

**INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL: HEARINGS
BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS UNITED
STATES SENATE. SIXTY-SECOND
CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION ON H. R.
20728. PART 2, 4; APRIL 16 AND 17, 1912**

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HEARINGS

BEFORE A



SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H. R. 20728

A BILL MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT AND
CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN
AFFAIRS, FOR FULFILLING TREATY STIPULA-
TIONS WITH VARIOUS INDIAN TRIBES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 1913

APRIL 16 AND 17, 1912

Printed for the use of the Committee on Indian Affairs

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Abstract: The



COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

UNITED STATES SENATE.

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INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1912.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met at 2 o'clock p. m.

Present: Senators Clapp (chairman), McCumber, Curtis, Stone, Owen, Chamberlain, Myers, and Ashurst.

STATEMENT OF HON. E. G. VALENTINE, COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Commissioner, I suggest that you proceed with the bill, suggesting such points as you deem of vital importance and giving your reasons for any changes that you desire.

Commissioner VALENTINE. Mr. Chairman, the first item is on page 2 of the bill as it passed the House, line 3, for survey; etc. We asked for \$250,000 in the estimate, and the House gave us \$215,000. We also asked, later, in a supplemental estimate, for \$85,000, making a total request for allotment of \$335,000, and in that we asked to have \$35,000 made immediately available.

I do not think it is necessary to say that we feel this allotment work is a necessary preliminary to any permanent industrial progress on the part of the Indians. We have it a little over half done throughout the country, and at the present rate of progress it will probably take 10 or 15 years for us to complete it. That will mean, in many instances, that the Indians will not begin to cultivate or use their allotments for many years beyond the present time, when they might better begin now. For that reason we ask for this substantial increase. I think I should say that not only the original estimates, but the original estimates plus the supplemental estimates, as submitted, were less than the bill of last year. We cut down to the bone in order to try to keep the total down.

The CHAIRMAN. How much of this is subject to the provision to be repaid proportionately out of the Indian funds?

Commissioner VALENTINE. This entire appropriation is reimbursable.

The CHAIRMAN. I know it is reimbursable in terms, but is it in conditions?

Commissioner VALENTINE. No, sir; of course a great many of these allotments will be made on reservations that will have no surplus land and no other large funds of which there could reimbursement be made. On the other hand, the substantial amounts of it will be reimbursable actually.

There was also a provision in the original bill that I would like to see retained, as well as the \$35,000 immediately available, and that is a provision that we had in the first print of the House bill, and which I would like very much to be inserted. It is as follows:

Provided further, That the unexpended balances of all continuing appropriations heretofore made for survey, allotment, classification, or appraisalment work, general or specific, are hereby made available for the purposes enumerated herein.

The CHAIRMAN. How much do you think there is of that?

Commissioner VALENTINE. I will send them to you, Mr. Chairman. I do not lay any great stress on that point because for the future I do not expect to have to ask for it. I think it is bad business to have these things overlap.

The next item is the irrigation item, page 2, line 20. In our original estimates we asked for \$355,000.

Senator CURTIS. That is on page 4—"in all, \$310,700." That is what they gave you.

Commissioner VALENTINE. Yes, sir; we asked for \$355,000. Now, this general irrigation item is used largely for small projects in different parts of the country. It is not a reimbursable appropriation, and it is one of the most useful industrially that we have. I would like very much to see that appropriation stand, as I feel that with the force we have and the machinery available we can make better use of the larger sum, and with the allotment get the Indians beginning.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. That is, you want that restored to what it was last year?

Commissioner VALENTINE. No, sir; to what it was in our original estimate. As I said before you came in, we kept the total of the bill down; we cut the total of our estimates this year down below the estimates of last year, and, by various shifts in the bill cut down to the bone. We also asked in the original print for this proviso, which would come after the word "employed," in line 6, on page 4, and would read as follows:

Provided also, That there shall be covered into each fund, from whatsoever source derived, for construction or maintenance and operation of any irrigation project or system within the jurisdiction of the Indian service or preliminary surveys and investigations for determining the feasibility or cost of new projects in the Indian service, the proceeds of the sales of material utilized for temporary work and structures, as well as of the sales of any other property which had been purchased from such fund, and also any moneys refunded in connection with operations necessary for and incidental to such work; and for lands under any such project the Secretary of the Interior may fix annual maintenance charges, which shall be paid as he may direct, such charges, when collected, not to be covered into the Treasury, but to be immediately available for use for the maintenance and operation of the project or system for which collected.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. That is in the present law, is it?

Commissioner VALENTINE. No, sir; the idea being simply to make available what goes into temporary works or uses for the permanent carrying out of the structure. As it is now, if we make an expenditure of that kind it goes back into the Treasury. Mr. Meritt reminds me that it is the same act as the reclamation law that was passed.

The next item, Mr. Chairman, is on page 4, lines 7 and 8, "for the suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquors among the Indians, \$75,000."

The House committee gave us what we asked for in that item.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. Is that sufficient? There have been a great many complaints made to me about the sale of intoxicating liquors on the reservations, particularly in the Siletz Reservation.

Commissioner VALENTINE. We could use more, but in going over the whole bill, as I say, and trying to keep it down, we did not feel like this year asking for more than that. We would not object to it for a minute. We could use another \$10,000 or \$20,000 to great advantage. The liquor business among the Indians is taking away at one end where the health campaign is trying to put something in at the other. We also ask a proviso to be attached to that item which would follow the word "dollars," in line 8, page 4, as follows:

Provided, That the powers conferred by section seven hundred and eighty-eight of the Revised Statutes upon marshals and their deputies are hereby conferred upon the chief special officer for the suppression of the liquor traffic among Indians and duly authorized officers working under his supervision whose appointments are made or affirmed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. What is the purpose of that?

Commissioner VALENTINE. The object of this is to provide the officers engaged in the suppression of the liquor traffic—I am reading from a letter signed by the Secretary—engaged among the Indians, with some authority and also some means of protection while engaged in that work.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. Under the authority you have now in these reservations, have your special officers power to take possession of the intoxicating liquors—that is the power to seize them?

Commissioner VALENTINE. Yes, sir.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. And the power to arrest?

Commissioner VALENTINE. Yes, sir; but at present these officers have no authority other than that contained in the act of Congress approved March, 1907, which reads:

The powers conferred by section twenty-one hundred and forty of the revised statutes upon Indian agents and subagents, and commanding officers of military posts, are hereby conferred upon the special agent of the Indian Bureau for the suppression of the liquor traffic among Indians and in the Indian country and duly authorized deputies working under his supervision.

We feel that it would strengthen their hands a great deal if that proviso could be inserted.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. For the purpose of assisting us in the recommendations you are now making, would it be possible for you to take this bill as it passed the House and interline any suggestions that you want to make?

The CHAIRMAN. This hearing is being printed. The commissioner is referring to the page and line. So when he gets through with this statement we will have it before us.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. That was done in the agricultural appropriation bill, and it assisted us very much.

Commissioner VALENTINE. I can give you the first print of the bill as it passed the House and call your attention to the parts underlined in red, the additions. That will help out I think.

The next item is on line 9, page 4, as follows:

To relieve distress among Indians and to provide for their care and for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, trachoma, smallpox, and other contagious and infectious diseases, including the purchase of vaccine and expense of vaccination, sixty thousand dollars.

We asked for \$75,000, and that is, I feel now, less than we should have. I have been making a very careful study of health situation, and it may well be that I shall recommend to the Secretary a further increase.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. Is that taking into consideration the needs of the Fort Belknap Reservation? The increase there was \$15,000.

Commissioner VALENTINE. No, sir; that we ask later on. We are asking for that increase now, and also for an increase that would affect the Fort Belknap Indians in what we call the revolving fund for industrial purposes. But at the very least, I think it very important to put this \$15,000 back on this health appropriation, and it may be well for us to get our details in such shape that we should ask for an appropriation many times this amount for health.

The next item is on page 4, line 14, "for the support of the Indian day and industrial schools." We ask for \$1,500,000 and they give us \$1,450,000.

Now, all that is necessary to call your attention to in that appropriation is that particularly in the southwest there are something like 6,000 or 7,000 Indians who are still unprovided with school facilities, and I think this appropriation should be lifted until we are able to take care of all of them.

A very important matter in which the House gave us a reduction is the next appropriation, beginning on page 5, line 8:

For construction, lease, purchase, and repairs and improvements of school and agency buildings, and for sewerage, water supply, and lighting plants, and for purchase of school sites, four hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

We asked for \$650,000. I can not speak too strongly as to my feelings with regard to having an Indian school and agency plant, valued at upward of seven or eight millions of dollars, with an upkeep fund running to less than 2 per cent. You can see at a glance that it is absolutely impossible to keep buildings in repair—keep the absolute original cost intact, so to speak—to say nothing of any improvements, and it seems to me a very upside-down administration for us to be putting up buildings and for Congress to be continually assisting us and not provide for them.

The next item where the House has made no changes, I will just pass that by, unless you have some questions to ask. I refer to line 12, page 5, for collection and transportation of pupils. We asked for \$82,000 and the House gave it to us.

The industrial appropriation stands, for the purchase of goods and supplies? That is on page 7, line 3, \$285,000.

Also telegraph and telephone toll messages. That stands. The appropriation for witness fees stands.

"For expense of the Board of Indian Commissioners," we asked for an increase of \$1,000. The board feels that in fulfilling its function under the law it has not the means given it by Congress to do it right; that it should travel more, and it can not do that on the present appropriation. So at their request we asked for an increase of \$1,000.

Senator CHAMBERLAIN. Making it \$5,000?

Commissioner VALENTINE. Yes; instead of \$4,000. The House left it as it has been before.

Senator STONE. What was it before?

Commissioner VALENTINE. \$4,000. There was no change in the Indian police item, nor in that of the judges. Yes, they did make a

cut in the judges, but I think we felt that we could do with that all right.

The next item is the contingent item of the office of \$85,000. We asked for \$105,000. The estimates seem to have been subject to a mistake in printing. What we asked for was \$125,000, and the bill cuts us down to \$85,000. That is the one appropriation which the office has had and which, on the authority of the Secretary, it can make incidental expenditures to provide for unforeseen contingencies, and we feel that it should have very careful consideration.

Senator STONE. How much was it the last time?

Commissioner VALENTINE. Last year it was \$115,000.

Senator STONE. And you ask for what now?

Commissioner VALENTINE. \$125,000.

Senator STONE. Why do you wish that increase?

Commissioner VALENTINE. For the reason that there may be unforeseen needs. That is the only appropriation we have to meet contingencies which can not be estimated for in advance. It seems a comparatively small amount when compared with the total of the bill. It is expended only under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, so that it is not solely within the jurisdiction of the Indian Bureau.

Senator STONE. What would be the effect upon the service of reducing this appropriation below the estimates, to \$85,000?

Commissioner VALENTINE. I think the effect would be pretty serious because it is the appropriation out of which some of our important overhead expenses come, and I feel already that there is great waste and loss in the Indian affairs because of insufficient management.

Senator STONE. What I wish to know is: In what way would the service be crippled or injured if the appropriation was confined to the sum stated in the House bill, \$85,000?

Commissioner VALENTINE. The chief crippling would come in its inspecting force.

Senator STONE. Traveling expenses?

Commissioner VALENTINE. Both that, and not being able to have a sufficient number of traveling men. You see the only check there is between the Indian Office here in Washington and its 150 or so superintendents scattered throughout 26 States, is the supervision that we are able to give it by means of special agents and supervisors visiting those points, and it is only within the last two years that we have had anything like an efficient inspection service. When that service first began work it found places that had not been visited by an inspecting official for many years. I think, in one case, as far back as seven years.

Senator STONE. How many inspectors have you now, Mr. Commissioner?

Commissioner VALENTINE. We have in what we call the investigating force 7 men, and in the construction work 2 men—that is work dealing with construction and repair of buildings. In the school service there are 9, and in the industrial work there are 5, and then, beyond that, men who travel around and frequently give us valuable points about our field work—men who are in the liquor service, of which there are 10; the health service, 3; the allotting agents 10, and the forestry work, 7.