

DEFERRING COLLECTION OF CERTAIN IRRIGATION
CONSTRUCTION CHARGES, FLATHEAD IRRIGATION
PROJECT, MONTANA

MAY 27 (legislative day, APRIL 21), 1947.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ECTON, from the Committee on Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 753]

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (S. 753) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to defer the collection of certain irrigation construction charges against lands under the Flathead Indian irrigation project, Montana, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

A full explanation of the purpose of this bill is contained in the report of the Secretary of the Interior, dated May 16, 1947, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this report, as follows:

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, May 16, 1947.

Hon. HUGH BUTLER,
Chairman, Committee on Public Lands,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR BUTLER: Further reference is made to your request of March 4, for a report on S. 753, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to defer the collection of certain irrigation construction charges against lands under the Flathead Indian irrigation project.

I have no objection to the enactment of S. 753, which would set a definite time limit to the moratorium now in effect on the collection of construction charges on the Flathead Indian irrigation project in Montana.

The present moratorium results from the action taken by this Department under the Act of June 22, 1936 (49 Stat. 1803, 25 U. S. C. 389-389e), referred to in S. 753, which authorized investigations by this Department of Indian irrigation projects. Plans were made after the enactment of that act for the investigation of a number of projects, including the Flathead project. Pursuant to said act the Secretary of the Interior, by order of April 10, 1939, deferred the collection of construction charges on the Flathead project until the investigation thereof under the 1936 act could be completed. This action of the Secretary was approved by Public Resolution No. 40 of August 5, 1939 (53 Stat. 1221).

While the basic work on the economic study and report of conditions on the Flathead project has been done, definite recommendations thereon have not been formulated as yet. The study clearly indicates, however, that the landowners are unable to make payment of the bulk of the construction charges which have been assessed against their lands. Since the investigation has not been completed, the order of April 10, 1939, deferring the collection of construction charges on the project is still in effect. The proposed legislation appears to be desirable as a means of fixing the duration of the moratorium.

In view of my understanding that you desire an immediate report on S. 753, this letter has not been submitted to the Bureau of the Budget for consideration. Therefore, no commitment can be made concerning the relationship of the foregoing views to the program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. A. KRUG,
Secretary of the Interior.



Mr. Brock from the Committee on Public Lands submitted the following

REPORT

(To accompany S. 753)

The Committee on Public Lands to whom was referred the bill (S. 753) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to defer the collection of certain irrigation construction charges against lands under the Flathead Indian irrigation project, Montana, having considered the same report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

A full explanation of the purpose of this bill is contained in the report of the Secretary of the Interior, dated May 16, 1947, a copy of which is attached hereto and makes a part of this report, as follows:

The Secretary of the Interior

Honorable J. W. ...

Chairman, Committee on Public Lands

United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

My Dear Senator: Further reference is made to your report of March 1, 1947, and S. 753 a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to defer the collection of certain irrigation construction charges against lands under the Flathead Indian irrigation project.

I have no objection to the enactment of S. 753 which would set a definite limit to the deferral of the collection of construction charges on the Flathead Indian irrigation project in Montana.

The present moratorium results from the action taken by this Department under the act of June 22, 1939 (51 Stat. 1402) for the purpose of deferring the collection of certain irrigation construction charges against lands under the Flathead Indian irrigation project in Montana.

It is noted that the act of June 22, 1939, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to defer the collection of certain irrigation construction charges against lands under the Flathead Indian irrigation project in Montana for a period of 12 months from the date of the enactment of that act for the investigation of the economic conditions of the Flathead project. It is noted that the act of June 22, 1939, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to defer the collection of certain irrigation construction charges on the Flathead project until the investigation is completed and a report thereon is submitted to the Senate. This action of the Secretary was approved by Public Resolution No. 70 of August 4, 1939 (51 Stat. 1417).