

The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “12/23/75 HR8674 Metric Conversion Act of 1975” of the White House Records Office: Legislation Case Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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APPROVED
DEC 23 1975

*Statement issued
12/23*

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

Last Day: December 26

December 22, 1975

*To Archives
12/24*

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill H.R. 8674 - Metric Conversion Act of 1975

Attached for your consideration is H.R. 8674, sponsored by Representative Teague and 24 others, which declares a national policy of planning and coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the U.S. and establishes a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system.

A detailed discussion of the enrolled bill is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's office (Lazarus) and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill and the proposed signing statement which was prepared by the Department of Commerce and cleared by Paul Theis.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign H.R. 8674 at Tab C.

That you approve the signing statement at Tab B.

Approve

Disapprove



A



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 19 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 8674 - Metric Conversion Act
of 1975
Sponsor - Rep. Teague (D) Texas and 24 others

Last Day for Action

December 26, 1975 - Friday

Purpose

To encourage and coordinate the increased use of metric measurements in the United States and to establish a United States Metric Board.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of Commerce	Approval (Signing Statement attached)
Department of Labor	Approval
Civil Service Commission	Approval
Small Business Administration	No objection
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	Defer

Discussion

H.R. 8674 declares a national policy of planning and coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the United States and establishes a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system. It is similar to an Administration proposal submitted to the Congress earlier this year. The United States is the only industrial nation which has neither adopted the metric system nor announced a policy of conversion. Only Liberia, Yemen, Brunei, Burma and the United States remain nonmetric countries.



The Metric Board would be composed of 17 persons, a chairman and 16 members, to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Four of the 16 members would represent consumers and other interests deemed suitable by the President. The remaining 12 would be chosen from lists of individuals submitted by various organizations and interest groups specified in the bill such as the National Association of Manufacturers and the AFL-CIO. Each list must include the names of at least three individuals for each vacancy. It would have been preferable not to have such a limitation on the appointment power of the President. However, the diversity of choice allowed in most cases because of the number of "lists" prevents this provision from raising a serious problem.

The basic duties of the Board would be:

(1) to devise and carry out a comprehensive program of planning and coordinating metric conversion. The Board would consult with various groups affected by metric conversion, including industry, education, consumers and Federal, State and local governments. Proposed metric conversion programs would be publicized and the Board would provide interested groups an opportunity to comment. The Board would also encourage the development of revised engineering standards based on metric measurements.

(2) to inform the American public about metric weights and measurements mainly through (a) the use of mass media; (b) consultation with specified Federal agencies and with State and local educational agencies and other groups to assure that metric measurements are included in the curriculum and teachers and other personnel are properly trained to teach the metric system of measurement; and (c) the involvement of State and local weights and measures officials in metric conversion activities.

(3) to conduct research and surveys on any unresolved problems, issues, and questions associated with metric conversion or usage. The Board would publish the results of its research and recommend to the President and the Congress any action necessary to alleviate these problems.

The Board would submit an annual report to the President and the Congress on its activities including recommendations for action needed to implement programs of metric conversion accepted by the Board. A separate report would also be submitted to the President and Congress not later than one year after the enactment of the appropriation bill providing funds for the activities authorized by this enrolled bill. This report would discuss the

need to establish a mechanism to convert existing units of measurement into metric ones in statutes, regulations, and other laws at all levels of government. If the Board determined that a need existed, it would have to propose means for establishing such a mechanism.

The Board is authorized to appoint an Executive Director, hire and compensate a staff and employ experts and consultants, and shall cease to exist when Congress determines by law that its mission has been accomplished.

The enrolled bill authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to carry out its provisions. The Commerce Department, in its views letter on the bill, estimates the first year costs of the Metric Board at \$2 million.

James M. Frey
Assistant Director
for Legislative Reference

Enclosures

B



STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today signing H.R. 8674, the Metric Conversion Act of 1975. This legislation establishes a national policy of coordinating and planning for the increased use of the metric measurement system in the United States.

To say that this legislation is historic is an understatement. The question of a common measurement language is, in fact, nearly as old as our country. President George Washington raised the issue in his first message to Congress on January 8, 1790. He called at that time for a uniform system of currency and weights and measures. He repeated his request several times thereafter.

President James Madison also urged Congressional action on a measurement system. Fifty years later -- in July 1866 -- Congress did pass legislation making it legal to use the metric system in U.S. trade and commerce.

In 1875, the U.S. was one of the 17 countries which signed the Treaty of the Meter. In spite of that, the country retained its old measurement system. There have been expressions of legislative interest from time to time since 1875, but no further definitive statement of national policy has been forthcoming.

We should learn from this brief history that legislation cannot solve all our problems. Indeed, if the legislation is not founded on public acceptance it will have less than no effect at all.

That is why I think this bill is so interesting -- because the real impetus came from the private sector -- from people in the business of buying and selling American products here and overseas. U.S. industry, in this regard, is miles ahead of official policy. American companies already are making great use of metric measurements. Many areas of our industry -- such as pharmaceuticals, cameras and space exploration --

already are entirely or largely metric. In addition, many of the country's largest retailers are finding it is good business to deal metrically with their customers.

The truth is that our continued use of the English system of measurement was making us an island in a metric sea. In 1965, Great Britain renounced its old system of measurement in favor of metric. It was followed by the Commonwealth countries. Today, more than 90 percent of the world's people uses metric measurement in their everyday lives.

A few years ago, the Congress asked the Secretary of Commerce to determine what impact the increasing worldwide use of the metric system was having on the United States and whether it was desirable to increase the use of metric weights and measures here. The National Bureau of Standards, which conducted that study, urged wider use of the metric measurement language. NBS also proposed a coordinated national program to bring this about. The legislation before us today implements that NBS finding.

It is important to stress that the conversion contemplated in this legislation is to be a completely voluntary one. The Government's function, through a U.S. Metric Board that I shall appoint, will be to coordinate and synchronize increasing use of metric measurement in the various sectors of our economy.

I sign the bill with the conviction that it will enable our country to adopt increasing use of this convenient measurement language...both at home in our schools and factories, and overseas with our trading partners.



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

DEC 17 1975

Mr. James M. Frey
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Frey:

This is in response to the Enrolled Bill request of December 15, 1975, requesting the views and recommendations of the Small Business Administration with respect to H. R. 8674, an Act "To declare a national policy of coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the United States, and to establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system."

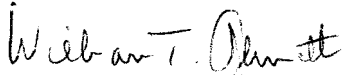
The United States Metric Board is to be composed of 17 members: two to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by organizations representative of small business. Unless otherwise provided by Congress, the Board shall have no compulsory powers and will cease to exist when Congress, by law, determines that its mission has been accomplished.

The Board will devise and carry out a program of planning, coordination and public education to implement the policy of this Act. The Act specifically instructs the Board, in carrying out its program, to consult with and take into account the interests, views, and conversion costs of, United States commerce and industry, including small business. The Board is to provide procedures whereby various groups, under the auspices of the Board, may formulate and recommend to the Board specific programs for coordinating conversion in each industry consistent with the needs, interests, and capabilities of manufacturers (large and small).

The Board's information and education programs designed to familiarize the public with metric terms and measures in daily life are to be conducted in consultation with, among others, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The Act recognizes that the interests of small business are to be represented on the Board and that SBA will have an opportunity to participate on the Board and in its public information and education programs. The Small Business Administration supports the concept of a voluntary conversion to the metric system with adequate representation of small business' interests in national policy and education matters.

Sincerely,


William T. Gennetti
Acting General Counsel



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON

DEC 17 1975

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

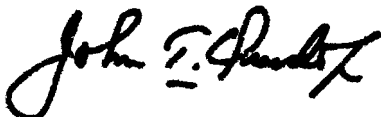
Dear Mr. Lynn:

This letter is in response to your request for our views and recommendations on the enrolled bill, H.R. 8674, which would declare a national policy of coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the United States, and establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system.

The bill would make coordination of the increasing use of the metric system a national policy. A 17-member U.S. Metric Board, with two representatives of labor, would be established to help coordinate voluntary plans developed by industry and other groups to convert to the metric system. The board, after consultation with various groups and governmental agencies, including the Department of Labor, would undertake educational programs to aid public understanding of metric units of measurements. The board would also conduct research, and recommend to the Congress and the President appropriate action to deal with unresolved issues associated with metric conversion, such as the impact on workers. Besides submitting an annual report to Congress and the President on its activities, the board would also submit, not later than one year after enactment of the bill, a report on the need to provide an effective structural mechanism for converting customary units to metric units in statutes, regulations and other laws at all levels of government in response to voluntary conversion programs.

The Department supports the objectives of this bill and, therefore, recommends that H.R. 8674 be signed by the President.

Sincerely,



Secretary of Labor



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

DEC 18 1975

The Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in response to your request of December 15, 1975, for a report on H.R. 8674, an enrolled bill "To declare a national policy of coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the United States, and to establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system."

Because the bill is of primary concern to the Department of Commerce and other Federal agencies more directly affected, we defer to those agencies as to the desirability of enactment of the bill.

The bill would establish a national policy of coordinating and planning for the increased use of the metric system in the United States and would establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system.

The provision in the bill which directly affects this Department is section 6(7)(B) which calls for the Board to conduct programs to assist the public to become familiar with the metric system, including programs of counselling and consultation by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and educational associations and agencies in order to assure that the metric system is included in the Nation's educational curricula and that teachers and other personnel are trained to teach the metric system.

One of the authorities funded under the Special Projects Act (which was enacted as part of P.L. 93-380 in 1974) is section 403 of P.L. 93-380, providing for education for the

use of the metric system of measurement. Under the fiscal year 1976 appropriation for the Education Division, \$2,090,000 will be available for grants and contracts to encourage educational agencies and institutions to prepare students to use the metric system. This authority would appear to be adequate to enable the Department to perform the functions called for by section 6(7)(B) of the enrolled bill. It should be noted, however, that as the movement toward adoption of the metric system gains momentum, pressure will undoubtedly be brought for increased funding for this program. If additional funds are to be provided for this activity in future years, it may be necessary to sever the metric education program from the other activities in the Special Projects Act, because the funding for each activity in that Act is a function of the total amount appropriated for Special Projects.

For the reasons discussed above, we have no objection to the enrolled bill, but we defer to those agencies more directly affected on the question of the desirability of the bill's enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Watkins". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name "Secretary".

Secretary



CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20415

December 18, 1975

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Attention: Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in reply to your request for the views of the Civil Service Commission on enrolled H.R. 8674, "To declare a national policy of coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the United States, and to establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system."

Our comments are limited to the personnel provisions of this legislation.

Section 3 of the bill establishes a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system. The Board would be composed of a Chairman and sixteen members, to be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Chairman would serve for 6 years. Of the original Board, five members would serve for 2 years; five for 4 years, and six for 6 years. Successor members would serve for 6 years.

Section 9 of the bill provides that members of the Board who are not in the regular full-time employ of the United States, while attending meetings or conferences of the Board or while otherwise engaged in the business of the Board, shall receive compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily rate currently being paid grade 18 of the General Schedule (at present, \$145.36) under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, including travel time. Since this is the rate of pay generally provided for members of the Government's important planning bodies, we have no objection to this provision.

Section 10(a) provides for the Board to appoint an Executive Director to serve at the pleasure of the Board. Generally, it is the President who makes appointments "to serve at his pleasure" and these are usually to the position of agency head or member of a board or a commission. It is not clear, therefore, why the Executive Director of this Board, who would serve in essentially an operating position of indefinite duration, should be denied the normal protections accorded other employees against arbitrary removal.

Section 10(b) provides that the Executive Director shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, and then goes on to state that the salary shall not exceed level III of the Executive Schedule. The last part of this provision seems to be in conflict with the first. Chapter 51 of title 5 applies only to the General Schedule. Since a person under the General Schedule may not be compensated at a rate in excess of level V of the Executive Schedule, this legislation, in effect, limits the maximum rate of pay to level V instead of level III of the Executive Schedule. On this basis, we have no objection to this provision.

Section 10(c) provides for the appointment and compensation of staff for the Board in accordance with chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5. These citations refer only to classification and compensation, not appointment. But in the absence of a specific exception, these employees would be covered under the competitive appointment provisions of title 5.

Section 10(d) authorizes the Board to employ experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5 at rates not to exceed grade 18 of the General Schedule. We have no objection to this.

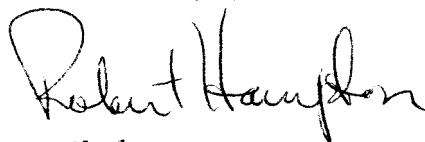
This section also contains a provision for annual renewal of contracts for such employment. We would have preferred that this feature not be included because it suggests the possibility of long term continuing employment of experts and consultants which is contrary to the nature of expert and consultant employment. As we interpret it, the authority in section 10(d) may not be used to continue an expert or consultant in a position indefinitely. In our view, appointments under 5 U.S.C. 3109 can only be to positions which are intermittent or temporary as we define them. Under our instructions in Federal Personnel Manual chapter 304, temporary employment as an expert or consultant is for 1 year or less and

ordinarily may not be extended; intermittent employment is for occasional or irregular work not to exceed 130 days in a calendar year. If a particular position does not meet our definition of expert and consultant employment, an appointment under 5 U.S.C. 3109 would not be authorized.

Although we object to several of the personnel provisions, our objections are not such as to warrant a recommendation of a veto. Therefore we recommend that the President sign enrolled H.R. 8674.

By direction of the Commission:

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Hampton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Chairman".

Chairman



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

DEC 18 1975

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Attention: Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in reply to your request for the views of this Department concerning H. R. 8674, an enrolled enactment

"To declare a national policy of coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the United States, and to establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system,"

to be cited as the "Metric Conversion Act of 1975."

H. R. 8674 declares it to be the policy of the United States to coordinate and plan the increased use of the metric system in the United States and to establish a U. S. Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system. The Board would consist of 17 members appointed by the President and would remain in existence until the Congress determines by law that its mission has been accomplished. Essentially the function of the Board would be to devise and carry out a broad program of planning, coordination, and public education activities which would implement the stated policy of the enrolled bill.

In the Spring of 1975, the Department of Commerce, on behalf of the Administration, initiated metric legislation similar to the legislation in question. Therefore, I am pleased to endorse its approval by the President.

The Metric Board, when constituted, will be financed by a direct appropriation which is authorized in the enrolled bill. When operating, the Board may call upon the Department of Commerce to provide financial and administrative services for which the Department would be reimbursed under the provisions of the bill. The first year costs of the U. S. Metric Board are estimated to be \$2 million.

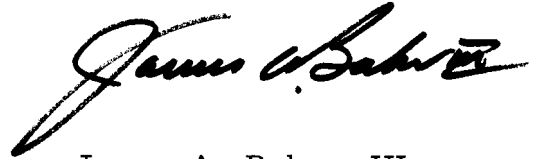
2.

In addition, approval of the bill would have only an indirect impact on the budget of the Department. Most activities related to increased metric usage are expected to be relatively inexpensive, and would be funded by reprogramming within existing budgets.

I strongly recommend the President approve this legislation.

Enclosed is a draft Signing Statement which I recommend be considered by the President for issuance if he approves H. R. 8674.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Baker, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

James A. Baker, III

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 19 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 8674 - Metric Conversion Act
of 1975
Sponsor - Rep. Teague (D) Texas and 24 others

Last Day for Action

December 26, 1975 - Friday

Purpose

To encourage and coordinate the increased use of metric measurements in the United States and to establish a United States Metric Board.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of Commerce	Approval (Signing Statement attached)
Department of Labor	Approval
Civil Service Commission	Approval
Small Business Administration	No objection
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	Defer

Discussion

H.R. 8674 declares a national policy of planning and coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the United States and establishes a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system. It is similar to an Administration proposal submitted to the Congress earlier this year. The United States is the only industrial nation which has neither adopted the metric system nor announced a policy of conversion. Only Liberia, Yemen, Brunei, Burma and the United States remain nonmetric countries.

The Metric Board would be composed of 17 persons, a chairman and 16 members, to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Four of the 16 members would represent consumers and other interests deemed suitable by the President. The remaining 12 would be chosen from lists of individuals submitted by various organizations and interest groups specified in the bill such as the National Association of Manufacturers and the AFL-CIO. Each list must include the names of at least three individuals for each vacancy. It would have been preferable not to have such a limitation on the appointment power of the President. However, the diversity of choice allowed in most cases because of the number of "lists" prevents this provision from raising a serious problem.

The basic duties of the Board would be:

(1) to devise and carry out a comprehensive program of planning and coordinating metric conversion. The Board would consult with various groups affected by metric conversion, including industry, education, consumers and Federal, State and local governments. Proposed metric conversion programs would be publicized and the Board would provide interested groups an opportunity to comment. The Board would also encourage the development of revised engineering standards based on metric measurements.

(2) to inform the American public about metric weights and measurements mainly through (a) the use of mass media; (b) consultation with specified Federal agencies and with State and local educational agencies and other groups to assure that metric measurements are included in the curriculum and teachers and other personnel are properly trained to teach the metric system of measurement; and (c) the involvement of State and local weights and measures officials in metric conversion activities.

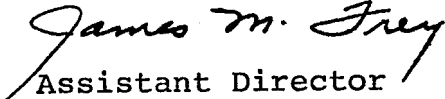
(3) to conduct research and surveys on any unresolved problems, issues, and questions associated with metric conversion or usage. The Board would publish the results of its research and recommend to the President and the Congress any action necessary to alleviate these problems.

The Board would submit an annual report to the President and the Congress on its activities including recommendations for action needed to implement programs of metric conversion accepted by the Board. A separate report would also be submitted to the President and Congress not later than one year after the enactment of the appropriation bill providing funds for the activities authorized by this enrolled bill. This report would discuss the

need to establish a mechanism to convert existing units of measurement into metric ones in statutes, regulations, and other laws at all levels of government. If the Board determined that a need existed, it would have to propose means for establishing such a mechanism.

The Board is authorized to appoint an Executive Director, hire and compensate a staff and employ experts and consultants, and shall cease to exist when Congress determines by law that its mission has been accomplished.

The enrolled bill authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to carry out its provisions. The Commerce Department, in its views letter on the bill, estimates the first year costs of the Metric Board at \$2 million.


Assistant Director
for Legislative Reference

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 1412

Date: December 20

Time: 1130am

FOR ACTION: Lynn May *ll*
Max Friedersdorf *ll*
Ken Lazarus *ll*
Paul Theis *ll*

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Warren Hendriks

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: December 22

Time: 200pm

SUBJECT:

H.R. 8674 - Metric Conversion Act of 1975

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

Date: December 20

Time: 1130am

FOR ACTION: Lynn May
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus ✓
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Warren Hendriks

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: December 22

Time:

900 AM
2:00 PM

SUBJECT:

H.R. 8674 - Metric Conversion Act of 1975

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

No objection. Although we agree with OMB that it would have been preferable not to have any limitations on the President's appointments to the Board, such limitations do not infringe on the President's constitutional prerogatives.

Ken Lazarus

PLEASE RETURN THIS COPY TO IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR

delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

For Use President

Date: December 20

Time: 1130am

FOR ACTION: Lynn May ✓
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Warren Hendriks

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: December 22

Time: 200pm

SUBJECT:

H.R. 8674 - Metric Conversion Act of 1975

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

Revised Approval
JLH

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO ALL OTHER COPIES

SIGNING STATEMENT

RRR

I am today signing H. R. 8674, the Metric Conversion Act of 1975.

Tray's This legislation establishes a national policy of coordinating and planning for the increased use of the metric measurement system in the ~~the~~ *United States.*

To say that this legislation is historic is an understatement. The question of a common measurement language is, in fact, nearly as old as our country. President George Washington raised the issue in his first message to Congress on January 8, 1790. He called at that time for a uniform system of currency ~~and~~ *and* weights and measures, ~~and~~ *and* he repeated his request several times thereafter.

President James Madison also urged Congressional action on a measurement system. ~~I was interested to learn that 50 years later--~~ *FIFTY* in July 1866--Congress did pass legislation making it legal to use the metric system in the U. S. trade and commerce.

In 1875, the U. S. was one of the 17 countries which signed the Treaty of the Meter. In spite of that, the country retained its old measurement system. There have been expressions of legislative interest from time to time since 1875, but no further definitive statement of national policy has been forthcoming.

~~We should learn from this~~ *that* I think this brief history lesson has a good lesson in it. Legislation cannot solve all our problems. Indeed, if the legislation is not ~~founded~~ *founded* on public acceptance it will have less than no effect at all.

That is why I think this bill is so interesting--because the year

and selling American products here and overseas. U. S.

this bill is a policy ahead of other policy.

companies are already making great use of metric measurements.

Many areas of our industry--such as pharmaceuticals, cameras, and space exploration are entirely or largely metric already. In addition, many of the country's largest retailers are finding it is good business to deal metrically with their customers.

The truth is that our continued use of the English system of measurement was making leaving us an island in a metric sea. In 1965, Great Britain renounced its old system of measurement in favor of

metric. It was followed by the Commonwealth countries. Today, more than Percent People over 90% of the world's population use metric measurement in its their everyday lives.

A few years ago, the Congress asked the Secretary of Commerce to determine what impact the increasing worldwide use of the metric system was having on the United States and whether it was desirable to increase the use of metric weights and measures here. The National Bureau of Standards, which conducted that study, urged wider use of the metric measurement language. NBS also proposed a coordinated national program to bring this about. The legislation before us today implements that NBS finding.

I think it is important to stress that the conversion contemplated in this legislation is to be a completely voluntary one. The Government's function, through a U. S. Metric Board that I shall appoint, will be to coordinate and synchronize increasing use of metric measurement in

the various sectors of our

I sign the bill with the conviction that it will enable our country to adopt increasing use of this convenient measurement language... both at home in our schools and factories, and overseas with our trading partners.

SIGNING STATEMENT

I am today signing H. R. 8674, the Metric Conversion Act of 1975. This legislation establishes a national policy of coordinating and planning for the increased use of the metric measurement system in the ~~U. S.~~ *United States.*

To say that this legislation is historic is an understatement. The question of a common measurement language is, in fact, nearly as old as our country. President George Washington raised the issue in his first message to Congress on January 8, 1790. He called at that time for a uniform system of currency, ^{and} weights and measures, ~~and~~ he repeated his request several times thereafter.

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I sign the bill with the conviction that it will enable our country to adopt increasing use of this convenient measurement language... both at home in our schools and factories, and overseas with our trading partners.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today signing H.R. 8674, the Metric Conversion Act of 1975. This legislation establishes a national policy of coordinating and planning for the increased use of the metric measurement system in the United States.

To say that this legislation is historic is an understatement. The question of a common measurement language is, in fact, nearly as old as our country. President George Washington raised the issue in his first message to Congress on January 8, 1790. He called at that time for a uniform system of currency and weights and measures. He repeated his request several times thereafter.

President James Madison also urged Congressional action on a measurement system. Fifty years later -- in July 1866 -- Congress did pass legislation making it legal to use the metric system in U.S. trade and commerce.

In 1875, the U.S. was one of the 17 countries which signed the Treaty of the Meter. In spite of that, the country retained its old measurement system. There have been expressions of legislative interest from time to time since 1875, but no further definitive statement of national policy has been forthcoming.

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

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METRIC CONVERSION ACT OF 1975

JULY 17, 1975.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

MR. TEAGUE, from the Committee on Science and Technology, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 8674]

The Committee on Science and Technology, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 8674) to declare a national policy of converting to the metric system in the United States, and to establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to declare, as a matter of national policy, that the United States will convert to the metric system of weights and measures on a voluntary basis. To provide a coordinating mechanism, the bill establishes a United States Metric Board with a membership of 25 persons broadly representative of all sectors of American society which will be affected by this change.

METRIC CONVERSION ACT OF 1975

Report of the Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, 94th Congress, 1st Session, on H.R. 874, Metric Conversion Act of 1975. Printed by the Government Printing Office, 1975.

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H. R. 874

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EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The United States is now well into the early stages of converting to the metric system. Many industries have already announced that they are changing the sizes of their products and the standards to which they are manufactured to the metric system. Major American automotive concerns have decided that all automobiles manufactured by them, including the parts and components made by their subcontractors and other suppliers, will be made on the basis of the metric system within the next few years. All fifty States are now committed to changing to the metric system in their education departments. The school systems of a number of States have announced that textbooks will be entirely changed to the metric system by the year 1976. The pharmaceutical industry is largely using the metric system—as does the medical profession. These are examples.

The choice before the Congress is not whether we should move to the metric system. That conversion is underway. The choice is between continuing the conversion process in an entirely uncoordinated fashion, as is the case now, or going forward with the conversion process on a coordinated basis. The testimony heard by the Committee indicated that there is wide agreement on the desirability of going forward on a coordinated basis. Furthermore, it is apparent that many sectors of the national community which are now considering conversion are only awaiting a firm statement by the Congress committing the United States to the conversion before they, too, adopt the metric system.

FINDINGS

The Congress finds that the use of the metric system was authorized by an Act of Congress passed in 1866, that the customary units in use in the United States have been defined based on metric units since 1893, that other major industrial countries are now converting to the metric system and that the United States is the only such country in the world which has not established a national policy on converting to the metric system, and that the Metric Study conducted by the Secretary of Commerce and submitted to the Congress in 1971 pursuant to Public Law 90-472 recommends that the United States convert to the metric system; that maximum efficiency will result and minimum costs to effect the conversion will be incurred if the conversion is accomplished through a coordinated national program carried out, in general, without Federal subsidies and that the goal for the conversion should be a Nation predominantly, although not exclusively, metric.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The bill declares that it shall be the policy of the United States to change to the metric system in a coordinated manner, and that the purpose of this coordination shall be to reduce the total cost of the

conversion. The conversion shall be carried out by means of the voluntary participation of each affected sector and group in the Nation. And finally, the policy of the United States shall be to assist in the development of a broad, national public education program.

UNITED STATES METRIC BOARD

The bill provides for the establishment of a United States Metric Board. The Board shall be composed of 21 persons from the public who will be appointed by the President. The members shall serve at the pleasure of the President and they shall serve such terms as he specifies. They shall be broadly representative of those groups in American society which will be affected by the changeover to the metric system, and shall include representatives of industry, labor, business, including small business, agriculture, commerce, the consumer, education, state and local government, science and engineering, the construction industry and other affected groups. The membership shall include, in addition, two members from the House of Representatives and two members from the Senate of the United States. The President shall designate one of the non-congressional members to serve as Chairman and another to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board. The bill further provides that unless otherwise provided by the Congress the Board shall have no compulsory powers. The Board shall cease to exist when the Congress determines that its mission is accomplished.

DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The bill provides that the Board shall perform three major functions to: (1) execute a broad program of planning and coordinating the conversion to the metric system; (2) conduct research and submit recommendations to the President and to the Congress; and (3) conduct a program of public education in the metric system at all levels from elementary to adult education in order that the American people may become familiar with the meaning and use of metric terms and measures in their daily lives.

Consultation

The Board shall consult with and take into account the interests and views of industry, labor, business, including small business, commerce, science and engineering, education, government agencies at the Federal, state and local levels, and the consumer and other groups which would be affected by the changeover to the metric system. The intent of this consultation process is that each sector or industry in the country shall be asked, on a voluntary basis, to develop its own plan for the conversion to the metric system in such a time period as that group feels to be in its own best interest insofar as efficiency and minimum costs are concerned. The Board is further directed to consult with existing organizations in the field of standards development and coordination.

Coordination

The Board shall develop procedures whereby industry groups can come together on a voluntary basis under the auspices of the Board to discuss and agree on the best dimensions and configurations in the

metric system, or other measurements for general use which are consistent with the needs and capabilities of the manufacturers, suppliers, consumers, and other interested and affected groups and the time schedule for the conversion process for each group.

New Engineering Standards

The Board shall facilitate and encourage the development of new or revised engineering standards based on metric measurements in those specific fields or areas where such standards will result in improved design or increases in economy consistent with the efficient use of energy and the conservation of natural resources.

Existing Engineering Standards

The Board shall facilitate and encourage the retention, in new metric language, of those United States engineering standards, practices, and conventions that are internationally accepted or which embody superior technology.

International Cooperation

The Board shall cooperate with foreign governments and international organizations which have become concerned with the encouragement and coordination of the metric system with the objective of gaining international recognition for metric standards proposed by the United States.

Public Education

The Board shall carry out programs of public education and information aimed at making every citizen of the United States familiar with the metric system. These programs shall include public information activities conducted by the Board itself through the use of newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and other media; consultation by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Secretary of Labor, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Director of the National Science Foundation with education associations and other education groups to insure that the metric system is made a part of the curriculum in all of the Nation's educational institutions and that teachers are trained to teach the metric system; consultation by the Secretary of Commerce with the National Conference of Weights and Measures to assure that weights and measures officials in each state and local jurisdiction are fully informed of the metric changeover activities in the country and are assisted in their efforts to bring about timely amendments to weights and measures laws; and such other public information activities by any federal agency which would relate to the mission of the agency.

International Consultations

The Board shall consult with foreign governments and organizations and groups in other countries, including international standards organizations, to the extent it determines appropriate. Such contacts by the Board shall be accomplished through consultation with the Department of State.

Metric Studies

The Board shall collect, analyze, and publicize information about the extent to which the metric system is being used, and shall evaluate the benefits and costs of such metric usage.

Metric Conversion Research

The Board shall conduct research on any unresolved problems associated with the conversion to and use of the metric system and shall publicize the results of this research. The Board may recommend to the President and to the Congress actions to deal with unresolved problems associated with metric usage.

Annual Reports

The bill provides that the Board shall submit annual reports of its activities and progress under the Act to the President and to the Congress. The report shall include a status report on the conversion process as well as projections for the conversion process.

AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD

The bill provides that the Board has the authority to perform the following tasks and activities.

Board Committees

The Board is authorized to establish a Board Executive Committee and such other committees as it deems desirable.

Committees and Advisory Panels

The Board is authorized to establish such committees and advisory panels as it deems necessary in order to bring together and work with each sector of American society, and to implement the detailed change-over plans for each of those sectors. Invitation to participate in each of these committees and advisory panels shall be extended to all affected organizations within each sector, and participation in the committees and panels shall be on a voluntary basis.

Hearings

The Board is authorized to conduct hearings at such times and in such places as it deems appropriate in the furtherance of the policies of the Act.

Contract Authority

The Board is authorized to enter into contracts with Federal and State agencies, private firms, institutions, and individuals for the conduct of research and surveys, the preparation of reports, and such other studies or related activities as it deems necessary to discharge its duties. Such contracts shall be entered into by the Board in accordance with the Federal Property Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended.

Delegation to Executive Director

The Board is authorized to delegate to the Executive Director of the Board such authority and responsibilities as it deems advisable.

Additional Authority

In addition to the specific authority provided in the bill, the Board is authorized to perform such other activities as may be necessary to carry out the duties prescribed by this Act.

Gifts

The bill provides authority to the Board to accept, hold, administer, and utilize gifts, donations, and bequests of property. Such gifts are to be used for the purposes of aiding and facilitating the work of the Board. Gifts received for this purpose by the Board may be considered as gifts to the United States under the income tax laws of the United States. The bill specifies that, upon the request of the Board, the Secretary of the Treasury may invest the proceeds of such gifts in securities of the United States. Income accruing from such securities shall be dispensed on the order of the Board and funds not expended by the Board when the life of the Board expires shall revert to the Treasury of the United States.

COMPENSATION OF THE BOARD

The bill provides that members of the Board who are not employees of the United States shall be entitled to compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily rate currently being paid to Grade 18 of the General Schedule which applies to Federal employees of the Executive Branch. All members of the Board shall also be entitled to travel pay and travel expenses when traveling on the business of the Board.

STAFF SERVICES

The bill provides that there shall be an Executive Director of the Board, who shall be appointed by the President. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Board for carrying out the metric conversion program according to the provisions of the Act and the policies established by the Board. The Executive Director shall serve at Executive level III. The Board is also authorized to appoint such staff personnel as may be necessary and to employ experts and consultants.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The bill provides that, at the request of the Board, financial and administrative services, including those related to budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, personnel, and procurement, shall be provided to the Board by the Department of Commerce or other appropriate sources in the Federal Government. The Board shall reimburse the source for the costs of such services.

FUNDS FOR THE BOARD

The bill authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act. Such appropriations may remain available for obligation or expenditures for such a period or periods as may be specified in the Appropriation Acts.

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EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY AND DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

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STATE OF THE BOARD

The bill authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act. Such appropriations may be available for obligation or expenditure for such a period of time as may be specified in the appropriation Act. The bill also provides that the Board shall submit an annual report to the President and the Congress.

A number of bills were introduced in the 92d Congress early in the year. Some of these were identical to the earlier Administration bill and most of them were close approximations of it. All such metric legislation was referred to the Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Statistics. The Subcommittee held a series of public hearings on the subject during a period of

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The Committee on Science and Technology, by House rule, has been charged with general oversight of the "standardization of weights and measures and the metric system" since the Committee was first formed in 1959. Beginning that year and in every Congress since, bills have been introduced by members of the Committee to effect wider use of the metric system in the United States or to provide for surveys and studies to weigh the advisability of doing so. All of the earlier bills were aimed at the latter objective, most of them being sponsored by the Committee's former chairman, George P. Miller of California.

Thus bills providing for the careful study of the values and problems of converting the nation to a metric system were introduced in the 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, and 90th Congresses. In the 87th Congress such a bill was reported from the Committee and placed on the House Consent Calendar but was objected to. In the 89th Congress, 5 days of hearings were held, in August 1965, and a study bill was reported by the Committee but the House took no action.

In the 90th Congress a similar metric study bill, H.R. 3136, was introduced on January 19, 1967. This bill was reported from Committee on May 6, 1967, and passed the House June 24, 1968. It passed the Senate June 30, 1968, and became Public Law 90-472 when signed by the President on August 9, 1968. This new act ordered the Secretary of Commerce to investigate and appraise the relative merits of metric conversion. The Secretary was ordered to report his findings back to the Congress within 3 years.

Pursuant to the Act, the Secretary formed a Metric System Study Advisory Panel of 45 representatives from all walks of American life and commerce which consulted with, and took testimony from, literally hundreds of business organizations, labor groups, professional societies, manufacturing, farm, retail associations, State and local officials, and so on. The results of the survey, which strongly favored an orderly conversion to the metric system, was forwarded to the Congress by the Secretary of Commerce on July 29, 1971. Its report, called "A Metric America," has been widely disseminated and was reprinted as a Committee Print of the Committee on Science and Technology in October of 1971.

Early in the 92d Congress the Administration, on the basis of the study submitted by the Department of Commerce, forwarded to Congress recommended legislation for a voluntary 10-year plan to convert the nation to the metric system. The bill was introduced in the House by Mr. Miller and others in March of 1972. Due to the press of other legislation, however, and because similar legislation apparently would be acted upon at a relatively early date by the Senate, no action was taken on this bill. Subsequently, the Senate did pass an amended version of the Administration bill, but the action came too late for the Committee on Science and Technology to consider it.

A number of bills were introduced in the 93d Congress early in the year. Some of these were identical to the earlier Administration bill and most of them were close approximations of it.

All such metric legislation was referred to the Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology, which held hearings on them *en bloc*. These hearings were comprehensive and covered a period of two weeks in March and May of 1973.

On September 20, 1973, the Subcommittee reported out a metric bill. The full Committee met on October 16 made a number of additional changes to the Subcommittee version, and reported out a clean bill, H.R. 11035. On May 7, 1974 this bill was brought to the floor under a suspension of the rules which requires a two-thirds vote. The bill was not acted upon favorably.

Several bills were introduced in the 94th Congress. On January 14, 1975 Mr. Teague introduced H.R. 254 which was identical to the Committee bill of the last Congress. Mr. Hechler introduced H.R. 492 which was similar in many aspects to H.R. 254; the composition of the Board differs and specified amounts were authorized for the administrative duties of the Board. H.R. 627 introduced by Mr. McClory provides that the sole system of units would be the metric system; the Board composition varies from the two previous bills.

On April 17, 1975 Mr. Teague introduced the Administration bill H.R. 6154 which was similar in many ways to H.R. 254, but does not specify a time frame. As a courtesy on April 18, 1975, Mr. Symington introduced H.R. 6177 reflecting the views of the institutions of labor concerning the conversion to the metric system.

Mr. Fraser introduced H.R. 6264 which would direct the Executive Branch to convert to the metric system; this bill also provided assistance to individuals. A number of other bills have been introduced which are similar to H.R. 254, H.R. 492, and H.R. 627.

RATIONALE FOR THE LEGISLATION

The hearings and testimony taken by the Committee, not only during the current Congress but in previous Congresses, has indicated that a strong majority favor converting the nation—gradually and voluntarily—to the metric system. While there have been some variations in the methodology proposed, there can be little doubt that a general conviction exists that the conversion to the metric system is inevitable.

Some useful observations contributing to the fundamental rationale for conversion were succinctly stated in the summary of the Department of Commerce report, "A Metric America." The summary follows:

Many times in the last two centuries, the Congress considered the merits of adopting the metric system as America's primary language of measurement. Each time, action was postponed, often because the metric system was not then in use by our major trading partners abroad. Now, with every other major nation converted to metric or committed to conversion, this obstacle has been removed.

In the light of these and other changing circumstances, the Congress directed the Secretary of Commerce to undertake

the U.S. Metric Study. Its purpose was to evaluate the impact on America of the metric trend and to consider alternatives for national policy.

The U.S. Metric Study concludes that eventually the United States will join the rest of the world in the use of the metric system as the predominant common language of measurement. Rather than drifting to metric with no national plan to help the sectors of our society and guide our relationships abroad, a carefully planned transition in which all sectors participate voluntarily is preferable. The change will not come quickly, nor will it be without difficulty; but Americans working cooperatively can resolve this question once and for all.

The basis for the conclusion that the U.S. will eventually be metric lies in the findings of the Study that America is already metric in some respects; that we are becoming more so; and that the great majority of businessmen, educators and other informed participants in the Study reported that increased use of the metric system is in the best interests of America. They also believe that it is better for the nation to move to metric by plan rather than by no plan at all.

They go beyond the question of whether or not the United States should progressively replace its present measurement language with metric. The question they ask is how and when America will choose to make the change. It is primarily a question of timing and preparation. Shall the nation do so by plan over a comparatively brief period of ten to fifteen years? Or shall it drift toward a metric usage?

Consequently, the costs and benefits to be considered are not so much those of changing to metric versus not changing at all. The key comparison is between changing *by plan* versus changing with *no plan*—with no framework to guide the nation.

There will be real costs and difficulties in the change, whether or not it is done by plan. The Study indicates that such difficulties will in any event have to be faced as metric usage reaches substantial proportions in America. Thus, without a plan the United States would experience all the difficulties of dual inventories, dual education, dual thinking, dual sets of tools and dual production—perhaps not so soon but over a much longer period of time.

On the basis of all the factors that were considered, the Study concludes that it would be best for the nation to change to metric under a coordinated program that provides for flexibility and encourages the various sectors of society to deal with their particular problems voluntarily. Within this framework, these sectors would work out their own timetables and programs, dovetailing them with those of other sectors.

Developing a national program for change would require a great deal of forethought and discussion. But the Study finds that two major activities should be begun immediately, because they would be pivotal in preparing the nation for increased use of the metric system.

The first is education. Every schoolchild should have the opportunity to become as conversant with the metric system as he is with our present measurement system.

The second concerns international standards. High quality American industrial practices should be much more vigorously promoted in international negotiations that are beginning to establish "engineering standards" on a worldwide basis and will increasingly affect world trade.

While the majority of the American people are not well versed in the metric system, the Study shows that those who are informed about it tend to favor it. This demonstrates a need for public education to help all citizens to cope with the trend to metric and poses a challenge to the Congress to point the way for all Americans.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

All legislation was referred to the Science, Research and Technology Subcommittee which held hearings on them *en bloc*. The hearings were comprehensive and complemented the hearings conducted in the 93rd Congress. The two weeks of hearings were scheduled for April 29, 1975 through May 8, 1975; a broad spectrum of the National community was represented, including the National Bureau of Standards, labor organizations, small business, a consumer advisor, state educational officials, industry, industrial and professional organizations, a state metric committee, agriculture, and a metric panel of a department of the Federal government. The hearings provided a forum for determining the position of the various sectors of the National community and the status of the conversion to the metric system in the United States at present.

After careful consideration of all the testimony and examination of all the metric bills, the Subcommittee met on May 21, 1975 to consider a draft bill. The bill reflected the language of several of the bills which had been introduced. The Subcommittee reported out H.R. 7353, a clean bill. The full Committee marked up the bill on June 26, 1975; there were two minor revisions, and the Committee unanimously reported out a clean bill, H.R. 8674.

COMMITTEE VIEWS

COST OF METRIC CONVERSION

It is expected that the coordination activities of the Board will contribute notably to a reduction in the overall costs associated with the conversion process. The Committee has heard from other Nations currently in the conversion process such as Australia and Canada, that actual costs have been substantially less than the most modest estimates. In the United States, industry currently converting to the Metric System reports costs to be much smaller than original estimates. Many firms are absorbing costs as a part of normal operating budgets without special allocations.

Other major industrial countries of the world which are now in the process of converting from the English system of units to the metric system (including Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa) have all adopted the principle of letting "costs lie where they fall." The Committee feels that minimum costs will be incurred if conversion is accomplished, in general, without Federal subsidies. A program of automatic general reimbursement by the Federal government would be very difficult to administer. For example, the situation would have to be resolved for those who have already absorbed the costs of conversion. If, following research and deliberation, the Board should identify unresolved problem areas, the Board can recommend actions to the President and to the Congress.

During the conversion process, small businesses may be exposed to adverse situations. The Small Business Administration is to direct its financial, management, procurement and technical assistance programs to aid small business firms impacted by metrication. Some small businesses will not have the resources for necessary conversion to the metric system and may need loans from the SBA. Also, the Committee expects the SBA to be vigilant that during the conversion process, federal contracts being held by small firms are protected.

TIME FRAME

Most other nations undergoing the conversion process from the English System to the Metric System have worked with an overall time schedule of a decade. The Australian experience has demonstrated that the conversion process can occur in less than the ultimate goal; they anticipate completion two years ahead of schedule. New Zealand established a goal of eight years and is anticipating completion in seven. Although the experiences of other nations can provide guidelines, the Committee recognizes that the United States has a greater population and a more complex industrial economy which may require greater efforts in the conversion process.

The inclusion of a ten year target date for the extensive adoption of the metric system was discussed thoroughly by the Subcommittee

during its hearings and its markup session and by the full Committee during its markup. The committee acknowledges the need to give impetus to metrication so that costs and inconveniences will be minimized. However, it is also recognized that each sector of the national community will require a different time frame. Some sectors of the community, such as the pharmaceutical industry, are already metric. Other sectors may require years before conversion is achieved. The Committee envisions a conversion period sufficiently long so that no industry or sector of society will be unduly harmed or disadvantaged. The Committee also desires a conversion period sufficiently short so that the social and economic costs of conversion will be reduced.

It is the Committee's view that the Board will not need to function the entire conversion process. After conversion plans are developed, coordination activities have made substantial progress, and public education is essentially complete, the Board can cease to function. The momentum of the conversion process should be sufficient at that time. There will be many minor problems remaining, but they can be resolved without the assistance of the Board. Recognizing that the conversion may require longer or shorter than a ten-year time frame and that the valuable coordinating efforts of the Board may still be necessary, the bill specifies no definite time limit on the tenure of the Board, but provides the Board shall cease to exist when the Congress determines its function complete.

THE UNITED STATES METRIC BOARD

In the Bill the composition of the Board is designated as "... broadly representative of the American society, including industry, labor, business, including small business, agriculture, commerce, the consumer, education, state and local government, science and engineering, the construction industry, and other effected groups." In selecting sectors of the National Community for inclusion in the category designated as "other effected groups," special care is to be exercised to insure the inclusion of those sectors whose conversion may involve particular complexities:

A member of the Board may represent more than one sector of the national community; for example, one member of the Board may have qualifications which enable him to represent both the interests of commerce and banking. The Committee also recommends that among the representatives of industry, business, and commerce that there be a member of the Board sufficiently knowledgeable in banking and finance to deal with the international trade implications.

The Board shall be independent of any department or agency of the Federal government. Although the Board may be more closely in contact with the Department of Commerce, it will be important that the Board be able to work with all departments and agencies. The Chairman of the Board and/or the Executive Director must be of sufficient stature and position that they may work directly with the offices of the chief administrators of agencies and departments.

GOVERNMENT SECTOR

The Subcommittee heard testimony from a witness pointing out that the agencies and departments of the Federal government are repre-

sentative of the various sectors of the national community. The witness suggested that each of the Federal agencies and departments be requested to formulate coordinated plans for its metric conversion. These plans then might serve as an initial model for the corresponding sectors of the national community. The Subcommittee felt this approach merited the deliberation of the Board.

State and local governments throughout the country have many laws and regulations involving measurement units. In some cases the adaptation of such codes to the use of metric measurements can be guided and facilitated through the established mechanism of existing organizations (e.g., the National Conference on Weights and Measures for commercial weights and measures regulations and the model code organizations for building codes). However, there are areas for which no appropriate mechanism exists. The Board should identify such areas and should foster the development of model codes and model regulations concerning these areas. This action will provide a valuable source of assistance to state and local governments as they adapt to the metric system.

ANTITRUST CONSIDERATIONS

The Committee heard expressions of concern from industry associations which felt that participation by its member companies in the metric committees and panels contemplated by the act might expose them to litigation under the antitrust laws. These groups raised the question of whether, by participating in conversations and discussions with other competitive firms in the same industry, such companies might possibly be subject to prosecution under those laws.

It was suggested to the committee that a provision should be included in the bill which would state explicitly that immunity is granted from the antitrust laws for industry activities directed toward informing and advising the Board in the development of individual industry plans. In order to make it clear that activities of this kind are not intended to be subject to antitrust proceedings, the Committee included a section in the bill specifically requiring the Board to bring together industry groups for such purposes under the auspices of the Board.

The Committee further suggests that when such groups, committees and panels are brought together, a representative of the Board be present in some capacity in order to make it entirely clear that the meeting is being held under the auspices of the Board.

DESIGNATION OF ACCEPTED UNITS/SYMBOLS

The Committee heard from several witnesses urging uniformity in metric symbols and units. It is the intent of the Committee that the Board shall establish, following consultation with the National Bureau of Standards, the accepted metric units and abbreviated symbols for physical quantities which shall be employed during and following the conversion to the metric system.

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE BILL

H.R. 8674

SECTION 1

The title of the bill is the "Metric Conversion Act of 1975."

SECTION 2

Findings:

- (1) The use of metric units has been legal in the United States since 1866.
- (2) The United States signed the Convention of the Meter establishing international metric measurement standards and procedures to update them.
- (3) These international metric measurement standards have been adopted as the fundamental measurement standard of the United States since 1893.
- (4) Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of South Africa are now committed to the metric system.
- (5) The United States is the only industrially developed country not committed to the metric system.
- (6) In a study authorized by Public Law 90-472, the Secretary of Commerce has found that the increased use of the metric system in the United States is inevitable; that maximum efficiency will result and minimum costs to effect the conversion will be incurred if the conversion is accomplished through a coordinated national program carried out, in general, without Federal subsidies; that the goal for conversion should be a Nation predominantly, although not exclusively, metric; that a central planning and coordinating body be established and assigned to plan and coordinate metric conversion activities in cooperation with all sectors of our society; and that immediate attention be given to education of the public and to effective United States participation in measurement-related international standards activities.

SECTION 3

United States policy is declared to be:

- (1) To plan and coordinate the increasing use of the metric system in the United States;
 - (2) To encourage the voluntary participation of each affected sector;
 - (3) To encourage efficiency and minimize overall costs to society;
- and
- (4) To assist in educating the public to think and work in metric terms.

SECTION 4

Definition of special terms.

SECTION 5

Establishes a United States Metric Board to implement the Act.

SECTION 6

Describes the composition of the Board:

- (a) Twenty-one persons broadly representative of the American society appointed by the President to serve at his pleasure; one designated Chairman, one Vice Chairman by the President;
- (b) Two Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (c) Two Senators appointed by the President of the Senate.

SECTION 7

Vacancies notwithstanding, the Board can act, and a quorum is a simple majority.

SECTION 8

The Board has no compulsory powers.

SECTION 9

The Board shall cease to exist when the Congress, by law, determines its mission accomplished.

SECTION 10

The Board shall devise a program of planning, coordination and education to implement the Act. It shall:

- (a) Consult with all sectors of American society;
- (b) Provide procedures for various groups to formulate and recommend specific programs for coordinating conversion;
- (c) Publicize such programs for comment, and if requested, hold hearings on them;
- (d) Encourage rapid development of new metric-based standards where improvement in economy, design, etc., can result;
- (e) Encourage retention in new metric-based standards of United States designs, etc., that are internationally accepted or technically superior;
- (f) Cooperate with appropriate organizations to gain recognition for metric standards proposed by the United States and to retain customary units in international standards during the changeover period;
- (g) Familiarize the public with the metric system through information and education programs, including:
 - (1) mass media public information programs and communication with interested groups;
 - (2) consultation with educators, HEW, Department of Labor, SBA and NSF;
 - (3) consultation to inform and assist state and local weights and measures officials; and

(4) appropriate public information programs by other Federal agencies.

- (h) Use and publish data on metric usage and its impact as a basis for efforts to minimize adverse effects;
- (i) Conduct and publish results of research on problems or impacts of metric conversion;
- (j) Submit annual reports to the President and to the Congress.

SECTION 11

Authorizes the Board to:

- (a) Establish board subcommittees and an executive committee;
- (b) Establish advisory committees from sectors of the economy;
- (c) Conduct hearings;
- (d) Make contracts with public or private agencies;
- (e) Delegate authority to the Executive Director;
- (f) Perform other necessary acts.

SECTION 12

- (a) Authorizes the Board to accept and utilize gifts;
- (b) For tax purposes, such gifts are considered gifts to the United States;
- (c) Treasury Department may invest such Board funds in United States securities;
- (d) When the Board ceases to exist, unexpended funds revert to the Treasury.

SECTION 13

When on Board business, members shall be paid at the daily rate for GS-18, plus travel expenses.

SECTION 14

- (a) The President shall appoint an Executive Director who shall be responsible to the Board;
- (b) The Executive Director shall serve full time at Executive Level III.

SECTION 15

- (a) Authorizes the Board to hire the necessary staff;
- (b) Authorizes the Board to employ consultants.

SECTION 16

Administrative services requested by the Board shall be provided by appropriate services in the Federal government on a reimbursable basis.

SECTION 17

Authorizes the appropriation of necessary funds to carry out provisions of the Act.

Report from the Committee on the Budget
Pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
the following statement regarding new budget authority has been
received from the Committee on the Budget: No statement received as
of July 16, 1975.

Statement and Comparison by the Congressional Budget Office
Pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
the following statement and comparison prepared by the Director of
the Congressional Budget Office has been received: No report received
as of July 16, 1975.

COST AND BUDGET DATA
The conversion activities and programs expected to result from this
legislation will result in the Government of other than
the administration of the

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to Rule X Clause 2(b)(1) of the Rules of the House of
Representatives the following statement regarding oversight activi-
ties is made. This bill represents new legislation so that there have been
no oversight activities.

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Pursuant to Rule X, Clause 2(b)(2) of the Rules of the House of
Representatives the following oversight findings and recommenda-
tions made by the Committee on Government Operations have been
received; No statement of findings and recommendations were received
as of July 16, 1975.

(25)

The conversion to the metric system is voluntary and the market
place will establish the momentum for the change. Along with the
costs there will be real savings. Industries will be able to eliminate
over a period of time, the costly aspects of dual operations.
The conversion to the metric system will enhance our abilities to
compete on the international market and hence strengthen the Nation's
monetary position.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

A quorum being present, the committee, by roll call vote, mani-
mentally approved the bill.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations from the Department of Commerce
accompanied the draft bill introduced April 17, 1975, as H.R. 6154.

(4) appropriate public information programs by other Federal
agencies.
(b) Use and publish data on metric usage and its impact as a basis
for efforts to minimize adverse effects;
(i) Conduct and publish results of research on problems or impacts
of metric conversion;
(j) Submit annual reports to the President and to the Congress.

SECTION 21

Authorizes the Board to:
(a) Establish board subcommittees and an executive committee;
(b) Establish advisory committees from sectors of the economy;
(c) Conduct hearings;
(d) Make contracts with public or private agencies;
(e) Delegate authority to the Executive Director;
(f) Perform other necessary acts.

SECTION 22

(a) Authorizes the Board to accept and utilize gifts;
(b) For tax purposes, such gifts are considered gifts to the United
States;
(c) Treasury Department may invest such Board funds in United
States securities;
(d) When the Board ceases to exist, unexpended funds revert to
the Treasury.

SECTION 23

When on Board business, members shall be paid at the daily rate
for GS-18, plus travel expenses.

SECTION 24

(a) The President shall appoint an Executive Director who shall be
responsible to the Board;
(b) The Executive Director shall serve full time at Executive Level
III.

SECTION 25

(a) Authorizes the Board to hire the necessary staff;
(b) Authorizes the Board to employ consultants.

SECTION 26

Administrative services requested by the Board shall be provided
by appropriate services in the Federal Government on a reimbursable
basis.

SECTION 27

Authorizes the appropriation of necessary funds to carry out pro-
visions of the Act. (WHH attached this notification) (2)
FSN per ABS
(3)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 the following statement regarding new budget authority has been received from the Committee on the Budget: No statement received as of July 16, 1975.

ESTIMATE AND COMPARISON BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 the following estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office has been received: No report received as of July 16, 1975.

COST AND BUDGET DATA

The conversion activities and programs expected to result from this legislation will result in no cost to the Federal Government other than the administration of the Act.

This Act authorizes such funds as necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act. In accordance with the requirements of Sec. 252(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, the Committee estimates the costs of administering the Act to be \$2.0 million the first year and \$3.0 million annually thereafter.

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION ON INFLATION

In accordance with Rule XI, Clause 2(1)(4) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1974, this legislation is assessed to have no inflationary effects on prices and costs in the national economy.

There will be costs associated with the conversion to the metric system. There is no accurate means for estimating these costs. However, those countries and industries which have converted or which are in the process of converting report that the actual costs have been much less than even their most modest estimates.

The conversion to the metric system is voluntary and the market place will establish the momentum for the change. Along with the costs, there will be real savings. Industries will be able to eliminate, over a period of time, the costly aspects of dual operations.

The conversion to the metric system will enhance our abilities to compete on the international market and hence strengthen the Nation's monetary position.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

A quorum being present, the committee, by roll call vote, unanimously approved the bill.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations from the Department of Commerce accompanied the draft bill introduced April 17, 1975, as H.R. 6154.

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C., March 25, 1975.

HON. CARL ALBERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are six copies of a draft bill to establish a national policy relating to conversion to the metric system in the United States, to be cited as the "Metric Conversion Act of 1975," together with a statement of purpose and need in support thereof.

We have been advised by the Office of Management and Budget there would be no objection to the submission of our draft bill to the Congress and further that its enactment would be in accord with the President's program.

FREDERICK B. DENT,
Secretary of Commerce.

METRIC CONVERSION ACT OF 1975

REPORT

OF THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

ON

S. 100

TO PROVIDE A NATIONAL PROGRAM IN ORDER TO MAKE
THE INTERNATIONAL METRIC SYSTEM THE PREDOMI-
NANT BUT NOT EXCLUSIVE SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENT IN
THE UNITED STATES AND TO PROVIDE FOR CONVERTING
TO THE GENERAL USE OF SUCH SYSTEM WITHIN TEN
YEARS



NOVEMBER 26, 1975.—Ordered to be printed

Filed, under authority of the order of the Senate of November 20, 1975

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1975

METRIC CONVERSION ACT OF 1975

NOVEMBER 26, 1975.—Ordered to be printed

Filed, under authority of the order of the Senate of November 20, 1975

Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 100]

The Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the bill (S. 100) to provide a national program in order to make the international metric system the predominant but not exclusive system of measurement in the United States and to provide for converting to the general use of such system within ten years, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and an amendment to the title and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

PURPOSE AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The purpose of S. 100 is to establish a mechanism to coordinate the increasing use of metric measurements in the United States and to declare a national policy with respect to the utilization of the metric system.

The proposed bill would establish an independent 17-member U.S. Metric Board with the responsibility for coordinating metrication activity in the United States. The Board would have the responsibility for devising and implementing a program of planning, coordination, and public education.

Under the bill, the Board would provide for a means whereby various groups may formulate and recommend to the Board specific programs for coordinating conversion in each industry and part thereof and for suggesting specific dimensions and configurations in the metric system and other measurements for general use. Metric conversion would remain a voluntary activity, with the Board providing a focal point for the various elements in individual industries to consult. The precise pace and specific details of conversion, once a decision is made, are left to the industries and economic sectors themselves.

The Board will have no compulsory powers unless otherwise provided later by the Congress. It will cease to exist when the Congress determines that its mission has been accomplished.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Use of the metric system of weights and measures (SI, or International System) in the United States has been legal but not mandatory since 1866. The United States was one of the original signatories to the Convention of the Meter, which established the General Conference of Weights and Measures, the International Committee of Weights and Measures, and the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. Furthermore, the customary units of weights and measures used in the United States have been based on metric measurement standards recognized and developed by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

The United States is the only industrial nation in the world which is not a metric country or which has not announced a policy of metric conversion. Within recent years the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, India, and Japan have announced their decision to convert, are converting, or have converted. Only Liberia, Yemen, Brunei, Burma, and the United States remain nonmetric countries.

In spite of the absence of a national policy with respect to the metric system, the use of metric measurements has grown rapidly in the United States, particularly in those industries and firms with significant international business. In response to this development, the Congress, in 1968, passed an act requiring the Secretary of Commerce to investigate and appraise the relative merits of metric conversion and to report his findings to the Congress within 3 years (Public Law 90-472).

The final report, entitled "A Metric America," found that increasing use of the metric system was inevitable and strongly favored a coordinated program of metric conversion. Subsequent to the issuance of the report, several metric conversion bills have been introduced, but none has been considered favorably by both Houses of the Congress. A metric conversion bill passed the Senate in 1972 but died in the House when the Congress adjourned before action could be taken.

Since the publication of the 1971 report, the pace of metric activity has increased considerably. It has been stated by the National Bureau of Standards in testimony before the Commerce Committee that 37 corporations have announced policies of adopting the use of metric measures. The total sales of these companies are estimated to be in excess of \$130 billion. This number includes 4 of the Nation's 10 largest firms. While most of these companies are manufacturers, large retailers have also announced metrication programs.

Metrication activity in the educational field is also quickly increasing. In 1975, \$2 million was appropriated to the Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish a metric education program to support model and demonstration projects which will improve the quality and extent of metric education throughout the country.

Similarly in all 50 States, metric education programs are now underway, compared to only 40 States only 4 months ago. The types of metric education activities vary, but clearly there is growing momentum behind the establishment of such programs.

Metrication activities are also underway in many Federal agencies. A Metrication Subcommittee has been formed by the Interagency Committee of Standards Policy to help coordinate Federal agency activities. Use of dual measurements and studies of metrication are common in many of these agencies, and an increasing number of reports, studies, and public announcements are utilizing metric measurements.

In summary, metrication activity in the United States is well underway even without a clear expression of national policy. The question facing the United States is not whether conversion occurs—since conversion is already underway in many sectors of the national economy—but whether conversion should be permitted to continue in an uncoordinated fashion. It is the committee's view that conversion should take place on a coordinated basis to minimize the costs of drift and to maximize the benefits of planned conversion. Metrication will not be without cost to society. The precise cost is impossible to determine. However, it would be far more costly and inefficient to permit conversion to proceed in an uncoordinated and directionless manner.

The Board which would be established under the proposed bill would be a coordinating body, providing a means whereby industries or groups can meet to discuss and to plan metrication. It would also have authority to establish educational programs for the general public and to assist educational organizations to plan their individual programs.

The Board is not expected to advocate metrication since, in some instances, members of an industry or economic sector may decide that the costs outweigh the benefits.

In drafting the proposed bill, the committee considered proposals to establish a structural mechanism to convert customary units to metric units in Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations in a coordinated and timely fashion as voluntary programs are adopted and implemented. While increased metric conversion activities under the auspices of the Board may pose certain problems with respect to existing statutes and regulations, the committee believes that the adoption of any single model is premature and should await further study. Furthermore, coordination at the State level is proceeding through existing organizations, and the problems in changing laws to reflect ongoing metric conversion plans may not be of the magnitude feared.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1.—This section of the legislation provides a short title for the proposed bill; it is to be cited as the "Metric Conversion Act of 1975."

Section 2.—This section of the bill states the findings of the Congress. Congress finds that the United States was an original signatory party to the 1875 Treaty of the Meter and that the United States is the only industrially developed nation which has not established a

policy of committing itself to metric conversion or is not already a metric nation although use of metric measurement has been permitted since 1866.

Section 3.—This section declares it to be the policy of the United States to coordinate and plan the increasing use of the metric system in the United States and to establish a U.S. Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system.

Section 4.—This section defines the terms used in the act. Section 4(1) defines "Board" as the U.S. Metric Board.

Under section 4(2) "engineering standard" means a standard which prescribes a concise set of conditions and requirements which must be satisfied by a material product, process, procedure, convention, or test method and the physical, functional, performance, and/or conformance characteristics thereof.

Section 4(3) defines "international standard or recommendation" as an engineering standard or recommendation which is formulated and promulgated by an international organization and recommended for adoption by individual nations as a national standard.

Section 4(4) defines the "metric system of measurement" as the International System of Units established by the General Conference of Weights and Measures in 1960 and as interpreted or modified for the United States by the Secretary of Commerce.

For the purposes of implementing the conversion plans developed under the auspices of the Board, the Board would determine the meaning of terms and details included within the plans.

Section 5.—This section establishes an independent U.S. Metric Board. The Board would consist of 17 individuals, headed by a qualified Chairman, who are to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Eleven members are to be chosen from lists of qualified individuals submitted by various organizations and interest groups specified in section 5(b)(2). Failure by one organization to submit a list in a timely fashion will not impair the authority of the President to make a selection from other lists in the manner provided in this section.

The five remaining members are to be selected at large to represent consumers and other groups in society. Such groups may include the organized bar, senior citizens and other sectors which may bring special expertise or which are especially affected by conversion.

The terms of office shall expire as designated by the President at the time of nomination. Five will expire at the end of the second year, five at the end of the fourth, and six at the end of the sixth year. Members may be reappointed for a term of 6 additional years.

The bill provides for each member to have a qualified full-time professional staff assistant responsible and subject to the member. Six members will constitute a quorum.

Section 5(c) provides that the Board will have no compulsory powers unless otherwise provided by the Congress.

Section 5(d) provides that the Board shall cease to exist when the Congress determines that its mission has ceased. In order to prevent the Board from unnecessarily continuing in existence after it is needed, it is expected that the Congress will take the opportunity offered by the annual submission of reports to review the need for the Board.

Section 6.—This section describes the duties of the Board, which will be basically threefold: To devise and carry out a comprehensive

program of planning and coordinating metric conversion; to conduct a program of public education at all levels of society to familiarize the American public with metric weights and measurements; and to conduct research and submit recommendations to the Congress and to the President.

Section 6(1) directs the Board to consult with and take into account the interests, views and costs of groups affected by metric conversion. The Board shall take into account existing conversion efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Section 6(2) requires the Board to provide appropriate procedures to enable groups to meet voluntarily under the auspices of the Board to discuss and agree on the best dimensions and configurations in the metric system or other measurements for general use consistent with the needs and capabilities of the manufacturers, suppliers, consumers, and other interested and affected groups and the time schedule for conversion.

Section 6(3) of the bill directs the Board to publicize proposed programs and to provide an opportunity for interested groups and individuals to submit comments on conversion programs. The Board may hold hearings on programs at the request of interested parties.

Section 6(4) directs the Board to facilitate and encourage the development of new or revised engineering standards based on metric measurements in those specific fields or areas where such standards will result in improved design, rationalized or simplified relationships, reduction in size variations, increases in economy, and the efficient use of energy and the conversion of natural resources.

Section 6(5) orders the Board to encourage the retention, in new metric language, of those U.S. engineering standards, practices, and conventions that are internationally accepted or which embody superior technology.

Section 6(6) of the bill provides for the Board to consult with foreign governments and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate, to gain international recognition for metric standards proposed American metric standards and to encourage retention of equivalent customary units in international standards or recommendations.

Under section 6(7), the Board will carry out programs of public information and education to familiarize Americans with metric terms and measures in daily life. The programs will include the following: Public information programs conducted by the Board through the mass media; counseling and consultation by Federal, State, local, and private educational agencies and organizations to assure that metric measurements are included in the curriculum and that teachers and other personnel are properly trained to teach the metric system; and consultation by the Secretary of Commerce with the National Conference of Weights and Measures to assure that weights and measures officials in each State and local jurisdiction are fully informed of the metric changeover activities and assisted in their efforts to bring about timely amendments to weights and measures laws; and other public information activities by any Federal agencies related to the mission of the agency.

Section 6(8) of the bill requires the Board to collect, analyze, and publicize information about the extent to which the metric system

is being used, evaluate the costs and benefits of metric usage, and attempt to minimize any adverse effects resulting from increasing metric usage.

Section 6(9) requires the Board to conduct research and surveys on any unresolved problems, issues, and questions associated with metric conversion or usage. The Board is to publish the results of its research and recommend to the Congress and the President such action as may be appropriate to deal with these problems.

Section 6(10) order the Board to submit an annual status report to the Congress and the President. It may also submit such other reports and recommendations as it deems necessary.

Section 6(11) directs the Board to submit 1 year after enactment of the act appropriating funds for this act a report on the need to provide an effective structural mechanism for converting customary units to metric units in existing statutes, regulations, and other laws at all levels of government on a coordinated and timely basis in response to voluntary conversion programs adopted and implemented by groups acting under the auspices of the Board. If the Board determines that a need for such a mechanism exists, the report shall include recommendations as to the appropriate and effective means for establishing and implementing such a mechanism.

The relationship of government to proposed conversion programs is of great importance. To enable a conversion plan to be successfully implemented, it may be necessary for a government to enact new laws or to amend existing laws. Therefore, the Board is to give this issue priority and to report back to the Congress and the President on its findings.

Section 7.—This section prescribes the authority of the Board. It may establish an Executive Committee and such other operational committees it determines desirable. It is further authorized to establish such committees and advisory panels it deems necessary to work with the various economic sectors and governmental agencies in the development and implementation of the conversion plans. The Federal Advisory Committee Act will apply to committee meetings held pursuant to this section.

The Board is authorized to conduct hearings, enter into contracts, delegate authority to the Executive Director, and perform such other activities as may be necessary to carry out the duties prescribed in the bill.

Section 8.—This section authorizes the Board to accept, hold, administer, and utilize gifts, donations and bequests of property and personal services to aid or facilitate its work. For the purpose of taxation, property accepted by the Board pursuant to this section shall be considered a gift or bequest to or for the use of the United States. At the request of the Board, the Secretary of the Treasury may invest the gifts, bequests, and sale proceeds deposited in the Treasury in U.S. securities. Funds not expended by the Board at the time of termination of the Board will revert to the Treasury of the United States.

Section 9.—This section provides for compensation to be paid to Board members who are not employees of the United States at a rate not exceeding the daily rate currently paid to grade 18 of the General Schedule applicable to Federal employees. Members of the Board

employed by the United States shall be entitled to travel expenses while traveling on Board business.

Section 10.—This section relates to staff services. Section 10(a) provides for appointment of a qualified Executive Director by the Board to serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Director shall be subject to the direction of the Board, shall be responsible to it, and shall implement the metric conversion program established by this act. The annual salary of the Executive Director is not to exceed level III of the Executive Schedule. The Board may also employ additional staff personnel, experts, and consultants.

Section 11.—This section permits the Board to obtain financial and administrative services, including those related to accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, personnel, procurement, and additional staff services, from the Secretary of Commerce or from other appropriate Federal agencies. Payment for the services rendered are to be made by the Board in advance or by reimbursement, in such sums as may be agreed upon by the Board Chairman and the source of the services being rendered.

Section 12.—This section authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the act. The appropriations may remain available for obligation and expenditure for the period or periods specified in the appropriations acts.

ESTIMATED COSTS

Pursuant to the requirements of section 252 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, the committee estimates that the cost of the proposed bill will be \$2 million in the first year and \$3 million thereafter.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

The bill makes no changes in existing law.

TEXT OF S. 100, AS REPORTED

A BILL To declare a national policy of coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the United States and to establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Metric Conversion Act of 1975".

SEC. 2. The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The United States was an original signatory party to the 1875 Treaty of the Meter (20 Stat. 709), which established the General Conference of Weights and Measures, the International Committee of Weights and Measures and the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

(2) Although the use of metric measurement standards in the United States has been authorized by law since 1866 (Act of July 28, 1866; 14 Stat. 339), this Nation today is the only industrially developed nation which has not established a national policy of committing itself and taking steps to facilitate conversion to the metric system.

SEC. 3. It is therefore declared that the policy of the United States shall be to coordinate and plan the increasing use of the metric system in the United States and to establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system.

SEC. 4. As used in this Act, the term—

(1) "Board" means the United States Metric Board, established under section 5 of this Act;

(2) "engineering standard" means a standard which prescribes (A) a concise set of conditions and requirements that must be satisfied by a material, product, process, procedure, convention, or test method; and (B) the physical, functional, performance and/or conformance characteristics thereof;

(3) "international standard or recommendation" means an engineering standard or recommendation which is (A) formulated and promulgated by an international organization and (B) recommended for adoption by individual nations as a national standard; and

(4) "metric system of measurement" means the International System of Units as established by the General Conference of Weights and Measures in 1960 and as interpreted or modified for the United States by the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 5. (a) There is established, in accordance with this section, an independent instrumentality to be known as a United States Metric Board.

(b) The Board shall consist of 17 individuals, as follows:

(1) the Chairman, a qualified individual who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

(2) sixteen members who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the following basis—

(A) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by engineers and organizations representative of engineering interests;

(B) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by scientists, the scientific and technical community, and organizations representative of scientists and technicians;

(C) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the National Association of Manufacturers or its successor;

(D) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by the United States Chamber of Commerce, or its successor, retailers, and other commercial organizations;

(E) two to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations or its successor, who are representative of workers directly affected by metric conversion, and by other organizations representing labor;

(F) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the National Governors Conference, the National Council of State Legislatures, and organizations representative of State and local government;

(G) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by organizations representative of small business;

(H) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals representative of the construction industry;

(I) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the National Conference on Weights and Measures and standards making organizations;

(J) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by educators, the educational community, and organizations representative of educational interests; and

(K) five at-large members to represent consumers and other interests deemed suitable by the President and who shall be qualified individuals.

As used in this subsection, each "list" shall include the names of at least three individuals for each applicable vacancy. The terms of office of the members of the Board first taking office shall expire as designated by the President at the time of nomination; five at the end of the 2d year; five at the end of the 4th year; and six at the end of the 6th year. The term of office of the Chairman of such Board shall be 6 years. Members, including the Chairman, may be appointed to an additional term of 6 years, in the same manner as the original appointment. Successors to members of such Board shall be appointed in the same manner as the original members and shall have terms of office expiring 6 years from the date of expiration of the terms for which their predecessors were appointed. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of any term of office shall be appointed for the remainder of that term. Each member of such Board shall be authorized such sums as are necessary to enable him or her to appoint and compensate a qualified full-time professional staff assistant responsible and subject to such member's control, but not otherwise subject to control by the Board. Beginning 45 days after the date of incorporation of the Board, six members of such Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any function of the Board.

(c) Unless otherwise provided by the Congress, the Board shall have no compulsory powers.

(d) The Board shall cease to exist when the Congress, by law, determines that its mission has been accomplished.

SEC. 6. It shall be the function of the Board to devise and carry out a broad program of planning, coordination, and public education, consistent with other national policy and interests, with the aim of implementing the policy set forth in this Act. In carrying out this program, the Board shall—

(1) consult with and take into account the interests, views, and conversion costs of United States commerce and industry, including small business; science; engineering; labor; education; consumers; government agencies at the Federal, State, and local level; nationally recognized standards developing and coordinating organizations; metric conversion planning and coordinating groups; and such other individuals or groups as are considered appropriate by the Board to the carrying out of the purposes of this Act. The Board shall take into account activities under-

way in the private and public sectors, so as not to duplicate unnecessarily such activities;

(2) provide for appropriate procedures whereby various groups, under the auspices of the Board, may formulate, and recommend or suggest, to the Board specific programs for coordinating conversion in each industry and segment thereof and specific dimensions and configurations in the metric system and in other measurements for general use. Such programs, dimensions, and configurations shall be consistent with (A) the needs, interests, and capabilities of manufacturers (large and small), suppliers, labor, consumers, educators, and other interested groups, and (B) the national interest;

(3) publicize, in an appropriate manner, proposed programs and provide an opportunity for interested groups or individuals to submit comments on such programs. At the request of interested parties, the Board, in its discretion, may hold hearings with regard to such programs. Such comments and hearings may be considered by the Board;

(4) encourage activities of standardization organizations to develop or revise, as rapidly as practicable, engineering standards on a metric measurement basis, and to take advantage of opportunities to promote (A) rationalization or simplification of relationships, (B) improvements of design, (C) reduction of size variations, (D) increases in economy, and (E) where feasible, the efficient use of energy and the conservation of natural resources;

(5) encourage the retention, in new metric language standards, of those United States engineering designs, practices, and conventions that are internationally accepted or that embody superior technology;

(6) consult and cooperate with foreign governments, and inter-governmental organizations, in collaboration with the Department of State, and, through appropriate member bodies, with private international organizations, which are or become concerned with the encouragement and coordination of increased use of metric measurement units or engineering standards based on such units, or both. Such consultation shall include efforts, where appropriate, to gain international recognition for metric standards proposed by the United States, and, during the United States conversion, to encourage retention of equivalent customary units, usually by way of dual dimensions, in international standards or recommendations;

(7) assist the public through information and education programs, to become familiar with the meaning and applicability of metric terms and measures in daily life. Such programs shall include—

(A) public information programs conducted by the board, through the use of newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and other media and through talks before appropriate citizens' groups, and trade and public organizations;

(B) counseling and consultation by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; the Secretary of Labor;

the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; and the Director of the National Science Foundation, with educational associations, State and local educational agencies, labor education committees, apprentice training committees, and other interested groups, in order to assure (i) that the metric system of measurement is included in the curriculum of the Nation's educational institutions, and (ii) that teachers and other appropriate personnel are properly trained to teach the metric system of measurement;

(C) consultation by the Secretary of Commerce with the National Conference of Weights and Measures in order to assure that State and local weights and measures officials are (i) appropriately involved in metric conversion activities and (ii) assisted in their efforts to bring about timely amendments to weights and measures laws; and

(D) such other public information activities, by any Federal agency in support of this Act, as relate to the mission of such agency;

(8) collect, analyze, and publish information about the extent of usage of metric measurements; evaluate the costs and benefits of metric usage; and make efforts to minimize any adverse effects resulting from increasing metric usage;

(9) conduct research, including appropriate surveys; publish the results of such research; and recommend to the Congress and to the President such action as may be appropriate to deal with any unresolved problems, issues, and questions associated with metric conversion, or usage, such problems, issues, and questions may include, but are not limited to, the impact on workers (such as costs of tools and training) and on different occupations and industries, possible increased costs to consumers, the impact on society and the economy, effects on small business, the impact on the international trade position of the United States, the appropriateness of and methods for using procurement by the Federal Government as a means to effect conversion to the metric system, the proper conversion or transition period in particular sectors of society, and consequences for national defense;

(10) submit annually to the Congress and to the President a report on its activities. Each such report shall include a status report on the conversion process as well as projections for the conversion process. Such report may include recommendations covering any legislation or executive action needed to implement the programs of conversion accepted by the Board. The Board may also submit such other reports and recommendations as it deems necessary; and

(11) submit to the Congress and to the President, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Act authorizing appropriations for this Act, a report on the need to provide an effective structural mechanism for converting customary units to metric units in statutes, regulations, and other laws at all levels of government, on a coordinated and timely basis, in response to voluntary conversion programs adopted and implemented by various sectors of society under the auspices and with the approval of the Board. If the Board determines that such a need exists, such

report shall include recommendations as to appropriate and effective means for establishing and implementing such a mechanism.

SEC. 7. In carrying out its duties under this Act, the Board may—

(1) establish an Executive Committee, and such other committees as it deems desirable;

(2) establish such committees and advisory panels as it deems necessary to work with the various sectors of the Nation's economy and with Federal and State governmental agencies in the development and implementation of detailed conversion plans for those sectors. The Board may reimburse, to the extent authorized by law, the members of such committees;

(3) conduct hearings at such times and places as it deems appropriate;

(4) enter into contracts, in accordance with the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.), with Federal or State agencies, private firms, institutions, and individuals for the conduct of research or surveys, the preparation of reports, and other activities necessary to the discharge of its duties;

(5) delegate to the Executive Director such authority as it deems advisable; and

(6) perform such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the duties prescribed by this Act.

SEC. 8. (a) The Board may accept, hold, administer, and utilize gifts, donations, and bequests of property, both real and personal, and personal services, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Board. Gifts and bequests of money, and the proceeds from the sale of any other property received as gifts or bequests, shall be deposited in the Treasury in a separate fund and shall be disbursed upon order of the Board.

(b) For purpose of Federal income, estate, and gift taxation, property accepted under subsection (a) of this section shall be considered as a gift or bequest to or for the use of the United States.

(c) Upon the request of the Board, the Secretary of the Treasury may invest and reinvest, in securities of the United States, any moneys contained in the fund authorized in subsection (a) of this section. Income accruing from such securities, and from any other property accepted to the credit of such fund, shall be disbursed upon the order of the Board.

(d) Funds not expended by the Board as of the date when it ceases to exist, in accordance with section 5(d) of this Act, shall revert to the Treasury of the United States as of such date.

SEC. 9. Members of the Board who are not in the regular full-time employ of the United States shall, while attending meetings or conferences of the Board or while otherwise engaged in the business of the Board, be entitled to receive compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily rate currently being paid grade 18 of the General Schedule (under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code), including travel-time. While so serving, on the business of the Board away from their homes or regular places of business, members of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons employed intermittently in the Government service. Payments under this section shall not render members of the Board em-

ployees or officials of the United States for any purpose. Members of the Board who are in the employ of the United States shall be entitled to travel expenses when traveling on the business of the Board.

SEC. 10. (a) The Board shall appoint a qualified individual to serve as the Executive Director of the Board at the pleasure of the Board. The Executive Director, subject to the direction of the Board, shall be responsible to the Board and shall carry out the metric conversion program, pursuant to the provisions of this Act and the policies established by the Board.

(b) The Executive Director of the Board shall serve full time and be subject to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code. The annual salary of the Executive Director shall not exceed level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of such title.

(c) The Board may appoint and fix the compensation of such staff personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) The Board may (1) employ experts and consultants or organizations thereof, as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; (2) compensate individuals so employed at rates not in excess of the rate currently being paid grade 18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of such title, including traveltime; and (3) may allow such individuals, while away from their homes or regular places of business, travel expenses (including per diem in lieu of subsistence) as authorized by section 5703 of such title 5 for persons in the Government service employed intermittently: *Provided, however,* That contracts for such temporary employment may be renewed annually.

SEC. 11. Financial and administrative services, including those related to budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, personnel, and procurement, and such other staff services as may be needed by the Board, may be obtained by the Board from the Secretary of Commerce or other appropriate sources in the Federal Government. Payment for such services shall be made by the Board, in advance or by reimbursement, from funds of the Board in such amounts as may be agreed upon by the Chairman of the Board and by the source of the services being rendered.

SEC. 12. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Appropriations to carry out the provisions of this Act may remain available for obligation and expenditure for such period or periods as may be specified in the Acts making such appropriations.

AGENCY COMMENTS

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C., September 19, 1975.

HON. WARREN G. MAGNUSON,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your letter of February 17, 1975, requested the views of the General Services Administration on S. 106, a bill to

provide a national program in order to make the international metric system the predominant but not exclusive system of measurement in the United States and to provide for converting to the general use of such system within 10 years.

It is the stated purpose of the bill to provide for the formulation and initial effectuation of a plan for conversion to the metric system; to establish a National Metric Conversion Board to develop and implement a metric conversion plan for the United States; to provide limited assistance to businesses and individuals, substantially affected by metric conversion, in bearing the cost of such conversion; and to provide for the establishment of a national information program about metric conversion.

Within 18 months the Board would submit its plan to the President and the Congress, and would begin implementation of the plan unless the President disapproved it or either House passed a resolution of disapproval within 60 calendar days of continuous session.

GSA endorses the concept of metrication as consistent with sound management principles and essential to remaining competitive in international commerce. However, we defer to the Department of Commerce as to the exact form which a metric conversion bill should take.

We estimate that the cost to GSA would be approximately \$1.4 million during the transition period, and if the conversion included metric based engineering standards as well as metric measurement units, there would be an annual cost of \$100,000 for an indefinite period after the transition period, due to the need for dual inventories of replacement parts and equipment.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. YOCK,
Acting Assistant Administrator.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., October 3, 1975.

HON. WARREN G. MAGNUSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your letter of July 1, 1975, to Secretary Butz requesting views of the Department of Agriculture regarding S. 1882, a bill to establish a national policy relating to conversion to the metric system in the United States.

The Department of Agriculture supports the enactment of S. 1882.

S. 1882 would establish a Metric Board to serve as a planning and coordinating body for metric conversion activities in cooperation with all sectors of the economy.

Enactment of S. 1882, by emphasizing the implementation of the metric system of measurement in the United States on a voluntary basis through planning, coordination, and education is in basic accord with the position of this Department.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program, and that enactment of S. 1882 would be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely,

J. PHIL CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary.

GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
Washington, D.C., October 15, 1975.

HON. WARREN G. MAGNUSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to S. 1882, 94th Congress, a bill to establish a national policy relating to conversion to the metric system in the United States.

The Department of Defense has no objection to this bill.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that, from the standpoint of the administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report for the consideration of the committee.

Sincerely,

L. NIEDERLEHNER,
Acting General Counsel.

METRIC CONVERSION FACTORS
Approximate Conversions to Metric Measures

APPENDIX

Approximate Conversions from Metric Measures

Symbol	When You Know	Multiply by	To Find	Symbol
LENGTH				
mm	millimeters	0.04	inches	in
cm	centimeters	0.4	inches	in
m	meters	3.3	feet	ft
m	meters	1.1	yards	yd
km	kilometers	0.6	miles	mi
AREA				
cm ²	square centimeters	0.16	square inches	in ²
m ²	square meters	1.2	square yards	yd ²
km ²	square kilometers	0.4	square miles	mi ²
ha	hectares (10,000 m ²)	2.5	acres	
MASS (weight)				
g	grams	0.035	ounces	oz
kg	kilograms	2.2	pounds	lb
t	tonnes (1000 kg)	1.1	short tons	
VOLUME				
ml	milliliters	0.03	fluid ounces	fl oz
l	liters	2.1	pints	pt
l	liters	1.06	quarts	qt
l	liters	0.26	gallons	gal
m ³	cubic meters	35	cubic feet	ft ³
m ³	cubic meters	1.3	cubic yards	yd ³
TEMPERATURE (exact)				
°C	Celsius temperature	9/5 (then add 32)	Fahrenheit temperature	°F

METRIC CONVERSION FACTORS

Approximate Conversions to Metric Measures

Symbol	When You Know	Multiply by	To Find	Symbol
<u>LENGTH</u>				
in	inches	*2.5	centimeters	cm
ft	feet	30	centimeters	cm
yd	yards	0.9	meters	m
mi	miles	1.6	kilometers	km
<u>AREA</u>				
in ²	square inches	6.5	square centimeters	cm ²
ft ²	square feet	0.09	square meters	m ²
yd ²	square yards	0.8	square meters	m ²
mi ²	square miles	2.6	square kilometers	km ²
	acres	0.4	hectares	ha
<u>MASS (weight)</u>				
oz	ounces	28	grams	g
lb	pounds	0.45	kilograms	kg
	short tons (2000 lb)	0.9	tonnes	t
<u>VOLUME</u>				
tsp	teaspoons	5	milliliters	ml
Tbsp	tablespoons	15	milliliters	ml
fl oz	fluid ounces	30	milliliters	ml
c	cups	0.24	liters	l
pt	pints	0.47	liters	l
qt	quarts	0.95	liters	l
gal	gallons	3.8	liters	l
ft ³	cubic feet	0.03	cubic meters	m ³
yd ³	cubic yards	0.76	cubic meters	m ³
<u>TEMPERATURE (exact)</u>				
°F	Fahrenheit temperature	5/9 (after subtracting 32)	Celsius temperature	°C

*1 in = 2.54 (exactly). For other exact conversions and more detailed tables, see NBS Misc. Publ. 286, Units of Weights and Measures; Price \$2.25, SD Catalog No. C13.10:286.





Ninety-fourth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fourteenth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five*

An Act

To declare a national policy of coordinating the increasing use of the metric system in the United States, and to establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Metric Conversion Act of 1975".

SEC. 2. The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The United States was an original signatory party to the 1875 Treaty of the Meter (20 Stat. 709), which established the General Conference of Weights and Measures, the International Committee of Weights and Measures and the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

(2) Although the use of metric measurement standards in the United States has been authorized by law since 1866 (Act of July 28, 1866; 14 Stat. 339), this Nation today is the only industrially developed nation which has not established a national policy of committing itself and taking steps to facilitate conversion to the metric system.

SEC. 3. It is therefore declared that the policy of the United States shall be to coordinate and plan the increasing use of the metric system in the United States and to establish a United States Metric Board to coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system.

SEC. 4. As used in this Act, the term—

(1) "Board" means the United States Metric Board, established under section 5 of this Act;

(2) "engineering standard" means a standard which prescribes (A) a concise set of conditions and requirements that must be satisfied by a material, product, process, procedure, convention, or test method; and (B) the physical, functional, performance and/or conformance characteristics thereof;

(3) "international standard or recommendation" means an engineering standard or recommendation which is (A) formulated and promulgated by an international organization and (B) recommended for adoption by individual nations as a national standard; and

(4) "metric system of measurement" means the International System of Units as established by the General Conference of Weights and Measures in 1960 and as interpreted or modified for the United States by the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 5. (a) There is established, in accordance with this section, an independent instrumentality to be known as a United States Metric Board.

(b) The Board shall consist of 17 individuals, as follows:

(1) the Chairman, a qualified individual who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

(2) sixteen members who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the following basis—

(A) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by engineers and organizations representative of engineering interests;

(B) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by scientists, the scientific and technical community, and organizations representative of scientists and technicians;

(C) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the National Association of Manufacturers or its successor;

(D) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by the United States Chamber of Commerce, or its successor, retailers, and other commercial organizations;

(E) two to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial organizations or its successor, who are representative of workers directly affected by metric conversion, and by other organizations representing labor;

(F) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the National Governors Conference, the National Council of State Legislatures, and organizations representative of State and local government;

(G) two to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by organizations representative of small business;

(H) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals representative of the construction industry;

(I) one to be selected from a list of qualified individuals recommended by the National Conference on Weights and Measures and standards making organizations;

(J) one to be selected from lists of qualified individuals recommended by educators, the educational community, and organizations representative of educational interests; and

(K) four at-large members to represent consumers and other interests deemed suitable by the President and who shall be qualified individuals.

As used in this subsection, each "list" shall include the names of at least three individuals for each applicable vacancy. The terms of office of the members of the Board first taking office shall expire as designated by the President at the time of nomination; five at the end of the 2d year; five at the end of the 4th year; and six at the end of the 6th year. The term of office of the Chairman of such Board shall be 6 years. Members, including the Chairman, may be appointed to an additional term of 6 years, in the same manner as the original appointment. Successors to members of such Board shall be appointed in the same manner as the original members and shall have terms of office expiring 6 years from the date of expiration of the terms for which their predecessors were appointed. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of any term of office shall be appointed for the remainder of that term. Beginning 45 days after the date of incorporation of the Board, six members of such Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any function of the Board.

(c) Unless otherwise provided by the Congress, the Board shall have no compulsory powers.

(d) The Board shall cease to exist when the Congress, by law, determines that its mission has been accomplished.

SEC. 6. It shall be the function of the Board to devise and carry out a broad program of planning, coordination, and public education, con-

sistent with other national policy and interests, with the aim of implementing the policy set forth in this Act. In carrying out this program, the Board shall—

(1) consult with and take into account the interests, views, and conversion costs of United States commerce and industry, including small business; science; engineering; labor; education; consumers; government agencies at the Federal, State, and local level; nationally recognized standards developing and coordinating organizations; metric conversion planning and coordinating groups; and such other individuals or groups as are considered appropriate by the Board to the carrying out of the purposes of this Act. The Board shall take into account activities underway in the private and public sectors, so as not to duplicate unnecessarily such activities;

(2) provide for appropriate procedures whereby various groups, under the auspices of the Board, may formulate, and recommend or suggest, to the Board specific programs for coordinating conversion in each industry and segment thereof and specific dimensions and configurations in the metric system and in other measurements for general use. Such programs, dimensions, and configurations shall be consistent with (A) the needs, interests, and capabilities of manufacturers (large and small), suppliers, labor, consumers, educators, and other interested groups, and (B) the national interest;

(3) publicize, in an appropriate manner, proposed programs and provide an opportunity for interested groups or individuals to submit comments on such programs. At the request of interested parties, the Board, in its discretion, may hold hearings with regard to such programs. Such comments and hearings may be considered by the Board;

(4) encourage activities of standardization organizations to develop or revise, as rapidly as practicable, engineering standards on a metric measurement basis, and to take advantage of opportunities to promote (A) rationalization or simplification of relationships, (B) improvements of design, (C) reduction of size variations, (D) increases in economy, and (E) where feasible, the efficient use of energy and the conservation of natural resources;

(5) encourage the retention, in new metric language standards, of those United States engineering designs, practices, and conventions that are internationally accepted or that embody superior technology;

(6) consult and cooperate with foreign governments, and intergovernmental organizations, in collaboration with the Department of State, and, through appropriate member bodies, with private international organizations, which are or become concerned with the encouragement and coordination of increased use of metric measurement units or engineering standards based on such units, or both. Such consultation shall include efforts, where appropriate, to gain international recognition for metric standards proposed by the United States, and, during the United States conversion, to encourage retention of equivalent customary units, usually by way of dual dimensions, in international standards or recommendations;

(7) assist the public through information and education programs, to become familiar with the meaning and applicability of metric terms and measures in daily life. Such programs shall include—

(A) public information programs conducted by the Board, through the use of newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and other media, and through talks before appropriate citizens' groups, and trade and public organizations;

(B) counseling and consultation by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; the Secretary of Labor; the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; and the Director of the National Science Foundation, with educational associations, State and local educational agencies, labor education committees, apprentice training committees, and other interested groups, in order to assure (i) that the metric system of measurement is included in the curriculum of the Nation's educational institutions, and (ii) that teachers and other appropriate personnel are properly trained to teach the metric system of measurement;

(C) consultation by the Secretary of Commerce with the National Conference of Weights and Measures in order to assure that State and local weights and measures officials are (i) appropriately involved in metric conversion activities and (ii) assisted in their efforts to bring about timely amendments to weights and measures laws; and

(D) such other public information activities, by any Federal agency in support of this Act, as relate to the mission of such agency;

(8) collect, analyze, and publish information about the extent of usage of metric measurements; evaluate the costs and benefits of metric usage; and make efforts to minimize any adverse effects resulting from increasing metric usage;

(9) conduct research, including appropriate surveys; publish the results of such research; and recommend to the Congress and to the President such action as may be appropriate to deal with any unresolved problems, issues, and questions associated with metric conversion, or usage, such problems, issues, and questions may include, but are not limited to, the impact on workers (such as costs of tools and training) and on different occupations and industries, possible increased costs to consumers, the impact on society and the economy, effects on small business, the impact on the international trade position of the United States, the appropriateness of and methods for using procurement by the Federal Government as a means to effect conversion to the metric system, the proper conversion or transition period in particular sectors of society, and consequences for national defense;

(10) submit annually to the Congress and to the President a report on its activities. Each such report shall include a status report on the conversion process as well as projections for the conversion process. Such report may include recommendations covering any legislation or executive action needed to implement the the programs of conversion accepted by the Board. The Board may also submit such other reports and recommendations as it deems necessary; and

(11) submit to the Congress and to the President, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Act making appropriations for carrying out this Act, a report on the need to provide an effective structural mechanism for converting customary units to metric units in statutes, regulations, and other laws at all levels of government, on a coordinated and timely basis, in response to voluntary conversion programs adopted and implemented by various sectors of society under the auspices and with the approval

of the Board. If the Board determines that such a need exists, such report shall include recommendations as to appropriate and effective means for establishing and implementing such a mechanism.

SEC. 7. In carrying out its duties under this Act, the Board may—

(1) establish an Executive Committee, and such other committees as it deems desirable;

(2) establish such committees and advisory panels as it deems necessary to work with the various sectors of the Nation's economy and with Federal and State governmental agencies in the development and implementation of detailed conversion plans for those sectors. The Board may reimburse, to the extent authorized by law, the members of such committees;

(3) conduct hearings at such times and places as it deems appropriate;

(4) enter into contracts, in accordance with the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.), with Federal or State agencies, private firms, institutions, and individuals for the conduct of research or surveys, the preparation of reports, and other activities necessary to the discharge of its duties;

(5) delegate to the Executive Director such authority as it deems advisable; and

(6) perform such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the duties prescribed by this Act.

SEC. 8. (a) The Board may accept, hold, administer, and utilize gifts, donations, and bequests of property, both real and personal, and personal services, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Board. Gifts and bequests of money, and the proceeds from the sale of any other property received as gifts or bequests, shall be deposited in the Treasury in a separate fund and shall be disbursed upon order of the Board.

(b) For purpose of Federal income, estate, and gift taxation, property accepted under subsection (a) of this section shall be considered as a gift or bequest to or for the use of the United States.

(c) Upon the request of the Board, the Secretary of the Treasury may invest and reinvest, in securities of the United States, any moneys contained in the fund authorized in subsection (a) of this section. Income accruing from such securities, and from any other property accepted to the credit of such fund, shall be disbursed upon the order of the Board.

(d) Funds not expended by the Board as of the date when it ceases to exist, in accordance with section 5(d) of this Act, shall revert to the Treasury of the United States as of such date.

SEC. 9. Members of the Board who are not in the regular full-time employ of the United States shall, while attending meetings or conferences of the Board or while otherwise engaged in the business of the Board, be entitled to receive compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily rate currently being paid grade 18 of the General Schedule (under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code), including travel-time. While so serving, on the business of the Board away from their homes or regular places of business, members of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons employed intermittently in the Government service. Payments under this section shall not render members of the Board employees or officials of the United States for any purpose. Members of the Board who are in the employ of the United States shall be entitled to travel expenses when traveling on the business of the Board.

SEC. 10. (a) The Board shall appoint a qualified individual to serve as the Executive Director of the Board at the pleasure of the Board. The Executive Director, subject to the direction of the Board, shall be responsible to the Board and shall carry out the metric conversion program, pursuant to the provisions of this Act and the policies established by the Board.

(b) The Executive Director of the Board shall serve full time and be subject to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code. The annual salary of the Executive Director shall not exceed level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of such title.

(c) The Board may appoint and fix the compensation of such staff personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) The Board may (1) employ experts and consultants or organizations thereof, as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; (2) compensate individuals so employed at rates not in excess of the rate currently being paid grade 18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of such title, including traveltime; and (3) may allow such individuals, while away from their homes or regular places of business, travel expenses (including per diem in lieu of subsistence) as authorized by section 5703 of such title 5 for persons in the Government service employed intermittently: *Provided, however,* That contracts for such temporary employment may be renewed annually.

SEC. 11. Financial and administrative services, including those related to budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, personnel, and procurement, and such other staff services as may be needed by the Board, may be obtained by the Board from the Secretary of Commerce or other appropriate sources in the Federal Government. Payment for such services shall be made by the Board, in advance or by reimbursement, from funds of the Board in such amounts as may be agreed upon by the Chairman of the Board and by the source of the services being rendered.

SEC. 12. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Appropriations to carry out the provisions of this Act may remain available for obligation and expenditure for such period or periods as may be specified in the Acts making such appropriations.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

December 15, 1975

Dear Mr. Director:

The following bills were received at the White House on December 15th:

✓ H.J. Res. 733 ✓

✓ H.R. 8122

✓ H.R. 8674 ✓

Please let the President have reports and recommendations as to the approval of these bills as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Linder
Chief Executive Clerk

The Honorable James T. Lynn
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C.