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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MAY 22, 1882.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. HARRIS, from the Committee on Epidemic Diseases, submitted the following

REPORT:

*The Select Committee "to investigate and report the best means of preventing the introduction and spread of epidemic diseases," to whom were referred the petitions of Elizabeth R. Post and other citizens of Westbury, N. Y.; Francis G. Shaw and fifty other citizens of Richmond County, New York; Kate Garnett Wells and other members of the Moral Educational Association of Massachusetts, and of the New York committee for the prevention of State regulation of vice, praying that the power to promote or inaugurate any scheme of regulated prostitution, with the registration and compulsory medical examination of women, be not given to the National Board of Health, having considered the petitions, reports:*

That Congress has no constitutional power, either by its own direct enactment or through any board or agency that it may create, to make or enforce any such regulations in the States as those protested against by the petitioners; no power to enter upon the work of general local sanitation; but Congress has "power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States," and the committee, believing that it is the duty of Congress so to regulate commerce as to prevent the importation of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States from foreign countries, or into one State from another, and all the powers heretofore given, and all that the committee proposes to give, to the National Board of Health, are intended to accomplish this object, and this object only, and the powers heretofore given, as well as those proposed to be given, by the bill heretofore reported to the Senate, are believed by the committee to be absolutely necessary to its accomplishment.

The committee therefore reports the petitions back to the Senate, with the assurance to the petitioners that they need have no apprehension of any action on the part of the National Board of Health upon the subject to which they refer.