

1944

Calendar No. 249

78TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 247 }

INDEPENDENT OFFICES APPROPRIATION BILL, 1944

MAY 19, 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McKELLAR, for Mr. GLASS, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1762]

The Committee on Appropriations, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1762) making appropriations for the Executive Office and sundry independent executive bureaus, boards, commissions, and offices, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, and for other purposes, report the same to the Senate with various amendments and present herewith information relative to the changes made.

Amounts of bill as passed House	\$2, 620, 824, 379. 00
Amount of increase by Senate (net)	715, 000. 00
Amount of bill as reported to Senate	2, 621, 539, 379. 00
Amount of the appropriations, 1943	2, 834, 010, 542. 00
Amount of the regular and supplemental estimates, 1944	2, 627, 622, 585. 00
The bill as reported to the Senate:	
Under the estimates for 1944	6, 083, 206. 00
Under the appropriations for 1943	212, 471, 163. 00

The changes in the amounts of the House bill recommended by the committee are as follows:

INCREASES AND LIMITATIONS

Emergency Fund of the President:

It is recommended by the committee that the following paragraph be added to the bill:

EMERGENCY FUND FOR THE PRESIDENT

Defense housing: The unexpended balance of the appropriation made under the heading "Emergency fund for the President, defense housing," contained in the Third Supplemental National Defense Appropriation Act 1942, is continued available until June 30, 1944.

The act under which \$300,000,000 has been made available for "defense housing," provides that none of these funds may be obligated after June 30, 1943. At the present time there is an unobligated balance aggregating approximately \$14,000,000.

Since August 1942, all projects for providing stopgap housing by means of trailers have been financed from this fund and the National Housing Agency now owns about 35,000 trailers which have been purchased for this purpose. Inasmuch as the agency moves these trailers from community to community for stopgap housing purposes, it is desirable to finance the cost of installation from the same fund in order that there may be uniform accounting for rental income. It is estimated that the continuation of the availability of this fund will be sufficient to meet the needs of the agency for this purpose during the fiscal year 1944.

National Resources Planning Board:

Salaries and expenses.....	\$200, 000. 00
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It is recommended by the committee that the following proviso limiting the activities of the National Resources Planning Board be added to the bill:

: Provided further, That no part of this appropriation shall be used except for correlation and coordination of planning with State governments and with political subdivisions of such States

It is recommended further by the committee that the following paragraph be inserted in the bill:

The appropriation herein made for the National Resources Planning Board shall constitute the total amount to be available for obligation by such agency during the fiscal year 1944 and shall not be supplemented by funds from any source.

Board of Investigation and Research:

Salaries and expenses.....	350, 000. 00
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It is recommended by the committee that the following proviso be added to the bill:

: Provided, That of this amount not to exceed \$50,000 shall be available for economy and fitness studies

Federal Power Commission:

Flood-control surveys.....	50, 000. 00
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Federal Trade Commission:

It is recommended by the committee that the following language be added to the bill:

, of which not less than \$172,410 shall be available for the enforcement of the Wool Products Labeling Act

Federal Works Agency:

Administrative expenses-----	\$75, 000. 00
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Interstate Commerce Commission:

Motor-transport regulation-----	100, 000. 00
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National Housing Agency:

Federal Home Loan Bank Administration:

It is recommended by the committee that the following language be stricken from the bill:

\$8,310,734, and such corporation shall be liquidated as provided by section 4 (k) of the Home Owners' Loan Act of 1933 to the extent necessitated by the reduction of administrative personnel herein required, and the expenses incident to such liquidation shall be considered as nonadministrative expenses for the purposes hereof. The Home Owners' Loan Corporation shall not incur for administrative expenses in excess of \$833,333.33 for any month from July to December 1943, inclusive, nor in excess of \$208,333.33 for any month from January to June 1944, inclusive, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

\$12,142,200

(The committee is of the opinion that the language in the bill as it passed the House would cause a too rapid liquidation of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation thereby resulting in greater losses to the Government. Mr. Fahey testified that to force liquidation within a year—which he was convinced could not be accomplished—the loss to the Government would be in the neighborhood of \$400,000,000. The committee has, therefore, eliminated the language in the bill appearing above and has increased by \$3,831,466 the amount available for administrative expenses for the Home Owners' Loan Corporation. It was brought to the attention of the committee that the Corporation has title to some 31,000 pieces of property, and it is the hope of the committee that especial effort will be made to dispose of as many pieces of property as possible during the coming year.)

In order that the Federal Home Loan Bank Commissioner may not be hampered in his efforts to dispose of the properties to which the Corporation has title, the Committee recommends the following proviso:

: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any order or regulation issued by the Office of Price Administration, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation is authorized to dispose of any real property to which such Corporation has title upon such terms and conditions as the Federal Home Loan Bank Commissioner determines will expedite the orderly liquidation of such real property.

National Housing Agency—Continued.

United States Housing Corporation:

It is recommended by the committee that the following language be added to the bill:

The appropriation under the head "National Housing Agency" contained in the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1942, is hereby continued available until June 30, 1944.

The United States Housing Corporation was created under the authority of the act approved May 16, 1918 (40 Stat. 550), entitled "An act to authorize the President to provide housing for war needs." The Corporation was organized primarily for the purpose of providing housing for war workers during the First World War. It was transferred to the National Housing Agency pursuant to Executive Order No. 9070, dated February 24, 1942, and is being liquidated by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Federal Home Loan Bank Administration.

The disposition of the remaining properties of the United States Housing Corporation has been delayed because it has been unable to convey clear titles to prospective purchasers. The Department of Justice has secured possession of most of the properties for the Corporation, and is actively engaged in legal proceedings to vacate certain taxes assessed against these properties. It is the belief of the committee that the successful termination of all legal proceedings, the sale and disposition of all properties, and the dissolution of the Corporation can be accomplished by June 30, 1944, and that every effort should be made to wind up the affairs of the Corporation by that date.

Tariff Commission:

Salaries and expenses-----

\$75,000.00

Veterans' Administration:

Administration, medical, hospital, and domiciliary services:

It is recommended by the committee that the following language be added to the bill:

: Provided further, That notwithstanding the limitation in section 106 of this act, this appropriation shall be available for the purchase of legal newspapers in an amount not exceeding \$200

General Hines, the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, stated that the Comptroller General had ruled that legal newspapers were newspapers within the scope of section 106 and, therefore, within the \$50 limitation. The Administrator stated further that the need of these legal publications arises out of the necessity for their chief attorneys receiving due notice in connection with actions pending in the State courts, in guardianship cases, and being currently informed on the status thereof. Such information could be secured by laborious and time-wasting search of the court records, but this would cost, in time of salaried employees, far more than the sub-

Veterans' Administration—Continued.

scription price of the publications, and would be much less efficient as to results.

The publications are technical legal periodicals. They are newspapers only in the sense that they are so styled for the purpose of qualifying under State statutes for publication of legal notices. No one but a practicing lawyer would subscribe to any of them, and then only for the technical aspects—not for the general news value.

Soldiers' and sailors' civil relief:

Payment of claims-----	\$70, 000. 00
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Total increase-----	920, 000. 00
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DECREASES AND LIMITATIONS

Bureau of the Budget:

Salaries and expenses-----	205, 000. 00
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Securities and Exchange Commission:

Salaries and expenses:

It is recommended by the committee that the following proviso be stricken from the bill:

: *Provided*, That no part of this appropriation shall be used to promulgate or enforce any rules or regulations known as the proposed rule or regulation F-9 and F-10, and providing in substance (1) that engineers reports shall be mandatory, (2) requires a disclosure of the cost or purchase price, and (3) an abridgment of the right to appoint an agent, all with reference to the sale of oil and gas royalties and leases, under the jurisdiction of the Oil and Gas Division of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(Mr. Purcell in his statement before the committee testified that the proposed forms were suggested to the Commission by the staff, in order to streamline the registration procedure of oil and gas interests, and to reduce some of the paper work now required under the present regulations.

The Commission, following its usual practice, authorized the staff to circulate the proposed forms to all of the interested people in the industry to get their views and comments as to the workability, propriety, and desirability of these particular forms. The comments received are being assembled and collated at the present time, and will be brought before the Commission at an early date. They have not been adopted by the Commission. The present forms are not frozen. Commissioner Pike stated that the Commission was endeavoring by these proposed regulations to put in possession of the buyer a fairly accurate description of what he is purchasing.)

Total increase-----	920, 000. 00
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Total decrease-----	205, 000. 00
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Net increase-----	715, 000. 00
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Amount of bill as reported to Senate-----	2, 621, 539, 379. 00
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Yeoman's Administration - (Continued)

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370,000.00

930,000.00

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of the Budget

205,000.00

Securities and Exchange Commission

Salaries and expenses
It is recommended that the commission be the
following persons to be elected from the bill:

Provided, That no part of the ...
...shall be used to ...
...any rules or regulations ...
...providing in substance (1) ...
...points shall be ...
...closure of the cost of ...
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...agreed all with respect ...
...the Securities and Exchange ...
...of the Securities and Exchange ...
...and Exchange Commission.

(2) That in his report before the ...
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...reported under the ...

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...been assigned and ...
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930,000.00

205,000.00

115,000.00

2,521,330,379.00

Amount of bill as reported to Senate



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