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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

July 21, 1939.
No. 300

TEXT OF LETTER FROM THE HONORABLE CORDELL HULL, SECRETARY OF STATE, TO THE HONORABLE KEY PITTMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO S.J.RES. 123 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PITTMAN.

July 21, 1939

The Honorable
Key Pittman,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Pittman:

You have brought to my attention a motion adopted at a recent meeting of the Committee on Foreign Relations at the instance of Senator Johnson of California in connection with S.J.Res. 123. The motion reads as follows:

"That this matter be submitted to the Secretary of State for an opinion upon the Resolution presented by the Chairman, and the Resolution presented by the Senator from Washington if he desires an opinion upon his Resolution as well, and that he inform this Committee whether in his opinion we would violate any treaty in adopting or passing such Resolution."

In the light of the legislative situation relating to this and kindred proposals in regard to our foreign relations, it is reasonably apparent that there is a disposition in Congress to defer until the next session full and final consideration of proposed legislation on this general subject. Furthermore, as an early adjournment of Congress appears to be tacitly agreed upon, it seems clear that there may not be sufficient time in which to consider and enact legislation such as is proposed.

In these circumstances, I venture respectfully to inquire whether comment by the Department of State on the various proposals pertaining to this phase of our foreign relations could not be offered to a better advantage when Congress at its next session is ready to give full consideration to these and related proposals.

Sincerely yours,

CORDELL HULL
