

AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF AMOSITE ASBESTOS FROM THE NATIONAL STOCKPILE AND THE SUPPLEMENTAL STOCKPILE

Mr. PHILBIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 13530) to authorize the disposal of amosite asbestos from the national stockpile and the supplemental stockpile.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 13530

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the administrator of General Services is hereby authorized to dispose of, by negotiation or otherwise, approximately fifteen thousand, one hundred and seventy short tons of amosite asbestos now held in the national stockpile established pursuant to the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 96-97a) and the supplemental stockpile established pursuant to section 101(b) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1704(b)). Such disposition may be made without regard to the provisions of section 3 of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act: Provided, That the time and method of disposition shall be fixed with due regard to the protection of the United States against avoidable loss and the protection of producers, processors, and consumers against avoidable disruption of their usual markets.

The SPEAKER. Is a second demanded?

Mr. CLANCY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a second.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, a second will be considered as ordered. There was no objection.

Mr. PHILBIN. Mr. Speaker, the administration has submitted a proposal for disposal of 15,170 short tons of amosite asbestos now held in the national stockpile.

Currently, the stockpile objective is 40,000 short tons and the amount in inventory is 55,170 short tons.

The average acquisition cost of the commodity was \$215.86 per short ton.

The current market price is approximately \$210 per short ton. Thus, if the

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materials were sold at the current market price, the total loss to the Government would be approximately \$75,250.

Amosite asbestos is obtained from South Africa.

It is a fibrous amphibole mineral, characterized by long, coarse, strong, and resilient fibers. Amosite possesses good tensile strength and is more resistant to heat than crocidolite or chrysotile. It varies in color from gray and yellow to dark brown, with fiber lengths up to 6 inches.

Amosite asbestos is used in manufacturing woven insulating felt, heat insulation—pipe covering, block and segments—and marine insulating board. The long fiber amosite is used principally in the manufacture of thermal insulation.

If there are no questions or debate, I ask for a vote on the bill.

Mr. CLANCY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Gross).

(Mr. GROSS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman a question. Since this asbestos is also produced in Rhodesia and South Africa, as with chrome, can these products be liberated from our stockpile and then sold to the British? Is there anything that would stop the sale to the British?

Mr. PHILBIN. No.

Mr. GROSS. The British, I say again, claim to be boycotting Rhodesia and its products. President Johnson has joined in that outrageous boycott. I have previously stated that the British have brought highgrade chrome ore out of Rhodesia through their own boycott while it is being denied to American manufacturers. Are we going to liberate this material from the stockpiles in this country and then see somebody sell it to the British to help them through their own boycott of Rhodesia, whose only crime is that it is seeking its independence?

Mr. PHILBIN. The disposal plan for amosite asbestos of the General Services Administration does not restrict sales for domestic consumption.

Mr. HATES. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GROSS. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. HATES. I made an inquiry with respect to the situation as it developed with regard to copper last fall when some of it did leave the United States. I was advised in the instance of these particular bills that in the disposal plans of the General Services Administration four commodities only; namely, molybdenum, metallurgical grade chromite, bismuth, and platinum will be restricted for U.S. consumption only. The other materials in the 12 bills, including amosite asbestos, may be sold for foreign consumption.

Mr. GROSS. I greatly regret to hear that my worst fears may be well founded. I trust that the House Armed Services Committee will watch carefully the dis-

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the stockpile disposals that these several bills provide, and I say to the members of the committee that any sales, directly or indirectly, to foreign governments will not be in keeping with the intent of the legislation offered here this afternoon.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Massachusetts that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 13530.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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