

**HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE
OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS, CONSISTING OF
MESSRS. BINGHAM, GILLET, TAWNEY,
LIVINGSTON, AND BURLESON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649600212

Hearings Before Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations, Consisting of Messrs. Bingham, Gillet, Tawney, Livingston, and Burleson by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE
OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS, CONSISTING OF
MESSRS. BINGHAM, GILLET, TAWNEY,
LIVINGSTON, AND BURLESON**

*Part
6*

2

HEARINGS

BEFORE

U.S. Cong. House

*1091
315*

SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,

CONSISTING OF

MESSRS. BINGHAM, GILLETT, TAWNEY,
LIVINGSTON, AND BURLESON.

IN CHARGE OF

THE LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIAL
APPROPRIATION BILL FOR 1910.



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1908

copy

a. s. Feb. 1809

LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

Hearings conducted by the subcommittee, Messrs. H. H. Bingham, Frederick H. Gillett, James A. Tawney, L. F. Livingston, and Albert S. Burleson, of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, in charge of the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill for 1910, on the days named.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1908.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

STATEMENT OF MR. HERBERT PUTNAM, LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

Mr. BINGHAM. What is the sum total of all the appropriations received during the present fiscal year for your Library of Congress?

Mr. PUTNAM. \$719,365.74. That is the amount of the current law. It includes the library and the library building and grounds—all purposes for the library except printing and binding, which is in another bill. It includes \$100,000 for the new book stack. Roughly speaking, the appropriations for the library and the library building and grounds are about \$600,000 a year, of which nearly \$100,000 is reimbursed to the Government by fees of the Copyright Office and of the card section, covered into the Treasury.

Mr. BINGHAM. Those are the two sections of the library from which fees are received, and the only two? The others are a positive expenditure?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAWNEY. There is a discrepancy here, Mr. Putnam, of something like \$7,000 between your statement of the amount appropriated under the current law and our statement. We have \$726,755, including the \$100,000 for the stack, shelving, etc.

Mr. PUTNAM. I took mine from the report. That is because in the statement before you the files for the House of Representatives were included. There was \$6,000 appropriated for equipping some space in the new Office Building for receipt of the House files that were deposited with us. Of course that has nothing to do with the library proper.

Mr. BINGHAM. Now, the sum total of force, according to the exhibit above, is 438 subordinate force?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes, sir. That includes the library building and grounds. It includes all charwomen, and the like.

Mr. BINGHAM. What changes have occurred in that force during the past year, say, under the current law?

LEGISLATIVE, ETC., APPROPRIATION BILL, 1910.

Mr. PUTNAM. We have had in my force the addition of one position in the copyright office at a salary of \$2,500.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. What makes the change between 430 and 478 in the estimates here?

Mr. PUTNAM. For the next year 30 positions in my force, and the balance, presumably, in the superintendent's.

Mr. BINGHAM. Now, eliminating the two divisions of cards and copyright, what is your force now in the library?

Mr. PUTNAM. My force consists of about 200 persons.

Mr. BINGHAM. What are their special lines of work?

ORGANIZATION OF THE LIBRARY.

Mr. PUTNAM. In the first place, of course, there is the office of general administration, my own and the chief clerk's. There is the division that sees to the ordering of material, the purchasing and the receiving, and the accessioning of it. There is a division that sees to the classification and the cataloguing of the books and pamphlets, and there are the various special divisions that handle material, special in form, putting it through all the processes after its initial receipt. These are the divisions of manuscripts, maps, music, prints, periodical, documents, and law, including the law library at the Capitol; and finally, sir, there is the reading-room force, the general reading-room force, which takes care of the central reading room, the book stacks, and the special reading rooms.

Mr. BINGHAM. All that is for the continuous calling for books by visitors?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes, sir; and books for outside use.

Mr. BINGHAM. What are the rules as to outside use?

Mr. PUTNAM. All Senators and Representatives and their families have the privilege of taking out books for family use; also all the members of the Supreme Court and the various courts and the higher officials in the executive departments. But, in addition, any scientist in a government bureau making a request for a book through the librarian of that bureau or department may get books. In addition, beyond that any investigator in the United States anywhere who needs, for a purpose calculated to advance the boundaries of knowledge and not merely for general reading or recreation, a book that we have and which it is not the duty of his local library to supply can have it borrowed from us by his local library for his use there.

Mr. BINGHAM. And that as a rule is an honest call? The records show the return duly?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes. We judge each application on its merits; and its merits, or credentials, you may say, may consist in the fact that the man is a professor in a university pursuing scientific research, or the book itself is one that is of interest only to a man who is pursuing scientific research.

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Mr. BINGHAM. Now, about what is your annual receipt of books—the number, all publications, excluding newspapers?

Mr. PUTNAM. Last year it exceeded 100,000 books and pamphlets, and about 60,000 other articles, manuscripts, maps, music, and prints.

Mr. BINGHAM. One hundred and sixty thousand a year, and those are all what you call home publications, in the sense of United States publications?

Mr. PUTNAM. No, sir. They include our purchases as well, which are chiefly from abroad.

Mr. BINGHAM. You must have a vast surplusage, then. Do you keep all these contributions of publications and manuscripts, etc.?

Mr. PUTNAM. I assume you are referring to what comes to us from copyright?

Mr. BINGHAM. Yes.

Mr. PUTNAM. Only a portion of what comes to us from copyright are drawn into the library proper. There are a million and a half of articles coming from copyright which we are now seeking to dispose of.

Mr. BINGHAM. What do you mean by disposing of it?

TRANSFER OF SURPLUS MATERIAL.

Mr. PUTNAM. We ought to have authority specifically by law, authority to transfer them to other government libraries; for instance, to the library of the Surgeon-General's office, medical books which are appropriate to their collection, but not to ours. We ought to have authority to utilize this material to strengthen other special government collections, which must be maintained in spite of the fact that we are making the great general collection. A bill granting that authority should, in our opinion, be enacted, and as to copyright deposits, such authority is granted in the new copyright bill, which is now pending.

Mr. GILLETT. You mean as to special books?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes.

Mr. GILLETT. Even if you do not have duplicates?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes. And then there would be the matter of exchange outside of government libraries.

Mr. BURLESON. That would be mutually advantageous, both to your library and the other libraries as well?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes, all through the country, to strengthen weak collections. For instance, many small college libraries, particularly throughout the West and South, could be strengthened in that way.

Mr. TAWNEY. What do you mean by exchange? Do they have books that you could utilize here?

Mr. PUTNAM. They can help us to the books that they can get hold of through local influence.

Mr. TAWNEY. Would not that result directly in disbursing for their benefit?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes. There would be regions from which, if this system were carried out in a large way, we should not get as much as we should give. In the large cities, however, we should; for instance, with the New York Public Library.

Mr. GILLETT. Why would they have books that you would not have?

Mr. PUTNAM. Because there are a great many local publications that are never copyrighted, for one thing, and therefore they do not come to us through copyright.

Mr. TAWNEY. What is the nature of these publications?

Mr. PUTNAM. Sometimes they are local histories, perhaps, or genealogy; very largely books of that character. Often a book is not copyrighted because they do not want to give us the two copies and they know it will not be pirated.

Mr. TAWNEY. Would there be any considerable number of publications outside the public official reports?

Mr. PUTNAM. It would be more the locally published material published by private hands. Then sometimes very valuable early newspapers have come to us through the feeling of obligation toward us on the part of the local libraries. Of course, we have not undertaken this distribution in a large way, and we have not been in the way to. We do exchange with other large libraries on a strictly piece-for-piece exchange or value-for-value exchange. The next stage that the bill would provide would be that we, upon notice to the copyright proprietors, would permit them to withdraw any of the residuum of the material, or, failing this, that we should be at liberty to destroy it.

DESTRUCTION OF USELESS MATERIAL.

Now, there is a great deal of the material that we ought to destroy—clippings from newspapers, syndicated articles—which have obtained protection and need protection for only a few weeks, but at present rest over there and litter up our cellars.

Mr. BURLESON. Would it cost more to destroy them than to store them?

Mr. PUTNAM. No.

Mr. BURLESON. I would want to be sure of that before we undertook that enterprise.

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes; and then we ought to be sure that nothing that would be indispensable in any way to the copyright records should be destroyed.

Mr. BINGHAM. What amount of copyrighted articles in the form of books do you destroy?

Mr. PUTNAM. We have never destroyed anything as yet.

Mr. BINGHAM. You are simply a depository?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. BINGHAM. What about newspaper publications—daily, weekly, and monthly?

Mr. PUTNAM. Only a small percentage of the newspapers of this country are copyrighted—a few score; that is all.

Mr. BINGHAM. Those that are copyrighted you hold?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes; and some others. We bind in all not over 150 different newspapers, although nearly 1,200 come to us.

Mr. BINGHAM. Then you only exercise destruction to the newspapers, not to copyright books?

Mr. PUTNAM. We have thus far destroyed nothing copyrighted. We are seeking authority to destroy a final residuum later on; articles that are worth nothing to the Government, or to other institutions, or to the copyright proprietor, though he has to be consulted.

Mr. TAWNEY. He has to have the discretion to say what shall be destroyed and what shall not be destroyed?

Mr. PUTNAM: Yes, sir. Under the bill the librarian and the register are to exercise this discretion. If the article is one that ought to be kept alive, the copyright proprietor is at liberty at that stage to send for it and withdraw it. That is a provision of the new copyright bill. If he does not, we in turn are at liberty to destroy it. If, again, on coming to that article we should revise our estimate of its value, it would then be possible still to hold it.

Mr. TAWNEY. How much space would be made available by the destruction of the material now in the library that you think could be destroyed?

Mr. PUTNAM. No space that can be utilized for the ordinary library purposes, because this storage is all in the cellar, in which no books should be placed which are in any use by the public.

Mr. TAWNEY. So that this space is not being utilized for anything else?

Mr. PUTNAM. No, sir.

Mr. BURLESON. But you would have to have another cellar after a while unless you can get rid of this stuff?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes.

Mr. TAWNEY. So far as the authority for destruction is concerned, we might easily give you that authority in the appropriation bill.

Mr. PUTNAM. I sought authority at one time to turn over to the public library in the District some of our duplicates in general literature. There was a little misunderstanding about it. It was put into the bill by this committee, but on the floor a question was raised about it, and it was stricken out. The public library in the District as a lending library is supplying men in the government service with general literature that they can not get from us, and if we can help out that library with general literature that we have to buy in the first instance for Congress, but in which the interest of Congress has lapsed, it would help that library.

Mr. BINGHAM. Your operations run under the franking privilege in anything you do?

Mr. PUTNAM. We use the franking privilege for our official letters and official packages that have solely an official purpose, but we do not use the frank to send a book to another library for the benefit of an individual. He pays the expressage.

INCREASE OF THE LIBRARY.

Mr. BINGHAM. On what character of books do you spend the appropriation of \$109,500 for the increase of the library?

Mr. PUTNAM. We spend it for books which, in the first place, do not come to us from copyright; and, in the second place, in choosing from the rest we lay the emphasis on two fields—first, of course, on America. As a national library we are a library of record, and ought to be as complete as possible in American imprints, the output of the American press, and—

Mr. BINGHAM. Do you ever duplicate?

Mr. PUTNAM. We duplicate for the use of Congress. We must have half a dozen copies of Rhodes's History of the United States, for instance.

Mr. BINGHAM. I mean with this purchase money.

Mr. PUTNAM. Very little at all. In regard to other literature than American imprints, our choice is of the books that are needed by the scientific investigator in this country. We are not a library that deals with the general reader, except as he is a Senator or Member of Congress or a member of the family of a Senator or a Representative. We are a club library for Congress, but we are not taking the place of a local library, such as the public library of the District or other local libraries for the general reader or ordinary reader or children. We are interested chiefly in men engaged in research to extend the boundaries of knowledge, whether astronomical, or archaeological, or political, or economical—whatever it may be.

Our policy is very well illustrated, if I may illustrate it for a moment, in the very special field of music. In the bill I make a special appeal for the division of music, and I would like to explain to this committee what we mean by music within our province. Now, to some persons "music" means that sort of thing [exhibiting copies of "ragtime" songs] coming to us from copyright—"coon" songs.

Mr. TAWNEY. Such as "A Hot Time in the Old Town To-night?"

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes, sir. Or it may mean what these may mean, coming to us from copyrights—"Old Black Joe," "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," etc. These are the original compositions, deposited under the copyright law. They have interest for the historian and the sociologist, but they are not what we look for in our purchases. Or it may be this, a very heavy piece of parlor music for the piano, coming to us from copyright, that we did not have to buy. It may mean something still more significant, coming to us from copyright, of a composition for the orchestra. What it does mean in our purchases and serious development of the collections is the kind of music that the student of music, the critic, the historian, and the scientific investigator needs to get at. For instance, here is Händel, "The Messiah," one volume of an edition of over 100 volumes, which an ordinary performer does not need, but which the scientific investigator needs in this edition. Or it may mean a copy of a work which is not published, but which we get in the facsimile reproduction, which a private individual can not get, but which we can get, because we are the Government of the United States—a part of the Government of the United States—and maintaining a collection for a scientific purpose. Or it may be a hand copy which we are permitted to have made, because we are such an institution, but which no private individual can get permission to have made. It may mean a musical work published by a government, as some of these are. The Government of Belgium actually publishes music, and the Government of Austria does, and the Government of Prussia subventions publication, and some of these before you are actual compositions published by such governments.

Mr. TAWNEY. Do you have to pay for those?

Mr. PUTNAM. In some cases we have got them by governmental exchange.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we are not concerned with music as an art, any more than with painting or with sculpture as an art. But there is a great literature of music. There is a history and a science, and while there are on one side performers of music, just as there are painters and sculptors, so on the other side there are students of