

NATIONAL MOTTO

MARCH 28, 1956.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. FRAZIER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. J. Res. 396]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 396) to establish a national motto of the United States, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

STATEMENT

This joint resolution establishes "In God We Trust" as the national motto of the United States. At present the United States has no national motto. It is most appropriate that "In God We Trust" be so designated.

The phrase "In God We Trust" has received official recognition for many years. It was authorized to be placed on certain coins by the act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 518). Further permissive authorization for inscribing "In God We Trust" on coins was given in the Coinage Act of February 12, 1873 (17 Stat. 427). The first mandatory requirement for the use of this motto on certain coins was in the act of May 18, 1908 (35 Stat. 164). Last year Public Law 140 was enacted making the use of "In God We Trust" mandatory on all currency and coins of the United States.

Further official recognition of this motto was given by the adoption of the Star-Spangled Banner as our national anthem. One stanza of our national anthem is as follows:

"O, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto—"In God is our trust."

And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

In view of these words in our national anthem, it is clear that "In God We Trust" has a strong claim as our national motto.

It will be of great spiritual and psychological value to our country to have a clearly designated national motto of inspirational quality in plain, popularly accepted English. The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives recognizes that the phrase "E pluribus unum" has also received wide usage in the United States. However, the committee considers "In God We Trust" a superior and more acceptable motto for the United States. Accordingly, House Joint Resolution 396 is favorably reported without amendment.

