HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, CONSISTING OF MESSRS. CANNON. BARNEY, VAN VOORHIS, LIVINGSTON, AND PIERCE, IN CHARGE OF DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1901 AND PRIOR YEARS ON GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649508228

Hearings before Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations, Consisting of Messrs. Cannon. Barney, Van Voorhis, Livingston, and Pierce, in Charge of Deficiency Appropriations for 1901 and Prior Years on General Deficiency Bill by Various

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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VARIOUS

HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, CONSISTING OF MESSRS. CANNON. BARNEY, VAN VOORHIS, LIVINGSTON, AND PIERCE, IN CHARGE OF DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1901 AND PRIOR YEARS ON GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL

Trieste

U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Appropriations.

HEARINGS

BEFORE

SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,

CONSISTING OF

MESSRS. CANNON, BARNEY, VAN VOORHIS, LIVINGSTON, AND PIERCE,

IN CHARGE OF

DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1901 AND PRIOR YEARS

ON

GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1901.

GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL.

Hearings conducted by the subcommittee, Messrs. J. G. Cannon (chairman), S. S. Barney, H. C. Van Voorhis, L. F. Livingston, and R. A. Pierce, of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, in charge of deficiencies for the fiscal year 1901 and prior years, on the days following, namely:

FRIDAY, *February 8, 1901.*

STATE DEPARTMENT.

STATEMENT OF MR. W. A. FITZSIMMONS.

The CHAIRMAN. Your first item is on page 2. For contingent expenses you estimate a deficiency of $500?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Yes; contingent expenses of the Department proper.

The CHAIRMAN. You had $3,500. For 1900 you had $3,000 and a deficiency of $1,000, making it $4,000, and now you want that increased by $1,000. Not of much importance standing alone, but I am curious to ask the cause of that increase?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. I have a statement, if I can file it, of the items which are estimated in this increase. The additional expenses have been heavier this year than any year since I have been in the Bureau of Accounts, and here is a statement showing the expenditure for six months ending December 31, with the items necessary for the balance of the year.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Can not you say to the committee in a word how the increase comes?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. I can not say anything outside of the statement, because I am not familiar with the expenditures themselves or the making up of them.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 1901.

Expenditures for the six months ended December 31, 1900.

Ice	$133.50
Rent of stable	300.00
Horse feed	190.84
Shoeing horses	80.00
Repairing carriages	10.00
Harness repairs	16.50
Gas at stable	13.20
Washing towels	90.00
Care of clocks	60.00
Car tickets	70.00
Newspapers (domestic)	115.28

Newspapers (foreign)	$40.88
Expressage	100.01
Rubber stamps, pads, etc	40.72
Telephone service	149.76
Scissors, brushes, matches, sponges, soap, gum arabic, camphor, etc	660.25
Electric fans	37.00
Tumblers	50.00
Total	2,156.94
Appropriation	3,500.00
Expenditures	2,156.94
Balance	1,343.06

Expenses necessarily to be incurred up to June 30, 1901.

Ice	$150.00
Rent of stable	300.00
Horse feed	200.00
Shoeing horses	100.00
Repairing carriages	100.00
Repairing harness	50.00
Gas at Department stable	15.00
Washing towels	90.00
Care of clocks	60.00
Car tickets	100.00
Newspapers (domestic)	50.00
Newspapers (foreign)	50.00
Expressage	100.00
Rubber stamps, pads, etc	75.00
Telephone service	200.00
Insect paste	25.00
Towels	50.00
Electric fans	50.00
Buckets	30.00
Ice pitchers	60.00
	1,855.00
Already expended	2,156.94
Total	4,011.94
Appropriation	3,500.00
Deficit	511.94

The CHAIRMAN. In looking over this itemized statement I would like to know what the practice is in the Department. I see car tickets, $70; is that to cover all the employees?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. That covers messengers when they are sent out on errands in connection with business of the Department.

The CHAIRMAN. How many messengers have you?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. We have two official messengers and two assistant messengers and a number of laborers who perform messenger duty, I think seven or eight. There are eleven or twelve altogether.

The CHAIRMAN. You give them all the tickets they want?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. No; we are very careful, and when they go out on an errand they are only given two tickets, one for going and one for returning, and if it is not far from the Department they are compelled to walk.

The CHAIRMAN. You expended for the first six months $2,156, leaving a balance of $1,343. These cover all the items?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. How many carriages have you in the State Department?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. One carriage and a mail wagon.

The CHAIRMAN. Two only?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. One for the Secretary and one for the mail?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Yes, sir. There seems to be a general increase in the Department in the matter of contingent expenses all around, as you will notice from reading that statement over.

The CHAIRMAN. For stationery, furniture, fixtures, etc., you had $6,000 appropriated for 1901 and you spent $5,500 for 1900?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Where does that increase come from?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. There is a deficiency on last year of $500, bringing it up to $6,000. You understand the deficiency asked for 1901 is $1,000 for the balance of the present year. The stationery bill of the Department of course is increasing with the increased work. The work of the Department has increased rapidly and they undoubtedly use more stationery.

The CHAIRMAN. There was appropriated $5,500 for 1900, and you ask $7,000 this year?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. We will have had $6,000, I believe, with the deficiency.

The CHAIRMAN. There is no employment of anybody on this; that is prohibited, as I understand it?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. No, sir; there is none. The passport bureau is using a great deal of stationery, and the business there has increased wonderfully during the last two years. Last year the income was over $30,000 from that room, and of course there was a corresponding increase in the stationery used and other supplies in that room.

Mr. VAN VOORHIS. The income was how much, you say?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Over $30,000.

The CHAIRMAN. This is a little thing, hardly worth while talking about, but it was $5,500 last year and $7,000 this year for stationery, furniture, and repairs, and it seems to me like an extraordinary increase.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. I will mention among the items estimated for there are a number of file cases that are needed for the Department for the records, which will amount to quite a sum, which we can not furnish now for the want of funds, and we are asking for this amount in order to supply those and other things mentioned here, and that would amount to three or four hundred dollars in file cases alone.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES, FOREIGN INTERCOURSE.

The CHAIRMAN. You had for contingent expenses, foreign intercourse, for the year 1900, $128,000, and you had for 1901 $150,000, and now you ask for $75,000 in addition, making $225,000, in round numbers, an increase of $100,000 over last year.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. I might state, in way of explanation, in 1900 you appropriated at that time a deficiency, certified by the Auditor in 1899, of $25,000, making the amount then $150,000 in that year, and there is a deficiency for 1900 not yet in. The extraordinary condition in China the past year has caused this increase, and the appropriation is almost exhausted now, and the principal item is for telegraphing. The cable bills are paid from the foreign-intercourse item. Now that, for the first six months of this year, has averaged over $5,000 per month. The principal part of that arises from the condition in China. We have to refurnish the Pekin legation with all the furniture, etc., which is

totally destroyed—and it is quite an item of expense—so that we will require all of this amount.

The CHAIRMAN. For foreign intercourse, altogether, what did you expend the first six months?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. We could not arrive at that, for the reason the accounts are not settled.

The CHAIRMAN. The legation at Pekin, the necessity of refurnishing that, and telegraph bills growing out of the Chinese situation, etc., explains this increase, and you are satisfied that will be required?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Yes, sir; we are satisfied that it will be required. Negotiations are coming to such a head that there will be a good deal of telegraphing.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES, CONSULAR SERVICE.

The CHAIRMAN. Your next item is for contingent expenses of consular service, such as stationery blanks, records, other books, etc., and you ask a deficiency of $30,000?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Apparently, on the face of it. You see the appropriation has been $200,000 for the past three years. There was a deficiency of $25,000 in 1899, and for 1900 we can not tell yet. The increased expenses of consuls have been enormous. Extraordinary expenses could not be foreseen, and the telegraph bills are very heavy, especially at Shanghai and Chefoo.

The CHAIRMAN. You are authorized to make these expenditures without regard to the appropriation, and if they are not appropriated for the expense can be incurred which is audited. Take the next item.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. I might say in connection with the consular appropriations that the consulate at Tientsin was also destroyed, and the extra refurnishing, etc., is quite an item.

The CHAIRMAN. To pay amounts found due by accounting officers of the Treasury on account of the appropriation for "publication of diplomatic, consular, and commercial reports" for the fiscal year 1900, $9,864.01?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. That comes in mostly for printing. Out of that appropriation there is only a certain amount allowed to pay for assistants; the employment of clerks, etc., is confined to the amount Congress states; the rest goes for printing, which is a very large item, and for incidental expenses connected with those. The large item, however, is practically for printing.

The CHAIRMAN. I wish you would give me a detailed statement of the expenditure for the year 1900 of that appropriation, my object being to show how much salary list it carries, and the whole thing; give it for 1900.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. This item, I believe, is certified by the accounting officers of the Treasury.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand that, but I want to see about it. You are authorized to expend for clerical assistance?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Specially?

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. Yes, sir; we are allowed to expend so much.

The CHAIRMAN. I would like to know how it is expended.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS. The large item in connection with this, however, is printing.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *February 9, 1901.*

Statement of expenditures from the appropriation "Publication of Diplomatic, Consular, and Commercial Reports" for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1900.

Clerk hire	$5,520.00
Subscriptions (papers and books)	51.37
Expenses incurred in obtaining statistical information in South America	340.00
Addressograph, cabinet, case, and type	74.50
Engraving	98.00
Stationery (envelopes and paper)	1,271.86
Freight	10.19
Postage	140.00
Printing and binding (Government Printing Office)	29,756.07
	37,261.99
Amount appropriated	30,000.00
Actual deficiency	7,261.99

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

STATEMENT OF MR. JAMES K. TAYLOR, SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

REPAIRS AND PRESERVATION.

The CHAIRMAN. For repairs and preservation of public buildings you ask a deficiency appropriation of $50,000. What did you expend for the first six months?

Mr. TAYLOR. I can not tell you what we expended for the first six months, but I have a statement here made up to February 8. We had $350,000, and we have a balance of $56,600.71 this morning.

The CHAIRMAN. You did the most of your work the first half of the year?

Mr. TAYLOR. No, sir; we are doing it right along. We have got that same ratio of expense to keep up.

The CHAIRMAN. No; if you expended $300,000 the first seven months, that only leaves you $50,000, and with the $50,000 deficiency you ask that is only $100,000 for the last five months.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes; we can not keep that ratio, but we will have to keep it up as near as we can. We will have the same amount of work, but we will have to turn down some of the work that is necessary.

The CHAIRMAN. I suppose if the appropriation is made you will expend it, and if it is not you will not.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is the size of it. We will not expend it if it is not made, but we need it very badly. We have a great many buildings which need attention. They are getting older every year, as I have told you years before, and this is one year more added to them, and they need an enormous amount of repairs.

The CHAIRMAN. You know outside of this there is a lot of extraordinary repairs, for instance at Boston, Philadelphia, and pretty much all over the country, that have been specifically provided for.

Mr. TAYLOR. We have asked quite a number this year which we did not get and which we can not touch out of his appropriation.

The CHAIRMAN. Not where it is appropriated for specifically.

Mr. TAYLOR. We could not anyway, because they are too large.

The CHAIRMAN. There are four or five especially in the new bill?