[CHAPTER 373]

JOINT RESOLUTION

Fixing the date of meeting of the second session of the Seventy-eighth Congress.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second session of the Seventy-eighth Congress shall begin at noon on Monday, January 10, 1944.

Approved December 21, 1943.

[CHAPTER 375]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To permit the importation from foreign countries free of duty, during a period of ninety days, of certain grains and other products to be used for livestock and poultry feed, and suspending for two months the increase in the tax rates under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding the provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930, the following, when imported into the United States from foreign countries, and when entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, during the period of ninety days beginning with the day following the date of enactment of this joint resolution, to be used as, or as a constituent part of, feed for livestock and poultry, shall be exempt from duty: Wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax, cottonseed, corn, or hay, or products in chief value of one or more of the foregoing or derivatives thereof: Provided, That this Act shall not be construed to authorize the importation of wheat for milling purposes. As used in this joint resolution the term "United States" means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Territories, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Sec. 2. The exemptions from duties provided for by this joint resolution shall be subject to compliance with regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sec. 3. (a) Clauses (1) and (2) of section 1400 of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (Internal Revenue Code, sec. 1400) are amended to read as follows:

"(1) With respect to wages received during the calendar years 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, and the first two calendar months of the calendar year 1944, the rate shall be 1 per centum,

"(2) With respect to wages received during the last ten calendar months of the calendar year 1944 and during the calendar year 1945, the rate shall be 2 per centum."

(b) Clauses (1) and (2) of section 1410 of such Act (Internal Revenue Code, sec. 1410) are amended to read as follows:

"(1) With respect to wages paid during the calendar years 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, and the first two calendar months of the calendar year 1944, the rate shall be 1 per centum.

"(2) With respect to wages paid during the last ten calendar months of the calendar year 1944 and during the calendar year 1945, the rate shall be 2 per centum."

Approved December 22, 1943.
[CHAPTER 376]  
AN ACT  
To provide for the extension of certain oil and gas leases.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first section of the Act of July 29, 1942 (56 Stat. 726), entitled “An Act to grant a preference right to certain oil and gas leases”, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: “The term of any five-year lease expiring prior to December 31, 1944, maintained in accordance with the applicable statutory requirements and regulations and for which no preference right to a new lease is granted by this section, is hereby extended to December 31, 1944.”

Approved December 22, 1943.

[CHAPTER 377]  
AN ACT  
To limit private suits for penalties and damages arising out of frauds against the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3491 of the Revised Statutes (U. S. C., title 31, sec. 232) be, and it hereby is, amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 3491. (A) The several district courts of the United States, the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, the several district courts of the Territories of the United States, within whose jurisdictional limits the person doing or committing such act shall be found, shall wheresoever such act may have been done or committed, have full power and jurisdiction to hear, try, and determine such suit.

“(B) Except as hereinafter provided, such suit may be brought and carried on by any person, as well for himself as for the United States, the same shall be at the sole cost and charge of such person, and shall be in the name of the United States, but shall not be withdrawn or discontinued without the consent, in writing, of the judge of the court and the district attorney, first filed in the case, setting forth their reasons for such consent.

“(C) Whenever any such suit shall be brought by any person under clause (B) notice of the pendency of such suit shall be given to the United States by serving upon the United States attorney for the district in which such suit shall have been brought a copy of the bill of complaint and by sending, by registered mail, to the Attorney General of the United States at Washington, District of Columbia, a copy of such bill together with a disclosure in writing of substantially all evidence and information in his possession material to the effective prosecution of such suit. The United States shall have sixty days, after service as above provided, within which to enter appearance in such suit. If the United States shall fail, or decline in writing, to enter any such suit, such person may carry on such suit. If the United States within said period shall enter appearance in such suit the same shall be carried on solely by the United States. In carrying on such suit the United States shall not be bound by any action taken by the person who brought it, and may proceed in all respects as if it were instituting the suit: Provided, That if the United States shall fail to carry on such suit with due diligence within a period of six months from the date of its appearance therein, or within such additional time as the court after notice may allow, such suit may be carried on by...