

SENATE No. 591

To accompany the petition of Charles W. Hedges that Congress be memorialized to aid the shipbuilding industry in Massachusetts by the building of an aircraft carrier at the Fore River Yard in Quincy. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

RESOLUTIONS MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO AID EMPLOYMENT AND SAVE THE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY IN MASSACHUSETTS BY INSURING THE BUILDING OF A CERTAIN AIRCRAFT CARRIER AT THE FORE RIVER YARD OF THE BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY IN QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS.

Whereas, The United States Navy Department is now considering bids calling for the construction of another aircraft carrier of the Forrestal class; and

Whereas, The commonwealth of Massachusetts includes within its present population a substantial number of persons experienced in the various trades and crafts required in the building and fitting of this type ship; and

Whereas, Due to the present limited amount of ship construction, repairing and refitting work currently available to the shipyards of Massachusetts, innumerable skilled shipyard workers, many over forty years of age, are now unemployed, and numerous others are threatened with unemployment; and

Whereas, The enforced discharges of more skilled shipyard workers may result in their obtaining employment in other industries, or possibly migrating to other sections of the country; and

Whereas, The unavailability of skilled shipbuilders in or near communities where suitable yards are located may

present a problem of major national proportions in the event of war or serious threats of war; and

Whereas, It is unthinkable that the Fore River yard of the Bethlehem Steel Company, located in the city of Quincy, where, during World War II, so many of the great fighting ships were built which contributed so substantially to final victory, and whose vastness, resources and top grade of skilled shipbuilders are currently available, should not be awarded the pending contract; and

Whereas, The present administration appears acutely aware of the current unfavorable economic situations now existing in some sections of this commonwealth, and by its recent actions wishes to aid such distressed areas with defense contracts; therefore be it

Resolved, That the general court of Massachusetts memorializes the Congress of the United States, and the Secretary of the Navy to take immediate action to prevent the complete liquidation of the shipbuilding industry in Massachusetts, by insuring the awarding of the contract to construct an aircraft carrier of the Forrestal class to the Fore River yard of the Bethlehem Steel Company; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent forthwith by the secretary of the commonwealth to the President of the United States, to the presiding officer of each branch of Congress, to the members thereof from this commonwealth and to the Secretary of the Navy.