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AMENDMENT OF THE WAR CLAIMS
ACT

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, without impinging upon the Pastore rule of germaneness, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 880, H.R. 4204.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be stated by title.

The ASSISTANT LEGISLATIVE CLERK. H.R. 4204, to amend section 6 of the War Claims Act of 1948, to include prisoners of war captured during the Vietnam conflict.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with amendments: on page 2, line 23, after the word "of", strike out "\$1" and insert "\$2"; on page 3, line 21, after the word "of", strike out "\$1.50" and insert "\$3"; and on page 4, line 4, after the word "of", strike out "\$1.50" and insert "\$3".

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the amendments are considered and agreed to en bloc.

The bill is open to further amendment.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, before the pending bill is passed, I should like to give expression to my deep concern about the plight of our prisoners of war in North Vietnam, Laos and, perhaps, in Cambodia now.

It is my understanding that there are something on the order of 1,500 U.S. prisoners of war. It is my further understanding that North Vietnam has adhered to the so-called Geneva conventions. It would, therefore, be my hope that they would live up to their pledged word and they would allow messages and parcels to reach the prisoners.

Mr. President, it would also be my hope that we would continue, in both the Sen-

ate and the House, and in the administration, as well as in our private capacities, such as H. Ross Perot, of Texas, is doing, to bring about the release of our prisoners and their safe return to their loved ones.

First and foremost, I should like to find out which ones are alive and under what conditions they are being incarcerated.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, will the distinguished majority leader yield at that point?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I am delighted to yield to the distinguished minority leader.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I join in the comments of the distinguished majority leader. I should like the families of our prisoners of war to know that the concern of Members of the Senate is very great and very deep for them. We are all anxious to have them return safely to America and to their loved ones. That anxiety continues undiminished.

We are very much interested in securing the lists of prisoners. The governments of other nations have urgently been solicited to keep pressing North Vietnam for this information.

Some very fine work with respect to our prisoners of war has been done over a considerable period of time by the distinguished Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE).

Mr. President, let me add that, today, so far as I am aware, there are no U.S. prisoners of war in Cambodia. If I learn of any, I shall be glad to make that information immediately available.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I appreciate what the distinguished minority leader has said.

I am happy that the distinguished Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE) is now in the Chamber. He has been a leader in the fight to bring about the relief, alleviation, and release of U.S. prisoners of war held in Indochina.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, will the Senator from Montana yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I applaud the statements just made by the Senator from Montana and the Senator from Pennsylvania.

There are, as the Senator from Montana pointed out, some 1,529 Americans who are missing in action or prisoners of war in Southeast Asia.

On May 1 of this year, Constitution Hall was filled with mothers, wives, fathers, children, relatives, and friends of prisoners of war and men missing in action in Southeast Asia. An effective tribute was paid to these dedicated Americans. Thus, I wish to join in the statements made by the distinguished majority and minority leaders and to express the hope that the enemy, the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong, will live up to the Geneva accords and will furnish information, will repatriate the wounded, and will permit the prisoners to communicate with their families.

Mr. President, as of now, of the 1,529 Americans who are prisoners of war or missing in action, only about 440 are known to be prisoners.

I thank the distinguished Senator from Montana for yielding.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I thank the Senator from Kansas for his remarks and for his continued and undeviating efforts in re-

gard to this most significant and important question.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. If there be no further amendment to be proposed, the question is on the engrossment of the amendments and the third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an excerpt from the report (No. 91-878), explaining the purposes of the measure.

There being no objection, the excerpt was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: