

on such property. The 1960 annual report of the General Services Administrator stated that the sales return on surplus property, exclusive of scrap sales, was 5.1 percent.

The bill which I have introduced, when approved by Congress, would not delay the final disposal of Federal surplus property. It would not require the establishment of new administrative machinery since the surplus property would be offered for sale through State agencies which are presently involved in carrying out the donation program. It would assure, however, that at least a part of this surplus property, acquired with public funds, would be put to public use. And it would benefit the taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, the proposal embodied in my bill grew out of many months of consultation between representatives of local governments and the Federal agencies involved in the disposal of surplus property. It has been endorsed by the National Association of County Officials, American Municipal Association, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Council of State Governments. I would like to read into the RECORD the letters which I received from these organizations:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
COUNTY OFFICIALS,  
Washington, D.C., August 8, 1961.

HON. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI,  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI: The National Association of County Officials strongly supports your proposed legislation which would authorize States, counties, cities, and other State instrumentalities to purchase Federal surplus property at 5 percent of its original acquisition cost.

We much prefer outright purchase of these items, rather than a donation, because we can then avoid the artificial restrictions on use that now hamstring both our counties and the Federal Government.

Our support of this type of legislation was editorially expressed in the March 1961 issue of the County Officer. A copy of this editorial is enclosed.

We commend you for your interest in the problems of local government and we offer our complete support for this proposed legislation.

Sincerely yours,  
BERNARD F. HILLENBRAND,  
Executive Director.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,  
Washington, D.C., August 8, 1961.

HON. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, may I express our support for the legislation you propose to introduce to permit State and local governmental units to purchase personal property surplus to the Federal Government before it is offered for sale to the general public.

We have reviewed this proposal and believe that it offers a step toward improved intergovernmental relations. While in many instances the present donor program has proven satisfactory, there is good reason why States and cities would prefer to purchase surplus property. Once the property were purchased outright and title passed, the State or city could use this property in a manner consistent with other property that it owns and would be relieved of the burden of keeping separate, and often cumbersome, maintenance and care records for the Fed-

eral agency. Under the terms of the proposed legislation, outright purchase could be had and, at the same time, regulations could be drawn which would guard against abuses of this program.

We sincerely hope the appropriate committees of the Congress will give this matter early consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
HARRY R. BETTERS,  
Executive Director.

AMERICAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION,  
WASHINGTON, D.C., August 8, 1961.

HON. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI,  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI: We are pleased to learn that you are considering the introduction of legislation pertaining to the amendment of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. This proposed amendment would permit certain surplus property not needed for the purposes of education, public health, or civil defense to be offered for sale to local and State governments at a price not to exceed five percent of the cost of acquisition of said property.

The American Municipal Association would support such legislation since it would be consistent with its national municipal policy on surplus Federal property.

Personal property, once purchased from taxpayers' money by the Federal Government, and subsequently declared to be surplus and no longer needed for Federal, local health, educational or civil defense purposes, should continue to be made available for taxpayers' benefit so long as a usable and needed Government purpose remains. In accordance with the provisions of the proposed bill which you are considering introducing, the Administrator would be given the authority to determine whether or not such equipment is usable and necessary for State or local government purposes and what regulations should govern its use.

With the burdensome cost of government continuing to mount and with the continued straining of local government resources, maximum use needs to be made of all facilities and resources under whatever intergovernmental cooperative mechanisms can be found. We believe the proposed legislation under consideration by you to be fair and equitable and with due regard for intergovernmental cooperation.

The American Municipal Association supports the proposed legislation which you are now considering, for it feels that State and local governments should be given the opportunity of purchasing such surplus properties at a negotiated sale before these properties are disposed of at public auction.

Sincerely yours,  
PATRICK HEALY, Jr.,  
Executive Director.

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS,  
WASHINGTON, D.C., August 8, 1961.

HON. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI,  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives,  
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ZABLOCKI: We are pleased to know that you are considering the introduction of a bill to permit State and local governments to purchase Federal surplus personal property at a price not to exceed 5 percent of the cost to the United States of acquiring such property.

This is a project in which the Council of State Governments, as secretariat to the Governors' conference and the National Association of State Purchasing Officials, has been interested for many years. Repeated efforts have been made to devise a program satisfactory to all concerned whereby clear title to Federal surplus personal property could be obtained through purchase of such property by State and local governments.

We are delighted that such now appears to be the case.

If we can be of assistance to you in any way in this matter, please call on us.

Yours very truly,  
CHARLES F. SCHWAN, Jr.,  
Washington Representative.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to include in the RECORD the text of my bill, and to express the hope that this measure will receive early and favorable consideration.

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 203(j) OF THE FEDERAL PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ACT OF 1949 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN SURPLUS PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES SHALL BE OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE STATES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subsection (j) of section 203 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 484(j)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7) and by inserting immediately after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

"(6) Under such regulations as the Administrator may prescribe, any surplus property referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection which—

"(A) is not donated for purposes of education, public health, or civil defense, or for research for any such purpose, and

"(B) is included within a Federal Supply Classification Code category that has been determined by the Administrator to be usable and necessary for any State or local governmental purposes,

shall be offered for sale by the Administrator to the States, including political subdivisions and instrumentalities thereof, at a price not to exceed five per centum of the cost to the United States of acquiring such property. Any offer to sell property under this paragraph shall be made by the Administrator to the State agency referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection, or such other agency as may be designated by the State, for distribution by such agency to the political subdivisions and instrumentalities of the State concerned."

#### COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934

Mr. MAK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2034) to amend the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, in order to expedite and improve the administrative process by authorizing the Federal Communications Commission to delegate functions in adjudicatory cases, repealing the review staff provisions, and revising related provisions, insist on the House amendments and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois? The Chair hears none, and appoints the following conferees: Messrs. HARRIS, ROGERS of Texas, FLYNT, MOSS, ROGERS of Florida, BENNETT of Michigan, SPRINGER, YOUNGER, and THOMPSON of Wisconsin.

#### AUTHORIZING EXPENSES OF INVESTIGATION INCURRED BY THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIEDEL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on House Ad-