

AMENDING THE ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ADJUSTMENT  
OF IRRIGATION CHARGES, FLATHEAD IRRIGATION  
PROJECT, MONTANA

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 SEPTEMBER 20 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 3), 1949.—Ordered to be printed
 

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Mr. ECTON, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
submitted the following

## R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 4986]

The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4986) to amend the act of May 25, 1948, providing for the adjustment of irrigation charges on the Flathead Indian Irrigation project, Montana, having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

This bill has been considered by the Committee on Public Lands of the House; on July 12, 1949, that committee submitted its report (H. Rept. No. 1024) to the House recommending its passage and on July 18, 1949, it passed the House.

The intent of this bill is to clarify section 4 of Public Law 554, Eightieth Congress, which relates to the cancellation of certain unpaid interest charges concerning the Flathead Indian irrigation project in Montana assessed prior to May 10, 1926.

Section 4 of said Public Law 554, Eightieth Congress, was intended to cancel unpaid charges for operation and maintenance of the Flathead Indian irrigation project which were assessed prior to May 10, 1926, together with certain unpaid charges due from consumers for electric energy sold through the project's power system between July 1, 1931, and June 30, 1942. It was the intent of the Congress that this section of the law should also cover the cancellation of interest on said charges. However, the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior has ruled that the legislation did not include interest.

These unpaid charges are uncollectible and, together with the interest thereon, should be written off as bad debts, as is the procedure in all business operations.

At hearings held on this bill before the House Committee on Public Lands, representatives of the Department of the Interior appeared and testified in favor of the enactment of this proposed legislation.