

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that this song, "Hail! Minnesota," filed with the Secretary of State, be adopted as the State Song.

Filed April 19, 1945.

RESOLUTION No. 16—S. F. No. 1290

A concurrent resolution memorializing the President and the Congress of the United States, the Director of War Mobilization, and the Director of the Office of Defense Transportation to take certain steps relative to the payment of state gasoline and motor vehicle registration taxes arising out of the operation by the federal government of certain truck lines.

WHEREAS, the Office of Defense Transportation by authority of executive order of the President on or about August 1, 1944, seized and has ever since operated certain motor carrier truck lines serving several of the Midwest states and five of which operate within and upon the highways of the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Defense Transportation refuses to pay state gasoline taxes and motor vehicle registration taxes to the State of Minnesota in connection with such operations upon the ground that these truck lines are instrumentalities of the United States and therefore not subject to excise and privilege tax laws of the several states, and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of the United States has now advised the Office of Defense Transportation that it has the authority to pay said taxes out of a fund set aside by the President for the payment of all expenses, including taxes, in the operation of such truck lines, and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Office of Defense Transportation has thus far refused to discharge such taxes notwithstanding the opinion of the Attorney General, and

WHEREAS, except, that such motor carriers are immediately supervised by a federal manager, they function with the same equipment and personnel and serve the same customers as was the case prior to government control and are operated and maintained in competition with lines in private management, and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota is sustaining serious losses in tax revenue which, on the basis of truck lines actually taken, will approach \$70,000 annually and which, in the event further lines are seized, will be very substantially multiplied, and

WHEREAS, the proceeds of all such taxes are devoted to the maintenance, improvement and construction of the public highway system of this state including the thoroughfares which provide the necessary right of way for all motor transports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the State of Minnesota, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Federal Government immediately take such steps as may be necessary to cause payment to be made to the State of Minnesota of all gasoline and motor vehicle registration taxes now due and to become due through the operation of all truck lines under the supervision of the Director of the Office of Defense Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State of Minnesota is hereby instructed to transmit a duly authenticated copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, to presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress, to the Director of War Mobilization and to the Director of the Office of Defense Transportation.

Approved April 23, 1945.

RESOLUTION No. 17—S. F. No. 1321

A concurrent resolution commending the Congress of the United States for its affirmance of the principles of the freedom of speech and press and urging adoption of an international compact to assure freedom of speech and press.

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States by unanimous action has adopted Senate Resolution No. 53, September 21, 1944, which reads as follows:

“That the Congress of the United States expresses its belief in the world-wide right of interchange of news by news gathering and distributing agencies, individual or associate, by any means, without discrimination as to sources, distribution, rates or charges; and that this right should be perfected by international compact;” and,