

1953

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

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and most programs. Canada has adopted a national pension after years of consideration of the problem. Certainly we in the United States can be as forward looking.

## GREEK INDEPENDENCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend my remarks at this point in the Record.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. DODD. Mr. Speaker, March 25 marks the 132d anniversary of Greek independence. That day in 1821, when the Greek people threw out the Turkish invaders, sounded the death knell of the Ottoman empire. By their bravery the Greek people exposed the myth of Ottoman invincibility and, one by one, the nations of the Balkan Peninsula followed the example of their valiant neighbors and brought liberty back to that part of the globe.

As the news of the successful uprising in Greece spread throughout the world, it served as a source of inspiration to captive peoples everywhere. The revolutions that shook South America and forced the Spaniards to withdraw to their own land undoubtedly gained their impetus from the Greek war of liberation.

Greece, the birthplace of democracy, blazed the way for the 19th century movement toward the independence and the self-determination of peoples. In Greece has always led the crusade for freedom.

Since 436 B. C. when democratic Athens went to the aid of Corcyra, to our own day when Greek troops are fighting against the Communist forces in Korea, the people of Greece have fought tyranny whenever it has appeared.

When Greece won her independence in 1821, the Greek Senate appealed to the United States for aid. The people of the United States, led by President Monroe and Daniel Webster, promptly responded. This partnership in the cause of freedom is but one of the things that has bound the people of Greece and America.

The men and women who came here from Greece as immigrants greatly enriched our land. Americans of Greek descent figure prominently in all fields of our national life.

In the present struggle against world communism, we know that the people of Greece are among our staunchest allies. Following the policies set down by President Truman in his aid to Greece program, we shall continue to stand by that courageous nation. In addition, let me assure my fellow Americans of Greek descent and the people of Greece, that we here have not forgotten about the victims of Greece's stand against Communist aggression.

We shall continue to do all we can to bring about the repatriation of the 3,000 Greek soldiers and of the thousands of Greek children still imprisoned behind the Iron Curtain. On this day of jubili-

ation, those thousands are a grim reminder that the fight for liberty still goes on.

## PUERTO RICO

Mr. FERNÓS-ISERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend my remarks at this point in the Record.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Puerto Rico?

There was no objection.

Mr. FERNÓS-ISERN. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, 1952, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico was born: the people of Puerto Rico commenced living under a constitution of their own adoption; self-government became operative in Puerto Rico.

This important event was the result and culmination of Public Law 600, 81st Congress, and Joint Resolution 447, 82d Congress. Within the terms of compact embodied in the first of these measures, Puerto Rico adopted a constitution and organized a constitutional government; the second ratified the constitution adopted by the people of Puerto Rico, subject to stipulations which were later accepted by the people of Puerto Rico. Thereupon, the Constitution of Puerto Rico became effective and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico became a reality. Thus, for the first time in approximately 500 years of its history, Puerto Rico became fully self-governing in all matters not locally inapplicable.

Obviously, this is a matter of great prestige to the United States in its position of leadership with the nations of the world.

On March 20, 1953 our Ambassador to the United Nations, the Honorable Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., addressed a communication to the Secretary General of the United Nations stating, on behalf of our Government, that the United States has decided to cease reporting on Puerto Rico as a non-self-governing area within the political jurisdiction of the United States. This is of significance to the world as well as to the United States and Puerto Rico, and I feel that this communication should be brought to the attention of every Member of the Congress. Accordingly, I include this communication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

New York, N. Y., March 20, 1953.

His Excellency TRYGVE Løv, Secretary General of the United Nations, New York, N. Y.

PRELIMINARY: I have the honor to refer to the United States representative's note U. N.—1797/49, dated January 19, 1953, notifying you that as a result of the entry into force on July 25, 1952, of the new constitution establishing the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Government has decided to cease to transmit information on Puerto Rico under article 73 (e) of the Charter.

The attainment by the people of Puerto Rico of their new commonwealth status is a most significant step. This is the kind of progress to self-government contemplated by the United Nations Charter. This is the democratic pattern of the free world—of goals set and hopes realized. The people of Puerto Rico expressed their view by resolution at their constitutional convention in the following words: "Thus we attain the goal of complete self-government, the last

vestiges of colonialism having disappeared in the principle of compact, and we enter into an era of new developments in democratic civilization."

I invite your attention in particular to the enclosed letter of Governor Muñoz Marín of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in which after requesting the termination of the transmittal of information under article 73 (e), with respect to Puerto Rico, and after recounting the development of the island's political progress, he says: "The people of Puerto Rico are firm supporters of the United Nations and this great organization may confidently rely upon us for a continuation of that good will."

Let me add that the people of Puerto Rico at this moment are proudly cooperating to the utmost in the United Nations effort to repel aggression in Korea. The men of Puerto Rico who are bearing the hardships of battle with other United Nations troops have, by their courage and determination, demonstrated their strong love for freedom.

There are enclosed for the information of the members of the United Nations the following documents in compliance with the terms of resolution 222 (III) of the General Assembly:

1. Text of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.  
2. Memorandum by the Government of the United States of America concerning the cessation of transmission of information under article 73 (e) of the Charter with regard to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

3. Copy of the letter dated January 17, 1953, from the Governor of Puerto Rico to the President of the United States.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

HENRY CABOT LODGE, JR.,

Ambassador.

## SPECIAL ORDER GRANTED

Mr. ABBITT asked and was given permission to address the House for 5 minutes today, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered.

## CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. O'HARA of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will count. [After counting.] One hundred and forty-seven Members are present, not a quorum.

Mr. HALLECK. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

The Clerk called the roll, and the following Members failed to answer to their names:

[Roll No. 20]	
Andrews	Gamble
Barden	Green
Blainik	Hale
Boykin	Haley
Campbell	Heller
Cannon	Hinshaw
Carnahan	Hollifield
Celler	Hruska
Chief	Jackson
Clardy	Judd
Corbett	Klein
Crosser	Krueger
Dingell	Lesinski
Fisher	Magnuson
Frazier	Morrison
	Moulder
	Norblad
	Passon
	Price
	Rabaut
	Reece, Tenn.
	Servino
	Shelley
	Stoggers
	Taylor
	Trumbull
	Walter
	Wilson, Ind.
	Wilson, Tex.
	Withers

The SPEAKER. On this rollcall 352 Members have answered to their names, a quorum.

By unanimous consent, further proceedings under the call were dispensed with.

project included in the omnibus bill which was reported out by the House Public Works Committee. The necessary administrative action within the Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Army, and the State and local agencies involved, had not been completed in time for me to seek to have it included in the House omnibus measure.

Consequently, I am very grateful that this committee of the Senate is taking up the matter, and I am here to thank you for that and to urge favorable action. As I said, other witnesses can provide you all the technical detail, so I will not repeat any of that. I have brought with me copies of my bill, H. R. 8378, which I submit to you for any assistance the language of the bill may be to your committee in incorporating these provisions into the omnibus bill.

Again I want to say I appreciate your action in scheduling this matter for hearing. I want to assure you we in St. Louis are solidly behind the project. If it is included in the omnibus authorization bill this year, it will make it possible for us in succeeding years to press for the necessary appropriations to get the work under way.

Every citizen of St. Louis who has experienced the scourge of floods first hand will be eternally grateful for favorable action on this matter, and, believe me, I will be, too.

### The Health Reinsurance Bill, H. R. 8356

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1954

Mr. RODINO. Mr. Speaker, on July 13 this body voted to recommit H. R. 8356, the bill known as the administration's health reinsurance bill. Secretary Hobby in a speech over a national network described the bill as the new approach toward solving the health problems of the American people, and declared it to be "the key part of the Eisenhower program for better health."

I voted to recommit this bill. I am, nevertheless, a firm believer in the policy of Federal responsibility for the health needs of our people. Franklin Roosevelt believed that adequate medical care is one of the basic human rights of all Americans. Harry Truman subscribed to that principle by submitting a plan for comprehensive health insurance to the Congress. I wholeheartedly approve a recent statement of President Eisenhower:

The means for achieving good health should be accessible to all. A person's race, religion, occupation, age, race, creed, or financial status should not bar him from enjoying this service.

I have no quarrel with the administration with regard to certain points related to this legislation and I agree with the administration that our various health insurance plans are deficient in the following respects:

First, too costly for low-income groups.

The annual medical bill today costs our citizens \$16.2 billion. Only 15 percent of this bill is covered by insurance. Eight million Americans are in debt as a result of medical expenses. And only 41

percent of the families earning under \$3,000 a year have insurance.

Second, health insurance does not pay the full medical and hospital bills.

The Health Information Foundation, a research organization supported by the great drug and chemical companies, whose chairman is Herbert Hoover, stated in a recent report that individuals covered by health insurance get back an average of only \$17 a year in benefits from these plans.

Third, health insurance plans do not cover all needed medical care.

Fragmentized medical care is costly and often inefficient. Diagnosis cannot be arbitrarily separated from treatment. And you cannot isolate surgery from preoperative and postoperative care. A health plan should be a comprehensive, unified program.

Fourth, the unemployed, the retired, those in rural areas, sufferers of chronic illness cannot obtain health insurance.

Two-thirds of all our counties are predominantly rural. In 1,800 counties there is no public health service. Some thirty million live in areas without properly organized local health departments.

I voted to recommit this bill because I feel that, however laudable and sincere its objectives may be, the bill does not provide the key to the program to improve the health of our Nation. It is the object of this legislation to improve the health program of the country by inducing private insurance companies to broaden the coverage of their health insurance and extend this insurance to greater numbers of our people. This is to be accomplished by the Federal Government underwriting the additional risk through a program of reinsurance. It was never made clear during the hearings whether anyone had faith in the proposed method.

It seems clear to me that if this reinsurance operation is run on a sound businesslike basis the achievement of our objectives becomes impossible. Therefore, if we are to achieve our objectives, it can be done only by operating our reinsurance business at a loss. If we are going to subsidize our health program, let us do it openly and adequately.

As I do not believe the administration's health reinsurance bill is sound but do believe we should get upon this subject, I recommend action upon H. R. 7700, the medical facilities mortgage insurance bill. Passage of this legislation will be a definite contribution to improving and increasing our health facilities, and this by means of private enterprise. This constructive proposal will permit the Federal Government to reinsure local lending agencies which are willing to advance funds for the building of hospitals and related facilities to prepaid comprehensive health plans. The bill would have the Government guarantee loans extended to prepayment groups by local financing agencies just as the Government has insured private real-estate loans.

Instead of reinsuring the profits of the insurance companies, let us take this step toward an enlightened national policy that will insure the health of our citizens.

### Second Anniversary of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. JOHN P. SAYLOR

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1954

Mr. SAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico celebrated its second birthday yesterday. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Territories and Insular Affairs, I take pleasure in bringing this significant event to recognition here. Never before has the United States enjoyed the smooth-working political and economic relationships which we now have with the people of Puerto Rico. They are citizens of the United States and they are citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico very much as we all are citizens of the United States, and in turn, citizens of the respective States we represent.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is not a member State of the Union; albeit, it is a State in the definitive sense of the word. It is a free State organized by the people of Puerto Rico, with a republican form of government, which exists in voluntary association with the United States.

Internationally, Puerto Rico is part of the United States, although constitutionally, it is not. The United States Government has in Puerto Rico comparable Federal functions and responsibilities that it has in the States of the Union. The people of Puerto Rico have freely accepted this relationship.

For 2½ million people living in 3,500 square miles of territory, 1,800 miles away from the United States mainland, with a Spanish culture and language, a homogeneous people with strongly developed characteristics, the idea of commonwealth has been, indeed, a happy solution to the problem of political status. These people enjoy internal independence and live in interdependence with the United States in all matters of an external nature. They are free, but they are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, I think we must express our recognition to the people of Puerto Rico for having originated and developed this new political concept and for having brought it to us. And we should be happy that we accepted the idea, that we authorized the organization of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, that we agreed to its constitution, and that the people of Puerto Rico have assumed their own responsibilities as free men.

The development of self-government in Puerto Rico did not start yesterday or with the creation of the Commonwealth 2 years ago. It has been taking place for half a century. As successively the people of Puerto Rico assumed more and more responsibility for their own destiny, the rhythm of development accelerated. Since achieving Commonwealth status on July 25, 1952, Puerto Rico has forged ahead industrially, educationally, agriculturally, and socially. Its economy is sound. Its Government is stable.