

**HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
CONSISTING OF MESSRS. TAWNEY,
VREELAND, KEIFER, BRUNDIDGE, JR., AND
LIVINGSTON IN CHARGE OF DISTRICT
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1908 AND PRIOR YEARS
ON GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649509874

Hearings Before Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations Consisting of Messrs. Tawney, Vreeland, Keifer, Brundidge, Jr., and Livingston in Charge of District Appropriations for 1908 and Prior Years on General Deficiency Bill by Various

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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HEARINGS

BEFORE

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SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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CONSISTING OF

MESSRS. TAWNEY, VREELAND, KEIFER, BRUNDIDGE, Jr.,
AND LIVINGSTON

IN CHARGE OF

DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1908 AND PRIOR YEARS

ON

GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1908

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GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL.

TUESDAY, May 12, 1908.

REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN WORTH G. ROSS, CHIEF, ACCOMPANIED
BY LIEUTENANT F. C. BILLARD.

The CHAIRMAN. Captain Ross, you have a deficiency here of \$19,982.38 for the Revenue-Cutter Service.

Captain ROSS. Yes, sir. That is required to cover the increase in the compensation of the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service during the remainder of the current fiscal year, in accordance with the provisions of the act making appropriations for the support of the Army. Our law reads that "the commissioned officers of the United States Revenue-Cutter Service shall hereafter receive the same pay and allowances, except forage, as are now or may hereafter be provided by law for officers of the corresponding rank in the Army, including longevity pay." The pay of our service corresponds exactly to the pay of the Army.

The CHAIRMAN. So you get your pay automatically increased?

Captain ROSS. Yes, sir; automatically.

The CHAIRMAN. In addition to the increase that the law gave you that passed this session?

Captain ROSS. You mean the law of April 16?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Captain ROSS. That did not increase the pay of the officers. It gave us additional rank, and the increase of pay was due to that additional rank. It did not increase the noncommissioned officers' pay except for rank.

The CHAIRMAN. You get an amount in addition now to what the act of April 16 gave you?

Captain ROSS. Yes; for those who have an increase of rank.

The CHAIRMAN. Those who have an increase of rank get two increases of pay at this session of Congress. You get an increase of rank under the act of April 16, which gives you an increase of pay?

Captain ROSS. It gives us the pay of that rank in the Army.

The CHAIRMAN. And is an increase over what these officers whose rank has been increased had previously received?

Captain ROSS. Yes; that is the idea.

The CHAIRMAN. And in addition to that you get another automatic raise—

Captain ROSS. That was not automatic before. In addition to that our officers receive pay of officers of the Army.

The CHAIRMAN. I think your service is very fortunate.

Captain ROSS. I think it is myself.

The CHAIRMAN. You are getting automatic increases without asking for them.

Captain ROSS. Of course when the law was passed it was understood that our service would get the benefit of it.

The CHAIRMAN. This \$19,982 increase is due to the passage of the act increasing the pay of the officers of the Army?

Captain ROSS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. What dates do you compute this increase from?

Captain ROSS. This estimate is from yesterday.

The CHAIRMAN. Was the army bill signed yesterday?

Captain ROSS. We thought probably the army bill would be signed yesterday. It may not be signed until to-day. It is only a difference of one or two days.

The CHAIRMAN. You thought you would get in ahead of the Army this time. They have not got their estimate in yet.

Captain ROSS. They have the money to pay, as I understand it, but we want you to get this in on your deficiency bill. It is only a matter of two or three days one way or other.

The CHAIRMAN. How many officers receive an increase under this army bill?

Captain ROSS. All the officers receive an increase.

The CHAIRMAN. How many are there?

Captain ROSS. Two hundred and twenty-one on the active list, and then there are others on the retired list.

The CHAIRMAN. How many are there on the retired list?

Captain ROSS. About sixty-five.

The CHAIRMAN. They get their pay increased automatically, too, do they?

Captain ROSS. They get the same increase as they do in the Army.

The CHAIRMAN. Do all the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service get the benefit of the increase authorized in the army bill?

Captain ROSS. All of the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service; yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you not got the rank of third lieutenant?

Captain ROSS. A third lieutenant ranks with a second lieutenant in the Army and with an ensign in the Navy. We have the rank of third lieutenant. Our lieutenants are first, second, and third grade, and they correspond in the Army with captain, first lieutenant, and second lieutenant.

The CHAIRMAN. Then the first lieutenant in the Revenue-Cutter Service gets the same pay as a captain in the Army, and gets the corresponding increase?

Captain ROSS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Do the officers in your service get the same allowance as officers in the Army?

Captain ROSS. Yes, except forage.

MONDAY, May 11, 1908.

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, POST-OFFICE BUILDING.

**STATEMENT OF HON. E. A. HAYES, A MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.**

Mr. HAYES. In the last Congress an appropriation of \$36,000 was made for the repair of the public building at San Jose, Cal., caused by earthquake, and I have here a copy of a letter from the Secretary of

the Treasury saying that the appropriation, on account of the raise in the price of material and labor, is not sufficient to finish the repairs and asking for \$5,000 more in order to complete the repairs.

The CHAIRMAN. Are the repairs being made under contract?

Mr. HAYES. Yes, sir; they are under contract. They were not able to let the contract low enough so that the appropriation covered the necessary repairs.

The CHAIRMAN. Have the repairs been made?

Mr. HAYES. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. None of them?

Mr. HAYES. The \$36,000 has been expended except about \$200.

The CHAIRMAN. Was the contract for the completion of the repairs?

Mr. HAYES. No, sir.

Mr. KEIFER. They spent the money?

Mr. HAYES. Yes, sir; and let it go as far as it would in rebuilding the roof and the tower. The tower is not finished. There is an opening left for a clock.

The CHAIRMAN. This is not on account of the contract?

Mr. HAYES. No, sir; the lamps that the business men of the city have provided have not been replaced in front of the building, and there are other little things which have not been finished and done. When I went home last session I told the people that the appropriation had been made to finish these repairs in accordance with the plans, and, of course, they are charging it up to me. I hope you will provide for these repairs.

The letter referred to by Mr. Hayes follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, April 20, 1908.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: Referring to the appropriation for repairing damage to the post-office building at San Jose, Cal., caused by earthquake and fire, I have the honor to advise you that after completing all other portions of the work the balance was not sufficient for the purchase of a new tower clock to fill existing openings, the clock originally in place being practically ruined. Also, the necessity for placing lamp standards at the front entrance has been brought to the attention of this Department, and I recommend that the following item be included in some appropriation bill:

"San Jose, California, post-office: For completing repairs, and placing lamp standards, etc., five thousand dollars (\$5,000)."

Respectfully,

Secretary.

MONDAY, May 11, 1908.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

STATEMENT OF MR. HENRY B. F. MACFARLAND, MR. HENRY L. WEST, AND MAJOR JAY J. MORROW, COMMISSIONERS, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. ALONZO TWEEDALE, AUDITOR.

CORONER'S OFFICE.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Macfarland, the first item for the District of Columbia is "For amount required to pay the deputy coroner for services during the absence of the coroner, for the fiscal years that follow." Then follow the fiscal years 1908 and 1907.

Mr. MACFARLAND. Section 196 of the District Code authorizes the payment of a deputy coroner who, while acting as coroner, shall

receive a compensation of not exceeding \$5 a day, but no appropriation is made to pay his salary while acting, it being the custom to include the amounts due the deputy coroner for services rendered in the annual deficiency bill. The reason that the estimate for this year is so much larger than usual is that the coroner was ill for a considerable time. He had his thirty days' leave and his thirty days' sick leave with pay, and then the rest of the time without pay, so that the difference went into the Treasury; but at this rate of \$5 per day the acting coroner should receive \$515, that being the equivalent of the number of days that he acted as coroner during the fiscal year 1908. The item for 1907 was one that came in for services rendered after the last general deficiency bill had been made up and passed.

Mr. KEIFER. The service had been rendered in both instances?

Mr. MACFARLAND. Yes. The statute authorizes it, and the custom has been to carry the appropriation in the general deficiency bill.

The CHAIRMAN. The statute authorizes it, and the amount is not appropriated for in the District bill for the reason that it can not be ascertained until the end of the year?

Mr. MACFARLAND. That is it, and just as late as possible we give it to you.

RENT OF OFFICE FOR CORPORATION COUNSEL.

The CHAIRMAN. The next is contingent expenses, rent of office of corporation counsel.

Mr. WEST. Mr. Chairman, that item is inserted because during this time mentioned the corporation counsel and his assistants paid their own rent for offices in a building apart from the regular District building, although the rooms are used for District purposes. Mr. Thomas, the corporation counsel, had his office elsewhere, and paid rent out of his own pocket for his private office, and then paid rent out of his own pocket for the District office. The necessity for this will be obviated hereafter by the occupancy of the District building after the 1st of July.

The CHAIRMAN. Was there no office provided by the District government for the corporation counsel?

Mr. WEST. No, sir, there was not, there being no room whatever in the District building. The department of insurance, the police department, and one or two other officers have offices exterior from the District office, and in each of those cases the rent has been paid by regular appropriation.

The CHAIRMAN. What provision has been made heretofore for the office of the corporation counsel?

Mr. WEST. None whatever. It only came to my personal knowledge recently that these gentlemen have paid rent out of their own pockets.

The CHAIRMAN. Are they engaged in the general practice outside?

Mr. WEST. Yes. But at least two, if not three—the corporation counsel and two, if not three of his assistants—have separate offices in a private building outside of these rooms where the District business is transacted.

JUDICIAL EXPENSES.

The CHAIRMAN. The next is "For additional amount required to meet the objects set forth in the appropriation for judicial expenses for the fiscal year 1907, \$354.89."

Mr. WEST. The note sets forth at length the items composing this deficiency. It is impossible to anticipate always in advance accurately the amount necessary to meet judicial expenses. These are all incurred and are due. They would have been estimated for, of course, if they could have been anticipated.

I would add, Mr. Chairman, as to the rent of the corporation counsel's office, that when we brought to the attention of Congress the fact that these gentlemen were paying the rent out of their own pockets, the appropriation was made. This is to supply the rent for the year when these gentlemen were paying the money out of their own pockets.

The CHAIRMAN. This is \$1,000 a year?

Mr. WEST. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. They paid \$200 out of their own pockets in consideration of their personal services?

Mr. WEST. No, sir. The rent at that time was only \$800, and the rent has since been raised.

Mr. KEIFER. The rent was only \$800 in 1906?

Mr. WEST. Yes.

Mr. BRUNDIDGE. What was the occasion of the delay since 1906? Was this the same item as last year?

Mr. WEST. I think it is the same item as for last year.

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CORONER'S OFFICE.

The CHAIRMAN. The next is, "For additional amount required to meet the objects set forth in the appropriation for coroner's office, for the fiscal years that follow."

Mr. MACFARLAND. This is the appropriation that we ask to have increased each year, and which has not been sufficiently increased, and the amount of the expenditure required depends, of course, upon the number of cases which are brought under the coroner's care. That number can not be anticipated, and what we ask now is the amount required to meet the needs of the present year as nearly as we can now estimate them.

The CHAIRMAN. You estimate the deficiency for this year to be \$1,000?

Mr. MACFARLAND. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The actual deficiency last year was \$4.25. No; for 1906 it was \$4.25.

Major MORROW. No; \$825, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MACFARLAND. The regular appropriation of \$2,750 was practically exhausted in March this year, there remaining on March 24, 1908, only a balance of \$30.03 of this appropriation unobligated. Therefore the deficiency is inevitable. It is impossible, of course, to estimate it in advance, and the necessity of this amount is apparent.

GENERAL ADVERTISING.

The CHAIRMAN. The next is additional amount required for general advertising.

Mr. WEST. That is self-explanatory. We are required to advertise, and all the advertising which has been done, for which this appropriation has been made, is in pursuance of law. We simply had more advertising to do than we had money to pay for.