

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO GRANT AN EASEMENT TO SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

JUNE 16 (legislative day, JUNE 11), 1954.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MILLIKIN, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 9089]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9089) authorizing the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement to Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

By virtue of this act, the Committee on Finance accepts the report of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs as follows:

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

This bill authorizes the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement for the purpose of installing, repairing, and maintaining conduits for the transmission of steam and electricity to Syracuse University at Syracuse, N. Y., across certain lands of the Veterans' Administration hospital reservation at Syracuse.

The exact legal description of the land across which the easement is granted is to be determined by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs and the easement shall be subject to such terms and conditions as he may deem to be in the best interests of the United States.

The matter has been carefully considered and the bill as reported is acceptable both to the Veterans' Administration and to officials of Syracuse University. No additional cost will accrue to the Government as the result of the enactment of this legislation.

The report of the Veterans' Administration follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., May 11, 1954

ON: EDITH NOURSE ROGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MRS. ROGERS: This is in reply to your request for a report by the Veterans' Administration relative to H. R. 9089, 83d Congress, a bill authorizing the

Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement to Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.

The bill proposes to authorize and direct the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement across certain lands of the Veterans' Administration hospital reservation, Syracuse, N. Y., to Syracuse University, for purposes of installing, repairing, and maintaining, and from time to time enlarging or substituting, conduits for the transmission underground of electricity and steam and returns therefrom:

The major portion of the Veterans' Administration hospital reservation at Syracuse, N. Y., was acquired by deed dated December 2, 1948, from Syracuse University. The deed reserved to the university an easement across the conveyed land, providing in substance for its use for purposes of installing, repairing, and maintaining, and from time to time enlarging or substituting, conduits for the transmission underground of electricity and steam and returns therefrom. Subsequently the university installed a steam conduit but, through an error, a portion of that steamline and one manhole were located outside of the easement area reserved in the deed and under land to which the Veterans' Administration had title free and clear of any easement. Accordingly, the university requested the Veterans' Administration to grant it an easement across that portion of the hospital reservation under which the conduit had been installed. Thereafter, the Veterans' Administration advised Syracuse University that under existing law the Veterans' Administration did not have authority to grant an easement to the university and suggested, as an alternative, that a revocable license, could be issued to the university covering the new right-of-way. The university, however, indicated that it preferred a permanent easement:

H. R. 9089, if enacted, would authorize and direct the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant the desired easement to Syracuse University, subject to such terms and conditions as the Administrator may deem to be in the interest of the United States. It is believed that the grant of that easement will not interfere with the present or prospective operation of the Veterans' Administration hospital, Syracuse, N. Y. Under the circumstances, the Veterans' Administration would interpose no objection to the favorable consideration of the proposal by the committee.

Due to the urgent request of the committee for a report on this measure there has not been sufficient time in which to ascertain from the Bureau of the Budget the relationship of the proposed legislation to the program of the President:

Sincerely yours,

H. V. HIGLEY, *Administrator*

