

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO CONVEY CERTAIN LANDS AND TO LEASE CERTAIN OTHER LANDS TO MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WIS.

JULY 21 (legislative day, JUNE 2), 1949.—Ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

(To accompany S. 2298)

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2298) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey certain lands and to lease certain other lands to Milwaukee County, Wis., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

The following memorandum from Mr. William R. McGovern, chairman, stadium committee, Milwaukee County Park Commission, Milwaukee County, Wis., explains the purpose for which the land is to be used:

Milwaukee is one of the very few metropolitan districts in the country that is without a stadium of adequate size to hold large crowds and accommodate events of the scope that may be expected with such concentration of population. As you know, there are more than 800,000 people residing in Milwaukee County. However, more than 2,000,000 people in the immediate and tributary area of the State south toward Racine and Kenosha, west toward Waukesha, Watertown, and Madison, and north along the lake shore and the Fox River Valley and over 3,000,000 in the entire State would be served by this project.

After intensive study this site has been selected as the best.

Presently in Milwaukee County amateur athletics attract millions of spectators in addition to the vast number of young people who engage in these events. It is, therefore, readily understandable that the municipal stadium as a project is a crying need. A stadium such as proposed would not only be used for amateur and professional baseball and football, but for civic events and mass gatherings, such as veterans' organizations, etc., as well as for concerts, pageants, school celebrations, patriotic observances, music festivals, shows, operas, circus performances, athletic contests, college football and baseball, industrial athletic leagues, public sponsored athletics, boxing, wrestling, conventions, and, in fact, large outdoor gatherings for spectators of all types.

The construction of a stadium will be distinctly advantageous to all veterans and is popular with them since it will provide them with a central rallying place of sufficient size for veterans' activities as well as military parades and shows.

The patients at the Veterans' Administration Center will benefit greatly by the proximity of the municipal stadium, inasmuch as they will be able to attend most of the events that will be held at the stadium with safety and a minimum amount

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of inconvenience. This advantage should have great therapeutic value as a morale builder aside from obvious entertainment value.

Construction of a stadium and the roads and approaches thereto will be a rather large project and may be especially interesting to the Government if it comes at a time when there is a demand for employment. The undertaking will provide work possibilities for a large number of men.

The stadiums existing in Milwaukee County are presently limited in size and facilities to handle large crowds. Milwaukee and the surrounding areas of the State of Wisconsin have sufficient population to warrant large attractions providing a suitable place is available to invite promotion of major events.

By way of very brief summary:

(a) The population in and tributary to the Milwaukee area in the State of Wisconsin that would be accommodated by the stadium is upward of 2,000,000 persons.

(b) There is no existing large stadium adequate to serve the need.

(c) The stadium is an absolute necessity.

(d) The site chosen is the best.

(e) The city of Milwaukee is on record favoring this site and is contributing lands toward the project.

The following letter from the Administrator explains the position of the Veterans' Administration with respect to the passage of this bill:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington 25, D. C., July 19, 1949.

Hon. ALEXANDER WILEY,
United States Senate, Washington 25, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR WILEY: This is with respect to our conversation concerning legislation which would authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to make available to the Milwaukee County Park Commission a portion of the land comprising the Veterans' Administration Center at Wood, Wis. It is understood that the commission desires to use the land for civic and recreational purposes.

This matter has been the subject of correspondence with the executive secretary of the mentioned commission and I have made a personal inspection of the property. In my judgment, making the land available to the mentioned commission would serve a public interest and at the same time would not interfere with our activities at Wood, Wis.

Accordingly, the Veterans' Administration would interpose no objection to legislation designed to effect the transfer by quitclaim deed of parcels I and II, and the leasing for a 20-year period of parcel III (descriptions of which parcels are enclosed), to authority legally authorized to complete such transactions for the use of the Milwaukee County Park Commission for the purposes previously mentioned. This position is subject to the condition that the legislation contain a provision which would authorize the imposition in the deed and lease of such terms and conditions as the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs deems necessary in the interest of the United States Government. It is understood, of course, that the question of whether legislation of this character should be enacted is primarily for determination by the Congress.

The Veterans' Administration has not been advised by the Bureau of the Budget of the relationship of the proposal in question to the program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

CARL R. GRAY, Jr.,
Administrator,

