

January 24, 1936

[Bonus Bill Veto]

FDR Speech File

To the House of Representatives

I return herewith ^{without my approval,} H. R. 9870 ~~without~~
~~of approval~~ entitled "An Act

On May 22, 1935, in disapproving a bill to pay the bonus immediately instead of in 1945 I gave ~~the~~ in person to a joint session of the Congress complete and explicit reasons ~~for my action~~ ~~during the disapproval~~.

This year's bill differs from last year's in only ~~the~~ ^{two} essential respects: 1. It eliminates the issuance of paper currency to make payments, and substitutes bonds, which however may be cashed for face value at any time; 2. It adds \$263,000,000 to the total payments by forgiving interest ~~on~~ after October 1, 1931 on amounts borrowed.

In all other respects the circumstances
arguments and facts remain ^{essentially} the same as
those ~~fully~~ fully covered by me only eight
months ago. I respectfully refer the members
of the Senate and of the House of Representatives
to every word of what I said then.

My convictions are as ^{impassioned} ~~conviction~~ testimony as
they were then: ~~Therefore~~ ~~I have no~~ ~~individual~~ ~~and~~ ~~as~~ ~~chief~~ ~~conviction~~ I cannot
change them.

To the House of Representatives:

I return herewith, without my approval, H. R. bill 9870, entitled "An Act to provide for the immediate payment of World War adjusted service certificates for the cancellation of unpaid interest accrued on bonds secured by such certificates, and for other purposes."

On May 22, 1935 in disapproving a bill to pay the bonus in full immediately instead of in 1945, I gave in person to a joint session of the Congress complete and explicit reasons for my action.

The bill I now return differs from last year's bill in only two important respects: first, it eliminates the issuance of unsecured paper currency to make the payments required and substitutes interest bearing bonds, which, however, may be

converted into cash for face value at
any time; second, it adds ^{\$}263,000,000.
to the total payments by forgiving interest
after October 1, 1931, on amounts borrowed.

In all other respects, the circumstances,
arguments and facts remain essentially the
same as those fully covered and explained
by me only eight months ago.

I respectfully refer the members of the
Senate and of the House of Representatives
to every word of what I said then.

My convictions are as impelling today
as they were then. Therefore I cannot
change them.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The White House

January 24, 1936

AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned, do solemnly swear that at 11:45 a.m., January 24, 1936, Mr. Stephen T. Early handed me at the White House a Message to the Congress in the President's own hand returning without his approval H. R. Bill 9870, entitled "An Act to Provide for the Immediate Payment of World War Adjusted Service Certificates, for the Cancellation of Unpaid Interest Accrued on Loans Secured by Such Certificates, and for Other Purposes."

I do solemnly swear that there were made at the Department of State twenty-six, and only twenty-six, positive photostatic copies.

Michael J. McDermott

Michael J. McDermott,
Chief, Division of Current Information,
Department of State.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of

January 1936.

Jersey F. Allen
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NOTARY PUBLIC.

A B I L L

AMENDING THE LAWS AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF
PENSIONS, COMPENSATION, EMERGENCY OFFICERS'
RETIRED PAY, HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL TREATMENT
AND DOMICILIARY CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

Sec. 1. That subject to such requirements and limitations
as shall be contained in regulations to be issued by the President,
and within the limits of appropriations made by Congress, the follow-
ing classes of persons may be paid a pension:

- (a) Any person who served in the active military or naval
service and who is disabled as a result of disease or
injury or aggravation of a preexisting disease or in-
jury incurred in line of duty in such service.
- (b) Any person who served in the active military or naval
service during any war subsequent to the Civil War,
including the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine In-
surrection and who is permanently disabled as a result
of wound or disease.
- (c) The widow, child, or children, dependant mother or
father, of any person who dies as a result of disease
or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty in
the active military or naval service.
- (d) The widow and/or child of any deceased person who served
during any war subsequent to the Civil War, including
the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine Insurrection and
prior to the World War.
- (e) For the purpose of subparagraph (b) of this section, the
World War shall be deemed to have ended November 11, 1918.

Sec. 2. The minimum and maximum monthly rate of pension which
may be paid for disability or death shall be as follows: For disability,
from \$6.00 to \$275.00; for death, from \$12.00 to \$75.00.

Sec. 3. For each class of persons specified in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of Section 1 of this Act the President is hereby authorized to prescribe by regulation the minimum degrees of disability and such higher degrees of disability, if any, as in his judgment should be recognized and prescribe the rate of pension payable for each such degree of disability. In fixing rates of pensions for disability or death the President shall prescribe by regulation such differentiation as he may deem just and equitable, in the rates to be paid to veterans of different wars and/or their dependents and to be paid for

- (a) Disabilities and deaths resulting from disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty in war time service;
- (b) Disabilities and deaths resulting from disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty in peace time service;
- (c) Disabilities and deaths not incurred in service.

Sec. 4. The President shall prescribe by regulation (subject to the provisions of Section 1(e) of this Act) the date of the beginning and of the termination of the period in each war subsequent to the Civil War, including the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine Insurrection, service within which shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed war time service. The President shall further prescribe by regulation the required number of days of war or peace time service for each class of veterans, the time limit on filing of claims for each class of veterans and their dependents, the nature and extent of proofs and presumptions for such different classes, and any other requirements as to entitlement as he shall deem equitable and just. The President in establishing conditions precedent may prescribe different requirements or conditions for the veterans of different wars and their dependents and may further subdivide the classes of persons as outlined in Section 1 of this Act and apply different requirements or conditions to such subdivisions.

Sec. 5. All decisions rendered by the Administrator of Vet-

erans' Affairs under the provisions of this Act, or the regulations issued pursuant thereto, shall be final and conclusive on all questions of law and fact, and no other official or court of the United States shall have jurisdiction to review by mandamus or otherwise any such decision.

Sec. 6. In addition to the pensions provided in this Act, the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is hereby authorized under such limitations as may be prescribed by the President, and within the limits of existing Veterans' Administration facilities, to furnish to veterans of any war, including the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine Insurrection, domiciliary care where they are suffering with permanent disabilities and medical and hospital treatment for diseases or injuries incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active military or naval service.

Sec. 7. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs subject to the general direction of the President and in accordance with regulations to be issued by the President shall administer, execute and enforce the provisions of this Act and for such purpose shall have the same authority and powers as are provided in Sections 425, 430, 471, 482, 483, 484, 440, 442, 443, 444, 447, 450, 451, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 459a, 459c, 459d; 459e; 459f, Title 38, U. S. C., and such other Sections of Title 38, U. S. C., as relate to the administration of the laws granting pensions.

Sec. 8. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is hereby authorized in carrying out the provisions of this or any other pension Act to delegate authority to render decisions to such person or persons as he may find necessary. Within the limitations of such delegations, any decisions rendered by such person or persons shall have the same force and effect as though rendered by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs. The President shall personally approve all regulations issued under the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 9. Claims for benefits under this Act shall be filed with the Veterans' Administration under such regulations, including

provisions for hearing, determination, and administrative review, as the President may approve, and payments shall not be made for any period prior to date of application. When a claim shall be finally disallowed under this Act and the regulations issued thereunder, it may not thereafter be reopened or allowed.

Sec. 10. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2 of this Act, any person who served as an officer of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during the World War, other than as an officer of the regular Army, Navy or Marine Corps, who made valid application for retirement under the provisions of Public No. 506, 70th Congress, enacted May 24, 1928, Sections 561 and 582, Title 38, U. S. C., and who prior to the passage of this Act has been granted retirement with pay, shall be entitled to continue to receive retirement pay at the monthly rate now being paid him if the disability for which he has been retired resulted from disease or injury or aggravation of a preexisting disease or injury incurred in line of duty between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918, provided that the disease or injury or aggravation of the disease or injury directly resulted from the performance of military or naval duty, and that such person otherwise meets the requirements of the regulations which may be issued under the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 11. All offenses committed and all penalties or forfeiture incurred under the acts repealed by Section 17 of this Act may be prosecuted and punished in the same manner and with the same effect as if said repeal had not been made and any person who forfeited rights to benefits under any such acts shall not be entitled to any benefits under this Act.

Sec. 12. That whoever in any claim for benefits under this Act or by regulations issued pursuant to this Act, makes any sworn statement of a material fact knowing it to be false, shall be guilty of perjury and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.

Sec. 13. That if any person entitled to payment of pension under this Act, whose right to such payment under this Act or under any

regulation issued under this Act, ceases upon the happening of any contingency, thereafter fraudulently accepts any such payment, he shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

Sec. 14. That whoever shall obtain or receive any money, check, or pension under this Act, or regulations issued under this Act, without being entitled to the same, and with intent to defraud the United States or any beneficiary of the United States, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,000, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

Sec. 15. Any person who shall knowingly make or cause to be made, or conspire, combine, aid, or assist in, agree to, arrange for, or in any wise procure the making or presentation of a false or fraudulent affidavit, declaration, certificate, statement, voucher, or paper, or writing purporting to be such, concerning any claim for benefits under this Act, shall forfeit all rights, claims, and benefits under this Act, and, in addition to any and all other penalties imposed by law, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

Sec. 16. Every guardian, curator, conservator, committee, or person legally vested with the responsibility or care of a claimant or his estate, having charge and custody in a fiduciary capacity of money paid, under the provisions of this Act, for the benefit of any minor or incompetent claimant, who shall embezzle the same in violation of his trust, or convert the same to his own use, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or imprisonment at hard labor for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

Sec. 17. All public laws granting medical or hospital treatment, domiciliary care, compensation, pension disability allowance, ~~yearly pensionable term insurance~~, or retirement pay to veterans of the Spanish-American War, including the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine Insurrection, the World War, or to former

members of the military or naval service for injury or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the military or naval service except so far as they relate to persons who served prior to the Spanish-American War, and the retirement of officers and enlisted men of the regular army are hereby repealed, ^{and all laws granting or pertaining to yearly renewable} but payments in accordance with such laws shall continue to the first day of the third calendar month following the month during which this Act is enacted. The Administrator of ^{term insurance} Veterans' Affairs under the general direction of the President shall ^{are hereby} immediately cause to be reviewed all allowed claims under the above ^{repealed,} referred to laws and where a person is found entitled under this Act, authorize payment or allowance of benefits in accordance with the provisions of this Act commencing with the first day of the fourth calendar month following the month during which this Act is enacted and notwithstanding the provisions of Section 9 of this Act, no further claim in such cases shall be required, Provided that nothing contained in this Section shall interfere with payments heretofore made or hereafter to be made under contracts of yearly renewable term insurance which have matured prior to the date of enactment of this Act and under which payments have been commenced.

May 22nd

AFFIDAVIT

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Michael J. McDermott,
Chief, Division of Current Information,
Department of State.

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Henry F. Allen
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NOTARY PUBLIC.

OK.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Jan. 24 - 1936

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any time; second, it adds ^{\$}263,000,000.
to the total payments by forgiving interest
after October 1, 1931, on amounts borrowed.

In all other respects, the circumstances,
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same as those fully covered and explained
by me sixty eight months ago.

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Senate and of the House of Representatives
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as they were then. Therefore I cannot
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Franklin D. Roosevelt

The White House

January 24, 1936