and recommends that as so amended the bill do pass.

H. R. 12659 is intended to meet the following situation: During the late war many aliens enlisted as members of the military or naval forces of the United States and at the close of the war were entitled to transportation to the United States with our troops but, being then in a foreign country in close proximity with their relatives, a number of these alien veterans asked that they be discharged abroad in order that they might visit their relatives and friends. These requests were granted. These alien veterans had no reason to expect that they would be handicapped or prevented from coming to the United States at the conclusion of their visits. However, when they attempted to obtain admission they were confronted with the obstacles and limitations of the immigration laws enacted after the close of the war. Some of these alien veterans have been able to reach the United States under the quota provision, but many of them

have been prevented because of their inability to become a part of the quota. Congress, at the present session, enacted a law, the act of May 6, 1926, to relieve the situation above outlined. H. R. 12659 authorizes the Shipping Board to grant a preferential rate to these alien veterans, their wives and minor children. Under the terms of the bill they can be transported to the United States without inconvenience and at virtually no expense to the United States Government. The Shipping Board is in accord with the purpose of H. R. 12659 as indicated in the hearings on this bill before your committee.

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