

**HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
CONSISTING OF MESSRS. CANNON, BARNEY,
VAN VOORHIS, LIVINGSTON, AND PIERCE, IN
CHARGE OF DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS
FOR 1900 AND PRIOR YEARS ON GENERAL
DEFICIENCY BILL**

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Hearings Before Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations Consisting of Messrs. Cannon, Barney, van Voorhis, Livingston, and Pierce, in Charge of Deficiency Appropriations for 1900 and Prior Years on general deficiency bill by Various

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VARIOUS

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GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL.

FRIDAY, April 6, 1900.

The subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, having under consideration the General Deficiency Bill, this day met, Hon. Joseph G. Cannon in the chair.

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS.

STATEMENT OF MAJ. J. N. BERMINGHAM, GENERAL TREASURER.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen of the committee, I call your attention to document No. 373, being a deficiency appropriation, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

CENTRAL BRANCH.

Major BERMINGHAM. For the Central Branch, for repairs, the board recommends \$5,000. The original appropriation is \$50,000, and we had the same experience as Colonel Steele has just detailed to you, the rise in prices, especially hardware, is applicable there, and we need the \$5,000.

The CHAIRMAN. Then it is the additional price of labor and material which makes \$5,000 more necessary?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH.

The CHAIRMAN. Now the Northwestern Branch?

Major BERMINGHAM. We recommend a deficiency appropriation of \$2,500. The original appropriation is \$47,500, and the reason stated there is—

The CHAIRMAN. The same thing?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The note says the advance in the price of coal, gas, and water.

Major BERMINGHAM. You know we make a contract for the water with the city and we make a contract for some of our gas. We of course bought coal under contract, but all those things have gone up. Milwaukee raised our rates on water. We draw from the city, and the result is we find this \$2,500 which we ask is absolutely necessary. Now, the next item is an addition to hospital. Congress appropriated \$2,000 for building an addition to the hospital, a dispensary drug room, a building of that kind, a sick-call room. Now we found, it is the same way when we come to advertise for bids, and have got them and

all that kind of thing, the lowest bid we got required at least \$1,500 more. In other words, we want \$3,500 for that.

SOUTHERN BRANCH.

The CHAIRMAN. For the Southern Branch at Hampton you ask for \$500 more there for current expenses?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir; to meet the necessary expenses of clerk hire, etc.

The CHAIRMAN. And for transportation you want \$500?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir; the appropriation is insufficient.

WESTERN BRANCH.

The CHAIRMAN. The Western Branch at Leavenworth you had \$50,000, and you want \$5,000 more for household?

Major BERMINGHAM. We want \$10,000 more.

The CHAIRMAN. Why?

Major BERMINGHAM. Coal has gone up. We are paying \$2.60 and something a ton now.

Mr. SEWELL. We have bought coal heretofore at \$1.80 and some cents.

Major BERMINGHAM. Less than that, \$1.60 I think. I know it is 75 cents or \$1 a ton higher in price for coal at Leavenworth than when we made this estimate.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, as I understand you, instead of \$50,000 for household, which includes coal, you want \$60,000, as it will take \$10,000 more to pay your bills?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir; to pay our absolute bills.

MARION BRANCH.

The CHAIRMAN. At the Marion Branch for current expenses you want \$1,500 more?

Major BERMINGHAM. The appropriation for current expenses is \$26,000 and it is not enough to pay for the increased clerical force, noncommissioned officers and others, and it is recommended to give us \$2,000 more; in other words make it \$28,000.

The CHAIRMAN. It will require \$2,000 more to pay your bills?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Now for hospital?

Major BERMINGHAM. Our hospital is the same way, for the hospital we recommend an increase there now of \$1,975. That is \$1,000 additional.

The CHAIRMAN. Will it take that to pay the bills?

Major BERMINGHAM. To pay our bills. Now, carpenter and paint shop, there is an appropriation recommended of \$250. The original appropriation was \$1,000, and it is recommended that we get \$250 more.

Mr. STEELE. They say \$285 here.

Major BERMINGHAM. They stated originally on what I have here, \$252. Here is the bid, \$1,250, which I suppose they took it from. I believe it would be the safe thing to give us at least \$500, and make it \$1,500.

The CHAIRMAN. That is for construction?

Major BERMINGHAM. An addition. It is a carpenter and paint shop, and goes in what we call a special appropriation.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, as it is to be constructed, if you could not get it for \$1,250 you could not build?

Major BERMINGHAM. That is it.

Mr. STEELE. We tried to have that built. This memorandum here shows exactly what the lowest bid was, and the last time we advertised we did not get a bid at all, something that never happened before; but I presume they knew what the appropriation was.

The CHAIRMAN. The next is greenhouse, where you submit an estimate of \$500, which, as the note says, is owing to the advance in the cost of material. You can not build it for \$2,500!

Major BERMINGHAM. No, sir; we could not get a bid anywhere near it.

The CHAIRMAN. The next is for nurses' quarters, \$500.

Major BERMINGHAM. Nurses' quarters there is the very same identical reason, the building was to cost \$4,000 and will cost \$4,500.

The CHAIRMAN. And you simply can not build on account of the increase?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. STEELE. The lowest bid was \$250 above in September.

Major BERMINGHAM. The electric-light building appropriation originally was \$4,000, and now we recommend an addition to that be made, \$5,023.36. In other words, the thing is going to cost nearly double.

The CHAIRMAN. That is \$5,000 more in round numbers.

Major BERMINGHAM. Making it \$9,023.96.

The CHAIRMAN. That was the one you advertised a second time.

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And that was the lowest?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir; \$9,023.96.

Mr. STEELE. I think we ought to have \$7,000.

The CHAIRMAN. The next is for surgeons' quarters.

Major BERMINGHAM. The original appropriation was \$6,000, and it is recommended we get \$930.85. In other words, the bids received for these surgeons' quarters, the first bid we received was \$6,565.46 and the last bid we received of \$6,930.85 was the lowest bid we received then.

The CHAIRMAN. And you made this estimate upon the lowest bid?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Addition to electric-light plant?

Major BERMINGHAM. The original appropriation for that was \$5,000. Now the lowest bid we received was \$9,631.25.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me ask you, does that make your foundation for the dynamos and everything complete?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir; including everything.

The CHAIRMAN. So when you expend this money you have got your electric-light plant finished?

Major BERMINGHAM. That is the idea. If you will allow me I will recommend you give us round numbers if you please.

Mr. SEWELL. Say make it \$5,000 additional.

The CHAIRMAN. Instead of \$4,361, I am agreeable if the gentlemen are. In other words, it ought to be finished, and if there is \$300 or

\$400 or \$500 difference, if you had that much to play on it is not too much.

Major BERMINGHAM. Now there is one item which is not in there which should be in the household at the Marion Branch. It follows immediately after current expenses. The original appropriation there is \$20,000, but we found that it is not enough and there is a recommendation here for it—\$800 more.

The CHAIRMAN. Does it require that to pay your bills?

Major BERMINGHAM. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that all?

Major BERMINGHAM. That is all.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

NATIONAL MILITARY HOME, GRANT COUNTY, IND.,
Treasurer's Office, September 4, 1899.

Sealed proposals will be received at this office until noon September 21, 1899, for carpenter and paint shop, electric-light building, greenhouse, nurses' quarters, surgeons' quarters, addition to electric-light plant, including boiler, engine, and dynamo, etc.

All material and labor to be furnished by contractor. Plans, specifications, and instructions to bidders, etc., can be examined at the treasurer's office.

The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals or to waive any informalities therein.

Envelopes containing proposals should be indorsed, "Proposals for carpenter and paint shop," etc., as the case may be, and addressed to the undersigned.

Bids must be accompanied by certified check, payable to the undersigned treasurer, for at least 5 per cent of the amount thereof, which check will be forfeited to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in case the successful bidder refuses or fails to enter into contract as required; otherwise to be returned to the bidder.

H. O. HEICHERT, *Treasurer.*

Approved.

JUSTIN H. CHAPMAN, *Governor.*

Statement showing lowest bid on work, as per attached circular, opened September 21, 1899.

	Amount appropriated.	Lowest bid received.	Architect's fees, advertising, etc.	Total amount required.	Deficiency.
Carpenter and paint shop	\$1,000.00	\$1,285.00	\$0.91	\$1,285.91	\$285.91
Electric-light building	4,000.00	8,985.75	228.50	9,214.25	5,214.25
Greenhouse	2,000.00	1,485.00	1,252.25	3,737.25	1,737.25
Nurses' quarters	4,000.00	4,250.00	109.89	4,359.89	359.89
Surgeons' quarters	6,000.00	6,400.00	165.46	6,565.46	565.46
Addition to electric-light plant	5,000.00	8,693.00	7.55	8,700.55	3,700.55
Total deficiency					11,873.31

¹ Does not include heating and shelving.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

NATIONAL MILITARY HOME, GRANT COUNTY, IND.,
Treasurer's Office, December 12, 1899.

Sealed proposals will be received at this office until noon December 27, 1899, for carpenter and paint shop, electric-light building, greenhouse, nurses' quarters, surgeons' quarters, addition to electric-light plant, including boiler, engine, and dynamo, etc.

All material and labor to be furnished by contractor. Plans, specifications, and instructions to bidders, etc., can be examined at the treasurer's office.

The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals or to waive any informalities therein.

GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL.

Envelopes containing proposals should be indorsed, "Proposals for carpenters and paint shop," etc., as the case may be, and addressed to the undersigned.

Bids aggregating over \$500,000 must be accompanied by a certified check, payable to the undersigned treasurer, for at least 5 per cent of the amount thereof, which check will be forfeited to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in case the successful bidder refuses or fails to enter into contract as required; otherwise to be returned to the bidder.

Approved.

H. O. HEICHERT, *Treasurer.*

JUSTIN H. CHAPMAN, *Governor.*

Statement showing lowest bid on work, as per attached circular, opened December 27, 1899.

	Amount appropriated.	Lowest bid received.	Architect's fees, advertising, etc.	Total amount required.	Deficiency.
Carpenter and paint shop	\$1,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$2.00	\$1,252.00	\$252.00
Electric-light building	4,000.00	18,425.00	598.36	9,023.36	5,023.36
Greenhouse	2,500.00	No bid.	\$1,254.70	3,754.70	1,254.70
Nurses' quarters	4,000.00	4,872.00	117.15	4,989.15	889.15
Surgeons' quarters	6,000.00	6,752.00	178.85	6,930.85	930.85
Addition to electric-light plant	5,000.00	9,622.00	9.25	9,631.25	4,631.25
Total deficiency					12,681.81

¹ Does not include cost of foundation for boilers, engines, and dynamos.
² \$1,250 of this amount is estimate for heating and shelving.

THURSDAY, *May 10, 1900.*

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

STATEMENT OF MR. THEODORE F. SWAYZE, CHIEF CLERK OF TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The CHAIRMAN. You had for file holders this year the ordinary appropriation of \$2,000, and you submit for the purchase of file holders and file cases \$5,000.

Mr. SWAYZE. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And then you submit to pay amount found due by the accounting officers of the Treasury on account of the appropriation of contingent expenses, Treasury Department: File holders and cases, for the fiscal year 1900, \$1,997.78. Has that \$1,997.78 been expended—has that deficiency been made?

Mr. SWAYZE. That is the amount that has been expended and passed upon by the accounting officers.

The CHAIRMAN. How could you expend it without an appropriation?

Mr. SWAYZE. I really do not know. There have been calls that have been imperative upon us, and I presume the purchases have been made and referred to the accounting officers for settlement.

The CHAIRMAN. Still, I do not understand how it can be done. It seems to me, no money, no file holders.

Mr. SWAYZE. We sometimes do this in order to keep the business going. We say to a bureau officer, "we have no money and we can not purchase these articles," and the man will say, "I will furnish you with these articles and take my chances; I will furnish them subject

to an appropriation to be made by Congress, and if no appropriation is made I do not get my money."

The CHAIRMAN. I doubt even the power to do that; I am not saying about this particular matter as to how necessary it may have been; of course I do not know, but I should doubt—

Mr. SWAYZE. I doubt the propriety of it myself.

The CHAIRMAN. Here is an appropriation of \$2,000, and your estimate was only \$3,000, and here is an expenditure of \$4,000, twice what the appropriation was, a thousand more than your estimate, and then you come in with another estimate to purchase file holders and file cases, \$5,000 outside of all that.

Mr. SWAYZE. I find this memorandum made up by Mr. Hills before he went away:

Estimate \$6,997.98, of which \$1,997.98 are asked to meet claims covering expenses incurred, which were essentially necessary; \$3,500 of the balance are for the purchase of the index filing cases to be used in the office of the Auditor for the Interior Department, thereby superseding expensive books, which will result in simplifying the work and reducing materially the expenses in connection therewith, including clerical hire. The remaining \$1,500, making the \$5,000, have already been anticipated in part in making purchases which were necessary, and the remainder was absolutely required for the accommodation of the Department until June 30 next."

This \$3,500 makes a complete set of card indexes for the pension division, office of the Auditor for the Interior. The cost of the books, as estimated by the Government Printer, is eight thousand and some hundred dollars. Those books last ten years. These cases of card indexes, which cost \$3,500, will last twenty years, and that is \$3,500 as against about \$17,000.

Mr. VAN VOORHIS. How long has this card index been in use?

Mr. SWAYZE. We are just putting it in use for the pension division. They have been using these very large books, and the record which we make on the books is made now on the individual card. Now you go to the box and take out the card instead of using these immense books.

The CHAIRMAN. That is all you know about it, is it?

Mr. SWAYZE. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The next item is for the purchase of boxes, book rests, chairs, chair caning, chair covers, etc.—

Mr. SWAYZE. That is the miscellaneous item, the last clause of the contingent expense, and covers a whole number of things.

The CHAIRMAN. You had \$7,000, and this is the only deficiency, I believe?

Mr. SWAYZE. This amount will be required to meet obligations already contracted for and articles which must be purchased.

The CHAIRMAN. Who has charge of this? I understand you have general charge?

Mr. SWAYZE. Mr. Hills has general charge. These things are all covered by requisitions, taking that which has not been expended which we are holding up awaiting appropriation.

The CHAIRMAN. That is \$8,500 this year as against \$10,000 last year? The next is to pay amounts found due by the accounting officers of the Treasury on account of the appropriation, "Contingent expenses, Treasury Department: Furniture," etc., for the fiscal year 1900, \$937.75. That is that much more?

Mr. SWAYZE. Which item is that, Mr. Cannon?

The CHAIRMAN. To pay amounts found due by the accounting officers of the Treasury; that is the same thing?

Mr. SWAYZE. That is the same thing.

The CHAIRMAN. How was that expended; do you know for what item?

Mr. SWAYZE. No; I did not look these items up, but I can tell you generally they are for desks and file cases. The force you know has been largely increased—the temporary force that has been provided.

The CHAIRMAN. This is one of those loose contracts; no appropriations, no pay?

Mr. SWAYZE. Contingent expenses Treasury Department: Furniture, etc., 1900, estimate \$2,437.75, of which \$987.75 constitutes claims covering items which were actually necessary for the transaction of business. The remainder of the estimate will be required to meet demands which have already been made upon the office, and to be made between this period and June 30 next. As I say, we are holding up a good many requisitions which we deem absolutely necessary to be furnished, and that is what we base this estimate upon.

The CHAIRMAN. For washing and hemming towels, etc., you submit an estimate of \$500.

Mr. SWAYZE. That is that omnibus clause which includes other and absolutely necessary articles.

The CHAIRMAN. The next item is for the purchase of registering accountants, numbering machines, and other machines of a similar character, and repairs thereto, \$1,000. Your estimate was \$2,000 and you had \$2,000. What is the condition of that?

Mr. SWAYZE. The estimate is \$1,022.20, of which \$22.20 covers settled claims for repairs of numbering machines, and \$1,000 are to cover machines now in use of the office of the Auditor for the Treasury Department, on trial; and as they have proven entirely satisfactory the Auditor is very anxious that they should be purchased by the Department.

The CHAIRMAN. You can purchase them out of your next year's appropriation.

Mr. SWAYZE. Yes. Now there is one item, contingent expenses of Treasury, for newspapers, etc., 1900, an estimate of \$151.35—

The CHAIRMAN. Where is that?

Mr. SWAYZE. That is commencement of contingent expenses; \$51.35 of that covers claims settled for articles delivered, which were imperative to the proper transaction of the business of the Department. There are unsettled expenditures which will require nearly if not quite all of the remaining \$100.

FURNITURE FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The CHAIRMAN. For furniture and repairs of same for public buildings, \$25,000; you had \$225,500, which was your estimate. How does this deficiency happen? Why is the additional appropriation necessary?

Mr. SWAYZE. Well, we made an estimate on the public buildings that the architect reported would be completed and furnished this year—

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; and we gave you that.

Mr. SWAYZE. And we have made contracts for St. Paul, Kansas City, and Norfolk, which we did not include, and, of course, that exhausted the appropriations; it takes out \$25,000 that we did not estimate for, and to get through we will need that much more.