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B-104443 August 31, 1951

Number: B-104443

Date: 1951-08-31

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The Honorable The Secretary of the Navy

Mr. dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to letter of June 29, 1951, from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air, requesting a decision as to whether the provisions of section 24(b) of the set of August 2, 1946, Public Law 604, 60 Stat. 856, constitute authority for a program for promoting and maintaining the safety and occupational health of personnel of the naval establishment whereby safety slogans and precautions would be printed on the covers of book matches which would be distributed without charge to military personnel and civilians employed at naval shore activities.

Section 24(b), Public Law 604, authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to make such expenditures as he may deem appropriate for the promotion and maintenance of the safety and occupational health of, and the prevention of accidents affecting, personnel of the naval establishment. Also, the said section 24(b) provides that naval appropriations available for the activities under which such personnel are engaged shall be available for the foregoing purposes.

It is understood that the match books in question are such as are usually distributed free of charge in connection wiht the purchase of tobacco. While the purchase of the book matches by the Navy Department includes printing, the printing appears to be incidental to the purchase of a finished product in the form of book matches in furtherance of the safety and occupational health program. Hence, it appears that the procurement of such printing would not contravene the act of March 1, 1919, 40 Stat. 1270, as amended by the act of July 5, 1949, 63 Stat. 405, requiring Government printing to be done at the Government Printing Office. Also, the expenditures for the purpose proposed appear appropriate to the fulfillment of a program for promoting and maintaining the safety and occupational health of the personnel of the naval establishment, and it appears further that the expenditures would be in line with the established commercial advertising practice of disseninating information through the use of book matches.

Accordingly, the provisions of section 24(b), Public Law 604, may be considered as authority for the expenditure of otherwise available appropriations for the distribution without charge to military personnel and civilian employees at naval shore activities of book matches with safety slogans and precautions printed thereon.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Lindsay C. Warren Comptroller General of the United States