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Congressional Record Reprint - Statue of Charles M. Russell

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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By Mr. BYRD from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

H. R. 11019. An act to permit articles imported from foreign countries for the purpose of manufacturing or repairing Kentucky State's held at Louisville, to be without payment of bond or entry fees (Rept. No. 1496).

OP OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON RUCTION OF BUILDING FOR SEUM OF HISTORY AND IOLOGY FOR THE SMITH- NATION INSTITUTION (S. REPT. NO. 1437)

Mr. ANDERSON. Mr. President, on behalf of the Joint Congressional Committee on Construction of a Building for a Museum of History and Technology for the Smithsonian Institution, I submit a report, pursuant to section 4 of Public Law 106 (84th Cong., 69 Stat. 189). I ask that the report be printed. The report will be read and printed, as requested by the Senator from New Mexico.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF A COMMITTEE

As in executive session, the following favorable reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. PASTORE, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce:
Vice Adm. Alfred C. Richmond to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, with the rank of rear admiral;

Richard F. Elder, and sundry other persons, for appointment in the United States Coast Guard;

Russell A. Sersenow, and sundry other persons, for appointment in the United States Coast Guard.

BILLS INTRODUCED

Bills were introduced, read the first time, and, by unanimous consent, the second time, and referred to:

By Mr. HILL:
S. 3624. A bill to amend the act "An act to authorize the permanent annual appropriation for the maintenance and operation of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory," approved May 7, 1928, as amended; to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

By Mr. CHAVEZ:
S. 3625. A bill for the relief of Belle Kligerman; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. Petri, Mr. Jaynes, Mr. Case of New Jersey, and Mr. IVES):
S. 3626. A bill to establish a teaching hospital for Harvard University, to transfer Freedman's Hospital to the university, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

(See the remarks of Mr. SMITH of New Jersey when he introduced the above bill, which appear under a separate heading.)

By Mr. BEALL:
S. 3627. A bill for the relief of Anna Marie Van Rooy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUMPHREY:
S. 3628. A bill to amend the Davis-Bacon Act, and authorize a permanent annual appropriation to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

(See the remarks of Mr. HUMPHREY when he introduced the above bill, which appear under a separate heading.)

By Mr. IVES:
S. 3629. A bill to authorize certain beach erosion control of the short of the State of New York from Fire Island Inlet to Jones Inlet; to the Committee on Public Works.

STATUE OF CHARLES M. RUSSELL

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to announce to the Senate that the State of Montana will place its first statue in Statuary Hall in October of this year. Statuary Hall, in the United States Capitol, is perhaps the finest memorial to outstanding Americans. As all of us know, each State is entitled to place two statues in Statuary Hall. To date, Montana is one of the few States that has not placed at least one statue in the Capitol.

After a number of years of planning and fund raising, Montana has decided to honor a great Montanan—not a statesman, politician, or philanthropist, but an artist—Charles M. Russell, who recorded in oils, charcoal, and sculpture a vanishing era and a vanishing race. He was an artist, illustrator, and writer who recorded the life of the West during its transition to civilization.

Russell was an adopted Montanan, who came to Helena in 1880, when the total population of the Montana Territory was less than 40,000. He traveled to the West; he worked as a trapper and wrangler. He lived with the Indians; and it was during those years, as a young man, that he was gaining more and more of the experiences he was living. In 1892, he moved to Great Falls, and settled down as an artist. Forty years later, he married Nancy Cooper, who was to exercise a most helpful and beneficial influence during their life together. Thereafter, he built a studio in Great Falls; and his work as an illustrator became in greater demand; and his paintings, which were very popular locally, were beginning to draw attention from far away places.

No artist captured the West with such devotion and fidelity as did Russell; and he continued to do so until his death in 1926.

The sculpture of the statue of Charles Russell is John B. Weaver, a native of Butte, Mont., and curator of the Montana Historical Museum. The statue is now being cast into bronze. It is a 7-foot high representation, and shows Russell with a palette on his left arm and a brush in his right hand. It is 1 of 5 selected in a statewide contest.

The bronze statue of the cowboy artist will be placed in Statuary Hall in October, the same month that the National Museum of Fine Arts will feature an exhibit of Charles Russell's original paintings and illustrations. October will truly be Montana Month in the Nation's Capital.

On behalf of Montana's distinguished senator Senator [Mr. Murray] and myself, I submit three concurrent resolutions which authorize the acceptance of the statue of Charles Marion Russell, to be placed in Statuary Hall, and the temporary placement of the statue in the ro-

THE HARRIS NATURAL GAS BILL—MEMORIAL

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Memorial a memorial signed by a number of citizens of Chicago, Ill., opposing the passage of the Harris natural gas bill.

There being no objection, the memorial was ordered to be printed in the Record, without the signatures attached, as follows:

We, the undersigned citizens and voters of Illinois, do hereby entreat you, most emphatically, to use your influence in voting against the infamous Harris bill, the passing of which would unjustly raise our gas bills for the use of natural gas in our homes.

(Signed by Veronica Kalemba and sundry other citizens of the city of Chicago, Ill.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PASTORE, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, with an amendment:

R. S. 267. Resolution authorizing a study of the textile industry of the United States; referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mike Mansfield Papers, Series 21, Box 39, Folder 50, Mansfield Library, University of Montana
Russell, ARTIST OR ILLUSTRATOR? by K. Ross Toole

There has long been an argument in certain circles as to whether Charles M. Russell was an artist or an illustrator. He thought of himself as an illustrator, but it is doubtful that he would ever have entered in the argument himself, pro or con. He painted what he saw. And he painted with a fidelity that has seldom been matched by any illustrator. Yet Russell's works are notable not merely because he knew the horse, the Indian, and the Montana landscape. Russell was painting and sculpting a vanishing animal and a vanishing race, and he knew it. Unlike the vast majority of his contemporaries, he kept a native dignity in the Indian and he was acutely conscious of the tragedy involved in the Indian's plight. In the 1880s, Russell recognized that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian," was still strong in the West. Russell lived with the Elks and cattle and came to understand them. More, he came to admire and respect their way of life. This is either explicit or implicit in all his paintings of Indians.

While many a story about Russell has pictured him as a cowboy first and an artist second, such is not the case. Russell was more a philosopher than a cowhand, more a translator than a doder, and all these elements of his nature came out in his brush and finger-tips.

He was immensely conservative; he detected the changes that were going on to the way of life he loved and to the open range that gave him a sense of freedom he could find nowhere else. There is this feeling in most of his work subsequent to 1900 which is a reflection of a genuine sadness. It is the last work that sets him apart from his imitators. Charles Russell was strange mixture of strength and weakness. He was no business man and he did not commercialize his work to his shrewd wife. He drank too much whisky with old cronies. His loyalty to the old ways was intense and he was always an easy touch. His humor was as much like that of his good friend, Will Rogers—very, very often on himself, sometimes a little satirical. In short, Charles M. Russell was—before all, it was—"a real downright, honest to God human being." And that is another thing that separates Russell from his imitators.

Russell has become part myth, part legend in Montana, and he is rapidly coming to occupy a similar position throughout the West of Indians, spaces, and outlanders, and the old West did not come from age. He loved human interest. You never saw a man in love with a vanishing age and its people. He loved nature—everything he painted God had made. In particular he loved human nature. In his art he loved human interest. You never saw one of his paintings that you could not tell just what were the horses, the buffalo, the Indians. When his buffalo were thinking about, ** ** He was a great story teller, but he not only left us great works of our own nature, but he left us an example of how to live in friendship with all mankind. A real, downright, honest-to-God human being.
The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 82) is as follows:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the proceedings at the presentation, dedication, and acceptance of the statue of Charles Marion Russell, to be presented by the State of Montana in the rotunda of the Capitol, together with appropriate illustrations and other pertinent matter, shall be printed as a Senate document for such selling; and that such document shall be prepared under the supervision of the Joint Committee on Printing.

Sec. 2. There shall be printed 3,000 additional copies of such Senate document, which shall be bound in such style as the Joint Committee on Printing shall direct, and of which 100 copies shall be for the use of the Senate and 1,200 copies shall be for the use of the Members of the Senate from the State of Montana, and 500 copies shall be for the use of the House of Representatives and 1,200 copies shall be for the use of the Members of the House of Representatives from the State of Montana.

REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION OF EZRA TAFT BENSON, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. YARBOROUGH. Mr. President, on behalf of myself, and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Yarborough), I submit for appropriate reference a resolution stating that it is the sense of the Senate that Ezra Taft Benson should resign as Secretary of Agriculture.

This 16-point resolution is necessary because other means of obtaining relief for farmers from the oppressive policies of Ezra Taft Benson have failed. This is a proper resolution, grounded on historical precedent. Such a resolution has been used several times in the history of this Republic. One of the most recent uses was by Senator Cooper, of Michigan, a Republican Senator, directed to the tenure of the Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, also a Republican, and addressed to a Republican President, recorded on page 5145 of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOR 1928, at the 1st session of the 70th Congress.

So this resolution is not an innovation. It is a nonpartisan appeal, addressed alike to Senators on both sides of the aisle who are desirous of saving American agriculture, the family-sized farm, and a way of life in rural America that produced Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Lee, and Grant. It is time for action now. Mr. President, I ask appropriate action on the resolution.

The resolution reads:

Whereas the present Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Benson, has expressed the hope that prices received by farmers for the products of all farms of America until the gross amount received for the products of the farms of America represent only 4 percent of the gross national product; and

Whereas Mr. Benson has invited discussion, created ill will, and stirred up economic civil war between producer groups of different farm commodities, and commodity producer group against farm commodity producer group; and

Whereas the Secretary of Agriculture has diligently carried out a propaganda campaign in an effort to turn the American consumers against the American farmers; and

Whereas Ezra Taft Benson has not tried to make farmers believe that their low income troubles have been caused by labor, and has tried to set the farmers against labor, thus creating more discontent in America; and

Whereas Ezra Taft Benson has been appointed to the Senate by the locally elected farmers' committees to a mere advisory role (they were formerly administrative); and

Whereas Ezra Taft Benson has failed to use the funds voted by Congress for the protection of crop insurance to farmers; and he has caused the crop insurance to farmers; and

Whereas Congress has repeatedly tried to reduce, discredit, and thereby destroy the Farmers' Home Administration, with its services and credit to small farmers; and

Whereas Secretary Ezra Taft Benson has sent to the Congress recommendation after recommendation designed to kill the REA program by cutting budgets and by putting the REA in the hands of investment bankers; and

Whereas Secretary Benson has recommended against credit to develop the REA program; and

Whereas Secretary Benson has repeatedly tried to reduce, discredit, and thereby destroy the Farmers' Home Administration, with its services and credit to small farmers; and

Whereas Secretary Ezra Taft Benson has tried to eliminate the small family-type farm in America. Therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Ezra Taft Benson should resign as Secretary of Agriculture.

The resolution (S. Res. 289), submitted by Mr. Yarborough, was received and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.