

[CHAPTER 525]

AN ACT

To amend the National Housing Act, as amended.

December 27, 1947
[S. 1770]
[Public Law 394]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 603 (a) of the National Housing Act, as amended, is hereby amended by striking out "\$4,000,000,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$4,450,000,000", and by striking out "\$4,200,000,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$4,950,000,000".

National Housing
Act, amendment.
Ante, p. 777.

SEC. 2. Title VI of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall be employed to assist in maintaining a high volume of new residential construction without supporting unnecessary or artificial costs. In estimating necessary current cost for the purposes of said title, the Federal Housing Commissioner shall therefore use every feasible means to assure that such estimates will approximate as closely as possible the actual costs of efficient building operations.

55 Stat. 55,
12 U. S. C. §§ 1736-
1743.
Ante, pp. 193, 208,
777.

Approved December 27, 1947.

[CHAPTER 526]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To aid in the stabilization of commodity prices, to aid in further stabilizing the economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

December 30, 1947
[S. J. Res. 167]
[Public Law 395]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

DECLARATION OF PURPOSES

SECTION 1. The purposes of this joint resolution are to aid in stabilizing the economy of the United States, to aid in curbing inflationary tendencies, to promote the orderly and equitable distribution of goods and facilities, and to aid in preventing maldistribution of goods and facilities which basically affect the cost of living or industrial production.

VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS

SEC. 2. (a) In order to carry out the purposes declared in section 1 of this joint resolution, the President is authorized to consult with representatives of industry, business, and agriculture with a view to encouraging the making, by persons engaged in industry, business, and agriculture, of voluntary agreements approved by the President—

Consultations with
representatives of in-
dustry, etc.

(1) providing for allocation of transportation facilities and equipment;

(2) providing for priority allocation and inventory control of scarce commodities which basically affect the cost of living or industrial production; or

(3) providing for regulation of speculative trading on commodity exchanges.

(b) The President is authorized to approve any such agreement which he finds will carry out any of the purposes declared in section 1 of this joint resolution, except that he shall not approve any agreement unless such agreement specifically provides that it shall cease to be effective on or before March 1, 1949, and he shall not approve any agreement which provides for the fixing of prices.

Approval.

(c) Whenever a governmental officer or agency determines that a plan of voluntary action with respect to any material, commodity, or facility is practicable and is appropriate to the successful carrying out of the policies set forth in said Act, that agency or official may request in writing compliance by one or more persons with such plan

Request for compli-
ance with voluntary
action plan.

of voluntary action as may be approved by the Attorney General. Any act or omission by such person or persons in compliance with a written request made pursuant to this section and with a voluntary plan promulgated thereunder shall not be the basis at any time for any prosecution or any civil action or any proceeding under the anti-trust laws of the United States or the Federal Trade Commission Act.

Withdrawal.

(d) Such written request may, in the discretion of the governmental officer or agency which made the request, be withdrawn at any time by said governmental officer or agency, by written notice from said governmental officer or agency of such withdrawal to the Attorney General, and after publication of notice of such withdrawal in the Federal Register as provided in subsection (e), the provisions of this Act shall not apply to any subsequent act or omission by reason of such request or voluntary plan.

Transmittal and publication.

(e) The Attorney General shall transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and shall order published in the Federal Register every such request, and any withdrawal thereof, and any plan, program, or other arrangements promulgated under, or which is the basis of, any such request.

Expiration.

(f) The power to make requests conferred by this Act shall expire upon expiration of section 2 of this Act, and any requests made and voluntary plans adopted under this Act shall have no force or effect six months thereafter.

"Person."

(g) As used in this section the term "person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, or association.

EXPORT CONTROLS

Ante, pp. 214, 323.

SEC. 3. (a) Section 6 (d) of the Act of July 2, 1940 (54 Stat. 714), as amended, is amended by striking out "February 29, 1948" and inserting in lieu thereof "February 28, 1949".

Price criteria in licensing of exports.
54 Stat. 712.
50 U. S. C. app. § 701.
Ante, pp. 214, 323.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President in the exercise of the powers, authority, and discretion conferred upon him by such Act of July 2, 1940, as amended, is authorized to use price criteria in the licensing of exports, either by giving preference among otherwise comparable applications to those which provide for the lowest prices, or, in exceptional circumstances, by fixing reasonable mark ups in export prices over domestic prices.

ALLOCATION OF TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AND GRAIN

Transportation facilities.
56 Stat. 177.
50 U. S. C. app. § 633.
Ante, pp. 25, 34, 322.

SEC. 4. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, title III of the Second War Powers Act, 1942, as amended, shall continue in effect to and including February 28, 1949, or such earlier date as the Congress by concurrent resolution or the President may designate, for the exercise of the powers, authority, and discretion conferred on the President by such title III with respect to the use of transportation equipment and facilities by rail carriers.

Grain.
56 Stat. 177.
50 U. S. C. app. § 633.
Ante, pp. 25, 34, 322.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, title III of the Second War Powers Act, 1942, is hereby revived and reenacted for the exercise of the powers, authority, and discretion conferred on the President by such title III with respect to the use of grain for the production of distilled spirits or neutral spirits for beverage purposes. The authority granted by this subsection shall expire on January 31, 1948.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

SEC. 5. The authority granted to the President by section 2 of this joint resolution and, notwithstanding the provisions of section 6 of the Second Decontrol Act of 1947, the authority granted to the Presi-

Ante, p. 322.

dent by section 4 of this joint resolution and by section 6 of the Act of July 2, 1940 (54 Stat. 714), as amended, may, to the extent the President directs, be exercised by any department, agency, or officer in the executive branch of the Government.

50 U. S. C. app.
§ 701.
Ante, pp. 323, 946.

CRITICAL SHORTAGES—RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT

SEC. 6. (a) Whenever the President shall determine that there is or threatens to be a critical shortage of any raw material, commodity, or product which jeopardizes the health or safety of the people of the United States or its national security or welfare and that there is no prospect that such critical shortage may soon be remedied by an increase in the available supply without additional governmental action and that the situation cannot be solved by voluntary agreement under the provisions of this Act, he may prepare proposed measures for conserving such raw material, commodity, or product which he shall submit to the Congress in the following form:

(1) A statement of the circumstances which, in the President's judgment, require the proposed conservation measures.

Statement of circumstances.

(2) A detailed procedure for the administration of the proposed measures including the additional budget and additional personnel required for their enforcement.

Administrative procedure.

(3) The proposed degree of curtailment in current and prospective use of each such raw material, commodity, or product by each processor and/or user thereof, including the specific formulae proposed for such curtailment with respect to each class or classes of processors or users and the criteria used in the establishment of such formulae.

Proposed curtailment.

(4) A complete record of the factual evidence upon which his recommendations are based, including all information provided by any agency of the Federal Government which may have been made available to him in the course of his consideration of the matter.

Factual evidence.

(b) Within fifteen days after the submission of such proposed conservation measures, the Joint Committee on the Economic Report shall conduct public hearings thereon and shall make such recommendations to the Congress for legislative action as in its judgment the recommendations of the President and any additional information disclosed at the public hearings may require.

Public hearings.

PRODUCTION OF FOODS IN NONEUROPEAN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

SEC. 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in order to alleviate and prevent shortages in foods, agricultural commodities, and products thereof, Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to carry out projects to stimulate and increase the production of foods, agricultural commodities, and products thereof, in non-European foreign countries. Such projects may include procurement, the making of advances and price guaranties, the furnishing of technical information and assistance, the furnishing of seed, fertilizer, machinery, equipment and other materials, and such other actions as are necessary or incident to the carrying out of such projects: *Provided*, That any such program is first submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Agriculture, and is not disapproved by concurrent resolution of Congress within sixty days thereafter.

Projects to stimulate production.

FOOD AND FEED CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SEC. 8. (a) In order to alleviate shortages in foods and feeds, and to assist in stabilizing prices, the President shall carry out a program for the conservation of food and feed. In carrying out such program, the President is authorized, through the dissemination of information,

educational and other campaigns, the furnishing of assistance, and such other voluntary and cooperative measures as he deems necessary or appropriate, to encourage and promote the efficient utilization, care, and preservation of food and feed, the elimination of practices which waste food and feed, the control and eradication of insects and rodents, the consumption of less of these foods and feeds which are in short supply and more of those foods and feeds which are in abundant supply, and other conservation practices. The authority herein conferred may be exercised by the President through such departments, agencies, independent establishments, and officials of the Federal Government and such State, local, and private agencies as he may determine.

(b) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the President such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section. To enable the President to carry out this section for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1948, there is hereby made available not to exceed \$1,000,000 from any funds made available by the Congress for carrying out Public Law 84, Eightieth Congress, or from any funds made available by the Congress for interim foreign aid. Funds made available for the purpose of this section may be used for necessary administrative expenses, including personal services in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, purchase or hire of motor vehicles, temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants or organizations thereof, including stenographic reporting services, by contract, without regard to the civil service and classification laws (the compensation of any such individual not to exceed \$50 per day). Funds made available for the purposes of this section may be allotted for any of the purposes of this section to any department, agency, or independent establishment of the Government, or transferred to any other agency requested to assist in carrying out this section. Funds allotted to any department, agency, or independent establishment of the Government shall be available for obligation and expenditure in accordance with the laws governing obligations and expenditures of the department, agency, or independent establishment, or organizational unit thereof concerned, and without regard to sections 3709 and 3648 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (U. S. C., title 41, sec. 5, and title 31, sec. 529).

AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 9. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such amounts as may be necessary for purposes of carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution.

Approved December 30, 1947.

Exercise of authority.

Appropriation authorized for conservation program.
Funds available.

Ante, pp. 125, 613, 942.

Appropriation authorized.