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APPROVED

SEP 18 1975

Statement moved in Calif.
9/20/75

To Archives
9/22/75

Signed
9/18/75

ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE

Last Day: September 22

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 331
Observance of Veterans Day
on November 11

Attached for your consideration is S. 331, sponsored by Senator Hruska and 18 others, which redesignates November 11 of each year as Veterans Day, beginning in 1978.

Additional background information is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Veterans Administration, Civil Service Commission, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus), Ted Marrs, and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill and the proposed signing statement which has been cleared by Paul Theis.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign S. 331 at Tab C.

That you approve the signing statement at Tab B.

Approve

ACF

Disapprove

Bill + statement rec'd in Records Office: 9/19/75 11:45 am
To Thym Smith, Press Office 9/19/75 (noon)

APPROVED
SEP 18 1975



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

SEP 16 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 331 - Observance of Veterans Day
on November 11
Sponsor - Sen. Hruska (R) Nebraska and 18 others

Last Day for Action

September 22, 1975 - Monday

Purpose

Redesignates November 11 of each year as "Veterans Day,"
beginning in 1978.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval (Signing statement attached)
Veterans Administration	Approval
Civil Service Commission	Approval

Discussion

The 1968 "Monday holiday" law, which established a uniform holiday schedule for the Federal Government, changed the observance of Veterans Day from November 11 of each year to the fourth Monday in October. Veterans Day had been traditionally commemorated on November 11 since the end of World War I. That date--formerly called Armistice Day--commemorated the cease fire arranged between Germany and the Allied Nations in 1918. In 1954, the Congress gave this commemoration broader significance by designating November 11 as a yearly tribute to veterans of all wars.

The enrolled bill would redesignate November 11 as the official date for observance of Veterans Day, beginning with November 11, 1978. Although there are no national holidays per se, existing law establishes the holidays which are observed by the Federal Government. As a rule, such Federal holidays are also adopted by State legislatures as State holidays.

This has not occurred in the case of Veterans Day. Since its designation as the fourth Monday in October, which was effective in 1971, there has been mounting pressure for return to the original date from all the major veterans groups and from interested citizens and Members of Congress. In reaction, 44 States have enacted legislation redesignating November 11 as Veterans Day within their jurisdictions; two other States never changed to the October date. As a result, there are now dual observances in many places, including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Senate Judiciary Committee report notes that opposition to restoration of November 11 as Veterans Day has come primarily from those who have an interest in maintaining and encouraging three-day holidays--the recreation and vacation industries. The Committee concluded that, on balance, "The desires of veterans and many other Americans for a special date of commemoration is more important than...commercial interests...."

The Committee further notes that the delay until 1978 in reestablishing the November 11 date will promote convenience for those who arrange Veterans Day events, as well as the calendar industry.

Both the Veterans Administration (VA) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) supported restoration of the original date in reports to the congressional committees on S. 331 and predecessor bills. S. 331 passed the Senate by voice vote, and by a vote of 410-6 in the House.

Recommendations

CSC, in recommending approval, states that it generally favors preservation of the Monday holiday observances established in 1968, but believes the Federal Government in its observance of holidays should not be inconsistent with the dates observed by the majority of the States.

VA indicates that it would have preferred an earlier effective date than 1978, but recommends approval, noting that the November 11 date has great significance to many citizens and is firmly rooted in our customs and traditions.

We concur in recommending approval and have attached a draft signing statement for your consideration.

James M. Frey
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420
September 11, 1975



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

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in reply to the request of the Assistant Director for Legislative Reference for the Veterans Administration's comment on the enrolled enactment of S. 331, 94th Congress.

This bill, effective January 1, 1978, would, by amendment of section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, redesignate November 11 of each year as Veterans Day and make such day a legal holiday.

The position of the Veterans Administration has been stated in reports submitted to the Chairman, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, on two similar bills. On April 7, 1975, we reported favorably on that portion of H.R. 119, 94th Congress, which proposed a similar redesignation of November 11 as Veterans Day. On August 27, 1975, we volunteered a report favoring enactment of H.R. 3433 which proposed reestablishment of November 11 as Veterans Day.

It has become apparent that the commemoration of Veterans Day on November 11 is a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens and that it is a practice deeply and firmly rooted in our customs and traditions. It is our opinion that restoration of

the date of November 11 will meet with the approval of the great majority of our veterans and will result in a greater participation of our citizenry in the patriotic observances held throughout our Nation in commemoration of Veterans Day.

We would have preferred an earlier effective date than that set forth in this bill and are aware that there existed substantial support for such a position. We do not believe, however, that this point alone would warrant an adverse recommendation on this bill.

In accord with the foregoing, I strongly recommend that the President approve S. 331.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Roudebush', written in a cursive style.

Associate Deputy Administrator - In the absence of

RICHARD L. ROUDEBUSH
Administrator



UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20415

CHAIRMAN

September 12, 1975

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

Attn: Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in response to your request for the views and recommendations of the Civil Service Commission on enrolled bill S. 331, "To redesignate November 11 of each year as Veterans Day and to make such day a legal public holiday."

In general, the Commission favors preserving the Monday holiday observances established by Public Law 90-363. Our experience has shown that most Federal officials and employees find Monday holidays mutually beneficial. Managers and supervisors can plan work-scheduling much better when holidays do not fall mid-week, and employees obviously enjoy three-day weekends. Benefits also accrue in conserving energy when Federal activities can be cut back or shut down over three-day weekends.

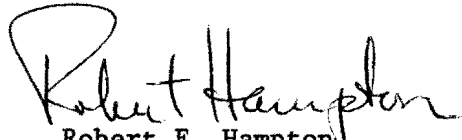
On the other hand, we believe strongly that, from the standpoint of conducting the public business, the Federal government in its observance of National holidays should not be inconsistent with the dates they are observed by the majority of States. It is our understanding that two States continued to observe November 11 as Veterans Day after P.L. 90-363 was enacted, and that since enactment, some 40 or so States that initially shifted to the fourth Monday in October have subsequently returned to the traditional November 11 observance. In view of this, the Commission feels the Federal government should yield to public opinion and return the Federal observance to November 11. Accordingly, the Commission supports enactment of S. 331 that would reestablish Veterans Day as November 11 each year beginning in 1978.

This position was stated in our comments on H.R. 119, a bill to redesignate both Memorial Day and Veterans Day for observance on the traditional dates. We opposed the redesignation of Memorial Day due to the lack of such action by a majority of the States, but supported the redesignation of Veterans Day.

We recommend that the President sign enrolled bill S. 331 into law.

By direction of the Commission:

Sincerely yours,


Robert E. Hampton
Chairman

RRR
ad
JR

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have today signed into law S. 331, a bill which will return the annual observance of Veterans Day from the fourth Monday in October to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supports the expressed will of the overwhelming majority of our State Legislatures, ~~as~~ all major ~~well as~~ veterans service organizations and many individuals.

only memo
Under a law enacted in 1968, the fourth Monday in October was designated for the observance of Veterans Day. Since that law took effect, it has become apparent that the commemoration of this day on November 11 is a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, ~~and that~~ it is a practice deeply and firmly rooted in our customs and traditions. Americans have appreciated and wish to retain the historic significance of November 11 as the day set aside each year by a grateful nation to remember and honor those, living and dead, who fought to win and preserve our freedoms.

I believe ~~that the~~ restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 will help preserve in the hearts and lives of all Americans the spirit of patriotism, the love of country and the willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good ~~that are~~ symbolized by this very special day.

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 319

Date: September 16

Time: 545pm

FOR ACTION: David Lissy *DL*
 Ted Marrs *TM*
 Max Friedersdorf
 Ken Lazarus *KL*
 Paul Theis *PT*

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

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: September 17

Time: 200pm

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 331 - Observance of Veterans Day

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: September 16

Time: 545pm

FOR ACTION: David Lissy
Ted Marrs
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Theis

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

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: September 17

Time: 200pm

SUBJECT:

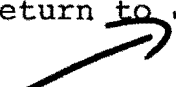
Enrolled Bill S. 331 - Observance of Veterans Day

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

To 

Concur.
David Lissy
9/17

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.

FOR THE STAFF SECRETARY

Date: September 16

Time: 545pm

FOR ACTION: David Lissy
Ted Marrs
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Theis

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- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

*Concur & recommend
Marrs
signing ceremony!*

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

Judy Johnston
FOR THE STAFF SECRETARY

Date: September 16

Time: 545pm

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Ted Marris
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Jim Cavanaugh
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Warren Hendriks

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ACTION REQUESTED:

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- 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. -- Ken Lazarus 9/17/75

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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CAVANAUGH
FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*
SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S.331 - Observance of Vets. Day

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs with the agencies
that the enrolled bill be signed. (See attached memo
re signing ceremony)

Attachments

*We have received numerous requests
for signing ceremony.*

max f.

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

SEP 16 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 331 - Observance of Veterans Day
on November 11
Sponsor - Sen. Hruska (R) Nebraska and 18 others

Last Day for Action

September 22, 1975 - Monday

Purpose

Redesignates November 11 of each year as "Veterans Day,"
beginning in 1978.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval (Signing
statement attached)

Veterans Administration
Civil Service Commission

Approval
Approval

Discussion

The 1968 "Monday holiday" law, which established a uniform holiday schedule for the Federal Government, changed the observance of Veterans Day from November 11 of each year to the fourth Monday in October. Veterans Day had been traditionally commemorated on November 11 since the end of World War I. That date--formerly called Armistice Day--commemorated the cease fire arranged between Germany and the Allied Nations in 1918. In 1954, the Congress gave this commemoration broader significance by designating November 11 as a yearly tribute to veterans of all wars.

The enrolled bill would redesignate November 11 as the official date for observance of Veterans Day, beginning with November 11, 1978. Although there are no national holidays per se, existing law establishes the holidays which are observed by the Federal Government. As a rule, such Federal holidays are also adopted by State legislatures as State holidays.

This has not occurred in the case of Veterans Day. Since its designation as the fourth Monday in October, which was effective in 1971, there has been mounting pressure for return to the original date from all the major veterans groups and from interested citizens and Members of Congress. In reaction, 44 States have enacted legislation redesignating November 11 as Veterans Day within their jurisdictions; two other States never changed to the October date. As a result, there are now dual observances in many places, including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Senate Judiciary Committee report notes that opposition to restoration of November 11 as Veterans Day has come primarily from those who have an interest in maintaining and encouraging three-day holidays--the recreation and vacation industries. The Committee concluded that, on balance, "The desires of veterans and many other Americans for a special date of commemoration is more important than...commercial interests...."

The Committee further notes that the delay until 1978 in reestablishing the November 11 date will promote convenience for those who arrange Veterans Day events, as well as the calendar industry.

Both the Veterans Administration (VA) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) supported restoration of the original date in reports to the congressional committees on S. 331 and predecessor bills. S. 331 passed the Senate by voice vote, and by a vote of 410-6 in the House.

Recommendations

CSC, in recommending approval, states that it generally favors preservation of the Monday holiday observances established in 1968, but believes the Federal Government in its observance of holidays should not be inconsistent with the dates observed by the majority of the States.

VA indicates that it would have preferred an earlier effective date than 1978, but recommends approval, noting that the November 11 date has great significance to many citizens and is firmly rooted in our customs and traditions.

We concur in recommending approval and have attached a draft signing statement for your consideration.

James M. Frey
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have today signed into law S. 331, a bill which will return the annual observance of Veterans Day from the fourth Monday in October to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supports the expressed will of the overwhelming majority of our State Legislatures, as well as veterans service organizations and many individuals.

Under a law enacted in 1968, the fourth Monday in October was designated for the observance of Veterans Day. Since that law took effect, it has become apparent that the commemoration of this day on November 11 is a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens and that it is a practice deeply and firmly rooted in our customs and traditions. Americans have appreciated and wish to retain the historic significance of November 11 as the day set aside each year by a grateful nation to remember and honor those, living and dead, who fought to win and preserve our freedoms.

I believe that the restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 will help preserve in the hearts and lives of all Americans the spirit of patriotism, the love of country, and the willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good that are symbolized by this very special day.

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I believe restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 will help preserve in the hearts and lives of all Americans the spirit of patriotism, the love of country and the willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good symbolized by this very special day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "D".

COMMEMORATING VETERANS DAY ON NOVEMBER ELEVENTH

SEPTEMBER 3, 1975.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Ms. SCHROEDER, from the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 331]

The Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, to whom was referred the bill (S. 331) to redesignate November 11 of each year as Veterans Day and make such day a legal public holiday, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

S. 331 would change the day for the celebration of "Veterans Day" from the fourth Monday each October to the original date for commemoration, November 11.

COMMITTEE ACTION

S. 331 was ordered reported by a unanimous voice vote of the committee on July 31, 1975. Prior to that consideration, public hearings were held on a similar bill, H.R. 1858 (Hearing No. 94-14, Apr. 14, 1975), and that bill was reported to the committee by the Subcommittee on Census and Population by a unanimous voice vote.

BACKGROUND

The Act of June 28, 1968 (Public Law 90-363), commonly known as the Monday holiday law, established Monday as the day of the week to celebrate certain occasions in American history and of other historical or national significance in order to permit families to have a "3-day weekend". Included in the group were Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day. Four other national holidays retained their traditional date for cele-

bration, including New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving (on the fourth Thursday in November), and Christmas Day.

Since the enactment of the Monday holiday law, most State governments have enacted conforming legislation for most of these holidays. In the case of Veterans Day, however, at the present time 46 of our 50 States continue to recognize November 11 as Veterans Day. The effort to change the public recognition of this holiday to a Monday has not been generally accepted. Since the purpose of the 1968 law was to establish some uniformity in the recognition and celebration of public holidays, it is clear that in the case of Veterans Day, the policy has generally proved unsuccessful.

STATEMENT

The committee recommends that the Federal law be changed to designate November 11 as the official public holiday known as Veterans Day. November 11 is the date upon which, at 11 o'clock in the morning in the year 1918, hostilities between the Allied nations of Great Britain, France, and the United States and the Entente nations of Germany and Austria ceased under the terms of Armistice. No date celebrating the end of war has ever achieved such popular recognition or acceptance. Armistice Day, as that date was universally known and officially acknowledged until Congress changed its official name to Veterans Day in 1954, is still recognized with appropriate ceremonies in Great Britain and France. In France, November 11 is a legal holiday, and in Great Britain ceremonies are held on the Sunday prior to November 11 to remember the significance and sacrifice of that nation in two world wars in the twentieth century. In the United States, many Americans continue to remember, if not actually celebrate, November 11 as Armistice Day—the day upon which so many hopes of the western world were attached for lasting world peace.

The intensity of this feeling towards the importance of November 11th is self-evident by the fact that forty-six states have refused to follow the federal lead, and instead commemorate Veterans Day on November 11th. This discrepancy has created a great deal of confusion and tends to defeat the purpose of a Monday holiday: working parents and their children have different days off for Veterans Day, public transportation schedules may be on a holiday schedule when many individuals have to work. The possibilities for confusion are endless.

Therefore the Committee believes that it is time to recognize the wishes of veterans' organizations and the historic significance of November 11th, and at the same time put an end to the confusion surrounding Veterans Day. The Committee strongly supports returning the commemoration of Veterans Day to November 11th.

But in so recommending, the Committee wants to emphasize that its action in reporting S. 331 should not in any way be construed as a precedent for the repeal of other Monday holidays. The concept of establishing holidays on Mondays, in order to provide "long" holiday weekends, was and continues to be a sound idea. With the exception of

Veterans Day, Monday holidays have proved beneficial to the Nation and the public. The Committee, therefore, does not anticipate considering any further changes in the Monday Holiday Act. In short, after studying its effects, the Committee reaffirms its strong support for the concept of Monday holidays.

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

S. 331 amends section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, relating to public holidays, by designating November 11, rather than the fourth Monday in October, as Veterans Day. The amendment shall become effective beginning in 1978 to permit sufficient time for adjustments in calendar printing and other planned industries and activities.

COST

No cost will result from the enactment of S. 311.

COMPLIANCE WITH CLAUSE 2(1)(3) OF RULE XI

With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives—

(1) the Subcommittee on Census and Population is vested under committee rules with legislative and oversight jurisdiction and responsibility over the subject matter of S. 331 and made no specific findings and recommendations in connection with its oversight responsibilities during the hearings on the subject matter in S. 331;

(2) the measure does not provide new budget authority or new or increased tax expenditures and thus a statement required by section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is not necessary;

(3) no estimate and comparison of costs has been received by the committee from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, pursuant to section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(4) the committee has received no report from the Committee on Government Operations of oversight findings and recommendations arrived at pursuant to clause 2(b)(2) of Rule X.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(1)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee has concluded that the enactment of S. 331 will have no inflationary impact.

ADMINISTRATION VIEWS

There are set forth below the reports from the Civil Service Commission, the Veterans Administration, and the office of Management and Budget on H.R. 1858, a bill similar to S. 331.

U.S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,
Washington, D.C., April 23, 1975.

HON. DAVID N. HENDERSON,
Chairman, Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, House of
Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in further response to your request for the views of the Civil Service Commission on H.R. 119, to amend title 5 of the United States Code, which provides that Memorial Day be observed May 30 each year and that Veterans Day be observed November 11 each year.

In general, the Commission favors preserving the Monday holiday observances established by Public Law 90-363. Our experience has shown that most Federal officials and employees find Monday holidays mutually beneficial. Managers and supervisors can plan work-scheduling much better when holidays do not fall mid-week, and employees obviously enjoy three-day weekends. Benefits also accrue in conserving energy when Federal activities can be cut back or shut down over three-day weekends.

It has come to our attention that two States continued to observe November 11 as Veterans Day after P.L. 90-363 was enacted, and that since enactment, some 40 or so States that initially shifted to the fourth Monday in October have subsequently gone back to the traditional November 11 observance. In view of this, the Commission feels the Federal Government should yield to public opinion and return the Federal observance to November 11. Accordingly, the Commission supports enactment of the portions of H.R. 119 that would reestablish Veterans Day as November 11 each year.

The Commission has obtained information indicating that very few States continue to observe Memorial Day on May 30 instead of the fourth Monday in May. Most other States have shifted to the fourth Monday in May. Accordingly the Commission opposes shifting the Federal observance to May 30. Such a move through Federal legislation would be binding only on the Federal Government, and would apparently result in an unsatisfactory situation in which the Federal Government would observe a national holiday on one date (May 30) and most, if not all, States would continue to observe the fourth Monday in May. We would also note that May 30 does not have the historic national significance of a specific date as is represented by the armistice of November 11.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that from the standpoint of the Administration's program there is no objection to the submission of the report.

By direction of the Commission:

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT E. HAMPTON,
Chairman.

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C., April 7, 1975.

HON. DAVID N. HENDERSON,
Chairman, Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, House of Rep-
resentatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in further response to your letter of January 22, 1975, in which you request a report in triplicate by the Veterans Administration relative to H.R. 119, 94th Congress, "To amend title 5 of the United States Code with respect to the observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day."

The bill proposes to revise the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 6103(a) to redesignate May 30 and November 11 as the official dates for the Nation to commemorate Memorial Day and Veterans Day, respectively.

The observance of Veterans Day arose from the ending of World War I. Hostilities in that war were suspended at 11 o'clock on the morning of November 11, 1918, under the provisions of an armistice signed by the contending powers.

In 1921, the body of an unknown American soldier was brought from France and on "Armistice Day" was buried in Arlington Cemetery. Since that time, unknown servicemen of other conflicts have been buried there. Services honoring these men are held each year on Veterans Day. All of the states, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, originally observed "Armistice Day" on November 11. You will be interested to know that November 11 is also a legal holiday in France. Great Britain pays tribute to the veterans of World War I and World War II in observances held on the Sunday before November 11.

In 1926, the Congress adopted a resolution (S. Con. Res. No. 18, 69th C.) directing the President to issue an annual proclamation celebrating November 11 as "Armistice Day." In 1938, the date was designated a national legal holiday (Public Law No. 510, 75th C.). The name of the observance was changed to "Veterans Day" in 1954 by Public Law 380, 83d Congress. The time of its observance was changed to the fourth Monday in October, effective January 1, 1971, by Public Law 90-363.

For those living veterans who honorably served their country and for the survivors of those veterans who gave their lives that our country might live, there has been generated, in the more than half-century of its observance, great sentimental significance to the November 11 observance of Veterans Day.

There has been an outpouring of dissent with the fourth Monday in October for the observance of Veterans Day. The activities of the long three-day weekend observance of Veterans Day create practical problems relating to the scheduling of interments in our national cemeteries. Veterans, veterans organizations, interested citizens, members of Congress, and State legislatures have expressed a desire for the Federal Government to return to the November 11 date for Veterans Day observance. We have been advised that forty-one states

have enacted legislation redesignating November 11 as Veterans Day. Two states never changed from the November 11 observance. The conflicting dual observance of the holiday creates additional problems at our national cemeteries that should be avoided. This conflict between some forty-three states and the Federal Government concerning the observance date of the holiday most certainly merits resolution.

We believe the observance of Veterans Day on November 11 is so intimately interwoven with the history, traditions, and sentiments of this country that its observance should be returned to that date.

The formal observance of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was first known, dated from 1868. It appears that the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War, issued a General Order to its posts designating May 30, 1868, as an occasion for decorating the graves and remembering the sacrifices of those Union soldiers who lost their lives in the Civil War.

The significance of the selection of May 30 as the date for the observance of Memorial Day is not known to the Veterans Administration. Memorial Day has, with the passage of time, come to be recognized as an occasion for the Nation to pay tribute to all Americans who have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country.

In the past the Department of Defense has assumed the responsibility of seeing that each grave in our national cemeteries was decorated with a flag of the United States on Memorial Day. For your information, national cemeteries, with certain exceptions, were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Veterans Administration effective September 1, 1973, in accordance with the National Cemeteries Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-43). Under the Act we have the responsibilities and duties formerly exercised by the Department of Defense.

The time for observance of Memorial Day was changed to the last Monday in May effective January 1, 1971, by Public Law 90-363. H.R. 119 would redesignate May 30 as the date for observance of Memorial Day as a legal holiday. In this connection, there has not been the same outpouring of public dissent with the last Monday in May for the observance of Memorial Day as has been expressed for the change in the date of Veterans Day. Very few states have continued to observe Memorial Day on May 30. Accordingly, it does not seem desirable to amend title 5 in this respect.

In sum, the Veterans Administration favors the enactment of only that portion of H.R. 119, 94th Congress, which would return Veterans Day to November 11.

There would be no additional cost if either provision of the bill is enacted.

Advice has been received from the Office of Management and Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. ROUDEBUSH, *Administrator.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, D.C., April 2, 1975.

HON. DAVID N. HENDERSON,
Chairman, Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to the Committee's request for the views of this Office on H.R. 119, "To amend title 5 of the United States Code with respect to the observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day."

The purpose of this bill is to redesignate May 30 and November 11 as the official dates for observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day, respectively. In its report, the Veterans Administration states its reasons for recommending enactment only of the provisions of H.R. 119 which would return Veterans Day to November 11.

We concur in the views expressed by the Veterans Administration and, accordingly, recommend enactment of H.R. 119 provided it is amended as suggested above.

Sincerely,

JAMES F. C. HYDE, Jr.,
Acting Assistant Director for Legislative Reference.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman) :

TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE

Government Organization and Employees

* * * * *

CHAPTER 61—HOURS OF WORK

* * * * *

§ 6103. Holidays

(a) The following are legal public holidays:

New Year's Day, January 1.
Washington's Birthday, the third Monday in February.
Memorial Day, the last Monday in May.
Independence Day, July 4.
Labor Day, the first Monday in September.
Columbus Day, the second Monday in October.
Veterans Day, [the fourth Monday in October.] *November 11.*
Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November.
Christmas Day, December 25.

○

REDESIGNATING NOVEMBER 11 OF EACH YEAR AS "VETERANS DAY" AND TO MAKE SUCH DAY A LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY

MARCH 12, 1975.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HRUSKA, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 331]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 331), to redesignate November 11 of each year as "Veterans Day" and to make such day a legal public holiday, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

AMENDMENT

On page 1, line 3, delete "1977" and insert in lieu thereof "1978".

PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT

The purpose of the amendment is to extend by one year the effective date of this bill. Thus, Veterans Day would be celebrated as a Monday Holiday for the last time in 1977. A delay of an additional year was considered advisable by the Committee in order to accommodate those who arrange Veterans Day events, as well as the calendar industry whose printing schedule does not permit a high degree of flexibility. The Committee believes this will promote convenience and reduce the confusion that may result from this important change.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to redesignate November 11 of each year as "Veterans Day" and to make such day a legal public holiday.

STATEMENT

S. 331 was introduced by Senator Roman L. Hruska on January 25, 1975. Nineteen Senators joined as cosponsors.¹

A bill nearly identical to S. 331 was favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee on October 3, 1974.² The earlier measure passed the Senate on October 11 of last year by a vote of 50-4. The House did not act on this measure before adjournment of the 93rd Congress.

The desire for this bill has resulted from the confusion and resentment caused by passage of the Monday Holiday Law³ in 1968. That legislation established a uniform holiday schedule and, among other things, moved the Federal celebration of Veterans Day from November 11 of each year to the fourth Monday in October.

Veterans Day has been traditionally commemorated on November 11 of each year since the end of World War I. That date, formerly called Armistice Day, was determined by the cease fire arranged between Germany and the Allied Nations on November 11, 1918. In 1954, the Congress gave this commemoration an even broader significance by designating November 11 as a yearly tribute to our veterans of World War II and all other wars.⁴

Hearings were held by the appropriate committees of the House and Senate in 1967 to receive testimony on proposals to change several national holidays to Mondays⁵ and establish a new Monday public holiday.⁶ A preponderance of the testimony compiled at those hearings indicated that enactment of such legislation would have beneficial results and be responsive to the desires of many Americans. Furthermore, it appeared that a change in celebration dates would not detract from their historical significance.

The anticipated good results from the Monday Holiday Law, however, have not been realized, particularly with respect to Veterans Day. In response to the widespread concern over this matter, many members of the House and Senate introduced bills or resolutions during the 93rd Congress to return Veterans Day to November 11. Several bills have been reintroduced in the 94th Congress.

The Standing Subcommittee on Federal Charters, Holidays and Celebrations, which has jurisdiction over this subject matter, held public hearings on June 3 and July 11, 1974. Twenty-six witnesses appeared, including four members of the Senate and two members of the House.⁷ Divergent and well-articulated opinions were received on the proposals to restore Veterans Day to November 11. The Committee believes the record on this issue is sufficiently complete and does not require further hearings.

¹ Senators Allen, Buckley, Curtis, Dole, Eastland, Garn, Hansen, Hartke, Haskell, Helms, McClellan, McClure, Montoya, William L. Scott, Stafford, Stennis, Randolph, Talmadge, and Thurmond. Similar bills were introduced individually by Senator Dole (S. 8) and Senator William L. Scott (S. 429).

² S. 4081, 93d Congress.

³ Public Law 90-363 (June 28, 1968).

⁴ Public Law 83-350 (June 1, 1954).

⁵ Washington's Birthday changed from February 22 to the third Monday in February; Memorial Day changed from May 30 to the last Monday in May; Veterans Day changed from November 11 to the fourth Monday in October.

⁶ Columbus Day, the second Monday in October.

⁷ Senators James Allen, Carl T. Curtis, William Scott, and Strom Thurmond; Congressmen Robert McClory and Samuel S. Stratton. Additionally, Senator Robert Dole and Congressman Charles Thone submitted statements for the record.

The Committee is aware of the lack of nationwide uniformity in the celebration of this historic event. Forty-two states which previously amended their state laws to conform with P.L. 90-363 have subsequently reconsidered and enacted legislation restoring the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 within their jurisdictions.⁸ Two of the states never changed their state laws to conform to the Federal Act.⁹ This makes a total of 44 states—88 percent of the United States—which will observe November 11 as Veterans Day this year. Additionally, some 60 Memorial Resolutions have been adopted by various states and cities asking the Congress to restore the observance of Veterans Day to November 11. In many places, including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, there are dual observances of Veterans Day.

The Committee is cognizant that some believe November 11 is an outdated anniversary and primarily honors the veterans of one war distant in time. Proponents of this view contend that a Monday celebration gives more Americans an opportunity to observe the occasion with a longer holiday period.

The Committee takes particular note of the witnesses who testified in opposition to this legislative proposal. Their testimony represented primarily those who have a commercial interest in maintaining and encouraging three-day holidays.

Veterans organizations, including the American Legion and many others, firmly regard November 11 as a highly important date on which to honor veterans and their families. They believe the historical significance of a November 11 commemoration far outweighs the convenience of a three-day weekend in October. A vast majority of those writing to the Subcommittee—average Americans—have also indicated a strong desire for a return to the traditional date of celebration.

The Committee has considered this proposal in great detail and weighed the competing interests involved. On balance, the Committee believes that the desires of veterans and many other Americans for a special date of commemoration is more important than the commercial interests of those in the recreation and vacation industries.

Furthermore, while recognizing that American families enjoy three-day weekends, the Committee believes that a Monday celebration for Veterans Day will continue to erode the importance which this date has had for nearly six decades. The Committee has been advised that a departure from the traditional date of Veterans Day has resulted in a dramatic lack of uniformity in celebration and a substantial lessening of participation throughout the country.

Although more than a half-century has passed since the Armistice ending World War I was signed, there is no reason to consider November 11 as any less significant in our Nation's history. Redesignation of this date as Veterans Day will serve as a poignant reminder to Americans of the countless sacrifices made by veterans to insure the security of our country and preserve peace throughout the world.

⁸ Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

⁹ Mississippi and Oklahoma.

More than 38 million men and women have served in the Armed Forces of the United States since its inception and over 29 million are still living. Veterans and their families, plus the living dependents of deceased veterans, represent about one-half the total population. There is no other national holiday that honors so many of our citizens for their contributions to the nation's welfare.

For many Americans, November 11 is and always will be Veterans Day. P.L. 90-363 has not erased the overriding significance of that special date. Even in the six states that do not currently recognize the traditional date of observance, many communities nonetheless continue to observe November 11 as Veterans Day.

The Committee believes that by bringing Federal law again into conformity with a vast majority of our states, the Congress will be preserving and furthering the significance which so many Americans attach to this event.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends favorable consideration of the bill to restore the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 of each year.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

5 United States Code 6103

(a) * * * *
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[Veterans Day, the fourth Monday in October]

Veterans Day, November 11



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 redesignate November 11 of each year as Veterans Day and to make such day a legal public holiday.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, effective January 1, 1978, section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking out—

“Veterans Day, the fourth Monday in October.”

and inserting in lieu thereof—

“Veterans Day, November 11.”

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 20, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(San Francisco, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed into law today S. 331, a bill which will return the annual observance of Veterans Day from the fourth Monday in October to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supports the expressed will of the overwhelming majority of our State Legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and many individuals.

Under a law enacted in 1968, the fourth Monday in October was designated for the observance of Veterans Day. Since that law took effect, it has become apparent that the commemoration of this day on November 11 is a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens. It is a practice deeply and firmly rooted in our customs and traditions. Americans have appreciated and wish to retain the historic significance of November 11 as the day set aside each year by a grateful nation to remember and honor those, living and dead, who fought to win and preserve our freedom.

I believe restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 will help preserve in the hearts and lives of all Americans the spirit of patriotism, the love of country and the willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good symbolized by this very special day.

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