

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

CLAIMS OF THE SEMINOLE NATION OR TRIBE OF INDIANS—VETO MESSAGE (S. DOC. NO. 177)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, which was read, as follows:

*To the Senate:*

I return herewith without approval S. 4340, an act authorizing the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Oklahoma to hear and determine certain claims of the Seminole Nation or Tribe of Indians.

The tract of land therein described was formerly owned by the Seminole Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma. It was appraised and sold at public auction as provided by law. The full consideration was paid and title to the land has passed into the hands of a bona fide purchaser through transactions with the Government had in the utmost good faith. There is no substantial basis for thinking that Congress was without power to grant authority to the Secretary of the Interior to make the sale. There would seem to be no justification for now authorizing a committee of the tribe to bring a harassing suit against a private owner who bought and paid for this property in good faith many years ago. Moreover, this legislation might prove to be a precedent for private litigation affecting many other titles and large sums of money through other than the regular procedure. The rights of the Indians, if any, can be presented and adjudicated by the Court of Claims in the litigation pending before it under the act of May 20, 1924.

I attach hereto a letter from the Secretary of the Interior setting forth the views of the department on the bill.

HERBERT HOOVER.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 30, 1933.

Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma. Mr. President, just a word in explanation of the bill. In the Seminole Indian Nation in Oklahoma for years we had a school for the benefit of the Indian children of such tribe of Indians. Some years ago oil was discovered in that section of the State. The land upon which the school was located was desired by some of the large oil companies. The Seminole Tribe did not desire to dispose of the land.

The Secretary of the Interior tried to get the Seminole Tribe to enter into an arrangement for the sale of the property. The Indians refused to consider the sale of the property, and the chief refused to execute the deed. Whereupon the chief was removed and another chief appointed. The second chief likewise refused to sign the deed. And when it was discovered that no Indian could be secured to assume the rôle of chief who would sign the deed the Secretary of the Interior proceeded to sell the land himself and signed the deed as the guardian of the Indians. The land was sold, the deed was signed and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and it has since proved to be oil property.

The Indians have never been satisfied with the transaction. Some time ago, as a representative in part of the tribe of Indians, I introduced a bill authorizing the tribe to go into the Federal court of the eastern district of Oklahoma and present their claims against the oil company, in the hope, of course, that the deed might be set aside and the property restored to the Seminole Tribe of Indians.

The Congress passed the bill and now the President has seen fit to veto the measure asked for by the wards of the Government. Not having the time now to go into the matter fully and thoroughly, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, with the message, lie upon the table for future consideration by the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

RELIEF OF AGRICULTURAL INDEBTEDNESS

Mr. SHIPSTEAD. I ask unanimous consent to introduce a bill, and, in order to save time, I ask that a short explana-

tory statement may be printed in the RECORD as a part of my remarks.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is the Senator desirous that it be printed, together with the text of the bill?

Mr. SHIPSTEAD. The bill is quite extensive; but I should like, if there is no objection, to have the text of the bill printed.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 5562) to relieve agricultural distress through the consolidation and adjustment of indebtedness and the reduction of the rate of interest thereon, to release frozen credits and stimulate the recovery of business, to create in the Department of Agriculture an administration of agricultural loans with which will be consolidated, in the interest of economy and efficiency, all agencies of the Federal Government concerned with agricultural credit, and for other purposes, was read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, and ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

*Be it enacted, etc.,* That this act may be cited as the "Agricultural loan administration act of 1933."

SEC. 2. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress that the loaning of money to persons engaged in the production and distribution of agricultural products, and all undertakings relating, directly or indirectly, to agricultural credit in any of its phases, are affected with a public interest and that the proper regulation of the conditions under which the business of loaning money and of extending credit to persons engaged in producing and distributing agricultural products shall be carried on should be considered as an integral and inseparable part of the power of Congress to regulate commerce among the several States.

SEC. 3. The purposes of this act are hereby declared to be as follows:

- (a) The consolidation of agricultural indebtedness;
- (b) The relief of agriculture from onerous charges upon indebtedness to the Federal Government and to private lenders;
- (c) The orderly facilitation of credit to agriculture for the seasonal movements of commodities and livestock;
- (d) The stabilization, to a reasonable and practicable extent, of the range of prices obtainable by agricultural producers for what they produce, with reference to trustworthy indices of general price levels;
- (e) The encouragement of all dependable marketing cooperative processes and devices calculated to cheapen the cost of distribution of agricultural products and their derivatives among consumers thereof at home and abroad;
- (f) The reinforcement of buying power among all elements of the population of the United States through the restoration and preservation of equilibrium between consuming demand and reasonable costs of producing and distributing agricultural products;
- (g) The consolidation in the Department of Agriculture in an administration of agricultural loans, in the interest of economy and efficiency, of all the powers, duties, and functions of the governmental agencies heretofore established by the Federal Government; and
- (h) The improvement of the standard of living of the people of the United States.

SEC. 4. (a) There is hereby created in the Department of Agriculture an administration of agricultural loans, hereinafter referred to as the administration. The President, by Executive order, shall, within 60 days from the date of enactment of this act, consolidate and coordinate in the administration all executive and administrative bureaus, agencies, offices, or corporations (except those in the Department of Agriculture), especially created for or concerned in the administration of laws relating to agricultural credit in any of its phases, including the Federal Farm Loan Board, the Federal land banks, the Federal intermediate credit banks, the regional agricultural credit corporations of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and the Federal Farm Board and all agencies subject to its jurisdiction, and the President shall likewise transfer to the administration the duties, powers, and functions now vested in the bureaus, agencies, offices, or corporations so consolidated and coordinated, and the whole or any part of the records or public property belonging thereto. The Secretary of Agriculture shall, within 10 days from the date of enactment of this act, transfer to the administration all bureaus, agencies, offices, or corporations in the Department of Agriculture which are concerned with agricultural credit in any of its phases, together with the duties, powers, and functions now vested by law in such bureaus, agencies, offices, or corporations, including the whole or any part of the records and public property belonging thereto. The personnel of any bureaus, agencies, offices, or corporations so consolidated and coordinated in or transferred to the administration, may, in the discretion of the commissioner of agricultural loans, be transferred to and given employment in the administration, subject to such change in designation and organization as the commissioner may deem necessary.

(b) Upon the completion of the transfers to the administration provided for in this section the Federal Farm Board and the